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# Bidding Basics

## Opener's rebid after responder's negative double

**W**e've opened, our left-hand opponent overcalled and partner made a negative double. What do we do next as opener?

Our rebid will follow a plan similar to the one we would make after opening and seeing partner respond. Opener can bid a new suit (especially one implied by the negative double), rebid his own suit (typically showing six or more) or bid notrump (natural). With extras, opener must jump.

Here are examples with meanings. We've opened 1♣, they've overcalled 1♠ and partner has made a negative double (typically showing hearts).

1♣-(1♠)-Dbl-(Pass)-?

**Pass:** Very unlikely. We'd end up defending against 1♠ doubled! Maybe if they are vulnerable, we can try this unusual stunt with something like:

♠KQJ10 ♥9 ♦A762 ♣AK74.

**1NT:** Minimum balanced hand – usually with spades stopped. Unlikely to have four hearts. Examples:

♠Q1063 ♥K2 ♦KQ9 ♣K762

♠Q74 ♥J63 ♦AK2 ♣QJ107.

With a flat minimum, no heart length and no spade stopper, opener must come up with some lie.

**2♣:** Natural, usually six or more clubs, minimum. Examples:

♠A74 ♥63 ♦74 ♣AQJ762

♠J762 ♥9 ♦AK ♣KJ8642.

**2♦:** Natural, four or more diamonds, minimum. This is a situation that rarely comes up (the opening often would have been 1♦), but if you forced me to give an example, how about:

♠762 ♥A ♦AQ63 ♣Q8642.

I would have opened 1♦, but some players open 1♣. This is not considered a “reverse.”

**2♥:** Natural – like raising a 1♥ response to 2♥. Examples:

♠74 ♥AQ63 ♦A74 ♣K762

♠K762 ♥KQ63 ♦74 ♣A74.

Note that this shows a minimum opening and is not considered a reverse.

**2♠:** Cuebid. Some big hand. Says nothing about spades.

**2NT:** Natural, 18–19 with spades stopped. Akin to rebidding 2NT after a one-level response from partner. Examples:

♠KQJ ♥A9 ♦AJ9 ♣KJ762

♠AJ10 ♥762 ♦KQ9 ♣AKJ9.

**3♣:** Same as 2♣ but with extras. Invitational. Examples:

♠A63 ♥9 ♦A74 ♣AKJ762

♠63 ♥A9 ♦A9 ♣AQJ8642.

**3♦:** Not a likely bid, but natural.

**3♥:** More than a 2♥ bid. Similar to 1♣-1♥; 3♥. Examples:

♠AJ9 ♥AQ74 ♦9 ♣A10762

♠8642 ♥KQ102 ♦A ♣AQ74.

**3NT/4♥:** To play (very strong hands).

Here are examples after 1♦-(1♥)-Double-(Pass) where responder guarantees exactly four spades:

**Pass:** Too unlikely to consider although there is an example above – one is enough!

**1♠:** Likely four spades but could be three if stuck. Minimum opener. Examples:

♠Q762 ♥863 ♦KJ62 ♣AQ

♠K74 ♥63 ♦AJ762 ♣A74.

**1NT:** Natural, presumably hearts stopped, denies four spades, minimum hand. Examples:

♠Q7 ♥KJ63 ♦Q762 ♣AJ2

♠K2 ♥KQ9 ♦J10762 ♣K105.

**2♣:** Both minors, minimum hand, denies four spades, not suitable for a 1NT rebid. Examples:

♠74 ♥A9 ♦KQ1063 ♣A762

♠74 ♥762 ♦AK74 ♣AQ74.

**2♦:** Natural, usually six or more diamonds, minimum, denies four spades. Examples:

♠K2 ♥K74 ♦AQ10762 ♣74

♠9 ♥A74 ♦KQJ762 ♣Q74.

**2♥:** Cuebid. Some big hand. Says nothing about hearts.

**2♠:** As if it went 1♦-1♠; 2♠, but towards the high end. (Note some experts play the 1♠ and 2♠ rebids by opener a little differently, but we are keeping it basic). Examples:

♠AQ74 ♥A9 ♦K762 ♣J74

♠KQ107 ♥9 ♦KQ1074 ♣K74.

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**2NT:** Natural, 18–19 with hearts stopped. Like 1♦–1♠; 2NT. Examples:

♠K2 ♥KQ9 ♦KQ762 ♣AJ9

♠762 ♥AQ9 ♦AQJ9 ♣AQ9.

**3♣:** Both minors, extra values.

Examples:

♠A ♥762 ♦AQ762 ♣AQ74

♠A9 ♥9 ♦AK1074 ♣KQ762.

**3♦:** Same as 2♦ but extra values.

Examples:

♠A9 ♥74 ♦KQJ10762 ♣A9

♠A9 ♥9 ♦AQ108642 ♣A74.

**3♥:** Don't make such a bid.

**3♠:** Four spades, highly invitation-  
al. Example:

♠KJ74 ♥AJ ♦KQJ9 ♣QJ9.

**3NT/4♠:** To play (very strong  
hand). ♣

### Bidding Basics Quiz

What is your rebid as opener after  
1♣–(1♦)–Dbl–(Pass)?

1) ♠KJ74 ♥K2 ♦Q76 ♣K742

2) ♠A ♥A1074 ♦9762 ♣AK76

What is your rebid as opener after  
1♣–(1♥)–Dbl–(Pass)?

3) ♠AJ74 ♥Q2 ♦A ♣AQJ1074

4) ♠Q ♥K2 ♦A74 ♣AKQ8642

What is your rebid as opener after  
1♥–(2♣)–Double–(Pass)?

5) ♠KJ74 ♥K8642 ♦K2 ♣K2

6) ♠K2 ♥K8642 ♦AJ9 ♣QJ9

What is your rebid as opener after  
1♠–(3♦)–Double–(Pass)?

7) ♠AQ1074 ♥KJ74 ♦K4 ♣72

8) ♠KQ762 ♥Q9 ♦Q107 ♣K74

### Bidding Basics Quiz Answers

1) 1♠. Partner has guaranteed both  
majors.

2) 2♥. Too much for only 1♥.

3) 4♠. Enough for game; partner has  
guaranteed four spades.

4) 3NT. Looks like the place to be.

5) 2♠. Don't consider this a reverse –  
it doesn't show extras.

6) 2NT. Not thrilled, but the least-bad  
choice.

7) 3♥. Delighted they dealt me four  
of them.

8) 3NT. Same comment as No. 6.