



MARTY BERGEN'S

SECRETS TO WINNING BRIDGE

Number 3

1NT Forcing

Inside you'll find: *page*

Very Relevant Info	2-4
Preview of Opener's Rebids	5
Responder's Rebids	6
Opener's 2-Level Rebids	7-11
Opener Jumps	12-15
1NT Semi-Forcing	16
When 1NT Isn't Forcing	17
Finding Hearts After Spades	18
Slam Bidding	19
Coping with Interference	20-21
The Impossible Spade Bid	22
Your RHO Bids 1NT Forcing	23
Online Lessons With Marty	24

Opener Rebids His Major at the Two Level

Opener's length in his major:

Usually six cards, because many hands with 7-card suits are worth a jump to three.

Opener's HCP: Because opener doesn't need a great hand to jump in his suit, rebidding his suit at the two level shows a minimum opening bid; usually less than 15 HCP.

1. West	W	E	East
♠ A Q 7 6 4 3	1♠	1NT	♠ K
♥ 9	2♠	3♠	♥ 8 7 4 2
♦ K J 10	4♠	Pass	♦ A 6 5 2
♣ K 5 2			♣ A 8 6 3

East's hand is worth a second bid. He correctly appreciates that: **When partner promises a 6-card suit, a singleton honor is adequate support.**

2. West	W	E	East
♠ A K 7 3	1♥	1NT	♠ 6 5 4
♥ K Q J 10 7	2♥	Pass	♥ 9
♦ 5 4			♦ A J 6 2
♣ 3 2			♣ A 9 8 7 5

West is not strong enough to reverse. Fortunately, there is an easy alternative. I've always believed: **Any suit with 4+ honors can be treated as if it has an extra card.** Therefore, West bids a sensible 2♥.

3. West	W	E	East
♠ J 4 3	1♥	1NT	♠ K Q 5
♥ A K Q J 7 2	2♥	3♥	♥ 10 4 3
♦ Q 6	3NT	Pass	♦ A J 8
♣ Q 9			♣ J 8 7 3

West's hand is dominated by quacks, but he also has a solid suit and no fewer than seven honor cards. 3NT offers East a choice of games, and because East has nothing to ruff, that is just fine with him.

Responder's Impossible Spade Bid

A 1♥ response to 1♥ denies having four spades. If responder bids spades later on, it can't possibly be a natural bid. But what does it mean?

After 1♥ – 1NT, whether opener rebids 2♣, 2♦, or 2♥, a bid of 2♠ (alertable) by responder shows a stronger hand than if he had bid at the three level at his second turn.

Opener is now forced to bid 2NT (also alertable), and responder will then announce which minor he wants to show.

1♥ – 1NT
2♦ – ???

1. ♠ K J ♥ 6 ♦ J 8 6 ♣ Q J 8 7 5 4 2
Bid 3♣, obviously.

2. ♠ J 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ A K 9 7 5 3
Bid 2♠. After opener bids 2NT, bid 3♣.

3. ♠ 9 8 5 ♥ 7 ♦ K 9 7 6 4 ♣ A J 5 2
Bid 3♦ to show good support and a modest hand.

4. ♠ A 8 5 ♥ 7 ♦ A Q 9 7 6 ♣ 10 6 5 2
Bid 2♠. You will follow up by bidding 3♦.

Impossible 3♠ Bid

If opener jumps after 1♥ – 1NT, responder can rebid 3♠ (alertable) to say that he does not know what to bid. This flexible bid preserves all options.

1♥ – 1NT
3♦ – ???

1. ♠ 10 7 5 ♥ K ♦ A 10 7 ♣ 8 7 6 5 3 2
Bid 3♠. Without the Impossible 3♠ Bid, knowing what to do is...impossible.