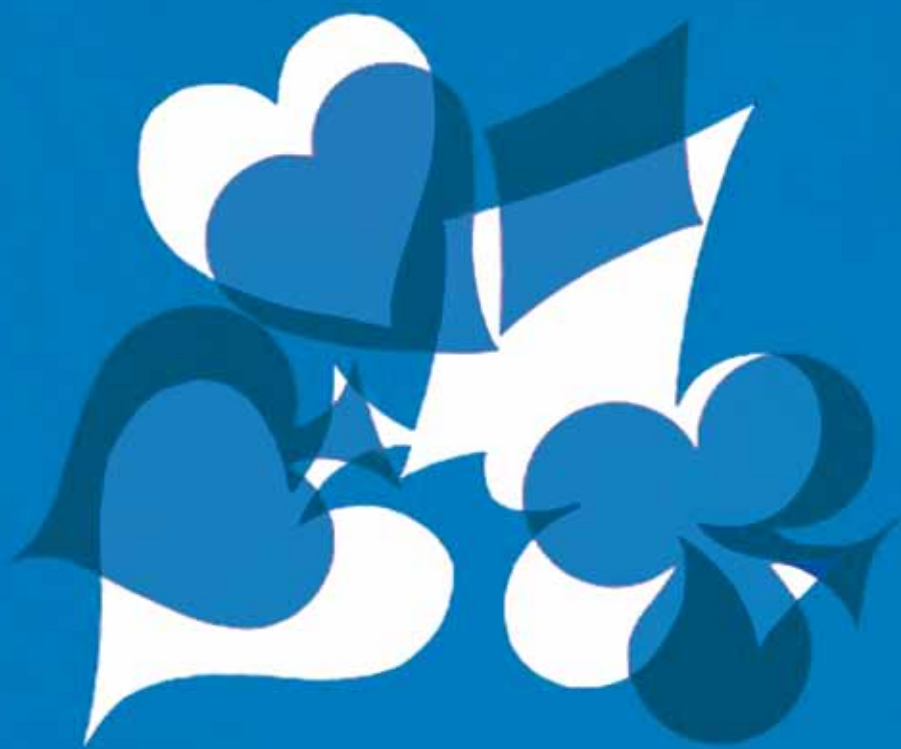


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

1NT FORCING

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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1NT Forcing

1NT Forcing

1NT Forcing was created to be used in the 2/1 Game Force bidding system (commonly referred to as “2/1”). The introduction of 1NT Forcing to your bidding system allows Responder to:

- Differentiate between three-card and four-card (or longer) raises for Opener’s major suit; and
- Show a balanced or unbalanced 11-12 point hand.

Some partnerships are using 1NT Forcing in their bidding system without adopting 2/1. With some adjustments this can be done, but this book is written based on the assumption that your partnership intends to play 2/1.

1NT Forcing only applies after partner has opened 1♥ or 1♠ and right hand opponent passes. A bid of 1NT will show one of the following hands:

- A balanced hand with 6-12 points;
- An unbalanced hand with 6-12 points;
- A hand with a five card or longer suit but less than 13 points; or
- A hand that has 10-12 points and only three-card support for opener’s major suit.

Responder will not have:

- Three or more cards in Opener's major suit and 6-9 points;
- Four or more spades and six or more points (*if the opening bid was 1♥*);
- A good five card suit and 13 or more points; or
- Four or more cards in Opener's major suit and 10+ points (in which case they would have raised Opener's bid to the three-level.

There are four mistakes commonly made when players begin to play Forcing NT.

The single biggest mistake is that Responder will fail to raise partner to the two level when they have a fit for the major. Responder expects the bidding to be more complex and forgets the simple things . . . like raising to the two level. ***When you have 6-9 points and three or more cards in the major suit opened by partner, raise to the two level.***

The second mistake is that Responders forget to bid 1♠ over 1♥ when they have four spades and six points. Somehow Responder convinces himself that one of the bids shows a weaker hand than the other. No! After a 1♥ opening bid, 1NT and 1♠ show **exactly** the same amount of points (6) at the initial bid. The

only difference is that **1NT denies four or more spades.**

Next along the road to a bad result is that Responders will decide to bid their five-card suit, ignoring the fact that it is forcing to game. I'm not sure why this is so prevalent, but I believe it is because players have it ingrained in their thinking that 1NT is weak. So the idea of making a weak bid when they have an invitational hand is so unnatural they can't make themselves do it . . . even when they know they should. **Resist temptation. If you don't have a hand willing to play game if partner's hand doesn't "fit" with yours . . . bid 1NT! Remember, responder cannot pass 1NT.**

Lastly, opening bidders convince themselves that Responder has a fit when they bid 1NT. Since there is one instance Responder bids a forcing NT when he has a fit with partner's major (exactly 3 trumps and 10-12 points), Opener makes himself believe that is the hand Responder holds when they bid 1NT. Not true! That hand occurs a small percentage of the time. **Don't expect partner to have a fit with your major when they bid a forcing NT.**

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1NT Forcing

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the 1NT Forcing convention.



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