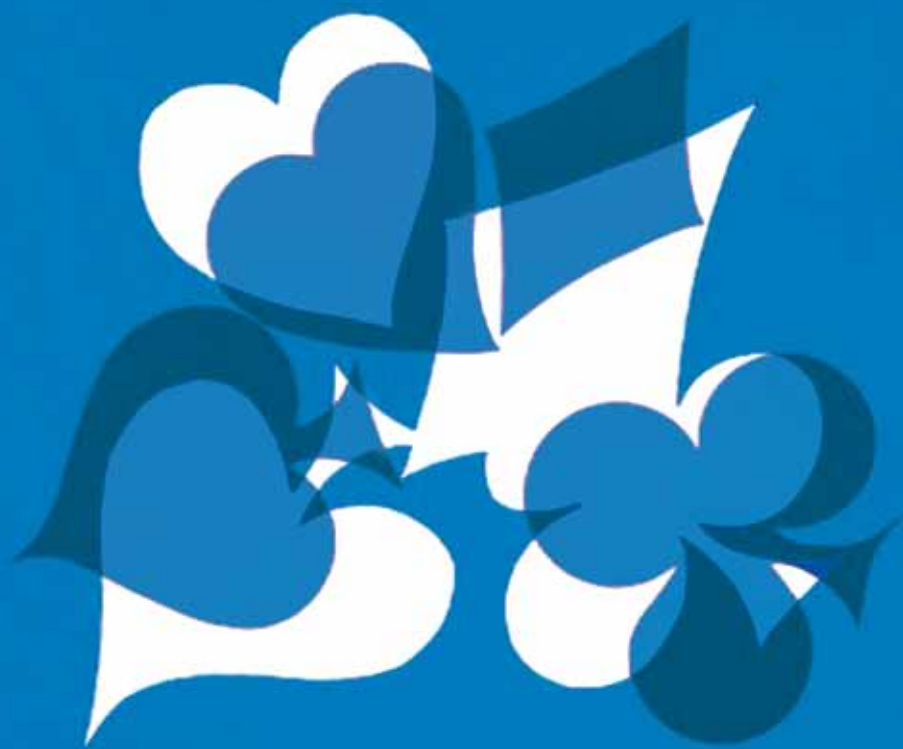


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

THREE-LEVEL RESPONSES TO A 1NT OPENING BID

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Jacoby Transfers

Texas Transfer

Smolen

Four-Suit Transfers

Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid

Three Spades over 2NT

Lebensohl

These booklets may be purchased as a single volume in digital or paper format under the title *Competitive Bidding*, one of eight books in Patty Tucker's Winning Bridge Conventions Series.

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Introduction

There are several different conventions that you can play in response to a one notrump opening bid or overcall. Conventions that will allow you to show:

- Weaker hands;
- Stronger high card point hands;
- More distributional hands;
- Hands with a four-card major;
- Hands with a five-card or longer major; and
- Hands with a six-card or longer minor.

There are tools that allow you to force the notrump opening bidder to become declarer, thus allowing responder to more fully describe their hand and conceal the stronger hand. They allow the opening lead to be made by the opening notrump bidder's left-hand opponent, in and of itself, a valuable advantage.

Some of those conventions and tools are discussed fully in this book. As you might expect, they are the conventions and tools I have found most useful.

Always remember that every time you add a convention you expect to lose some other bid AND that the additional conventions that you choose to adopt influence the rules of other conventions. You might ask, "Why would I do that? Why should I lose a

natural bid, to add an artificial bid?” The answer is simple...because it is valuable. As you work your way through this book you will find that the rules of the simplest and most common conventions – Stayman and Jacoby Transfers – will be adjusted as you add other conventions.

For example:

If you choose to adopt Smolen, then responder’s rebid after the initial Stayman bid, when he holds a five-card and a four-card major suit changes; or

If you choose to adopt Texas Transfers, then responder’s rebid after the initial Jacoby Transfer shows a different strength of hand; or

If you choose to adopt Four-Suit Transfers, then responder’s rebid after the initial Stayman bid will change on one specific type of hand.

As you add conventions to your toolbox, you and partner will need to decide which “tools” work best for you. What bids you are both willing to “lose” in order to better describe your hand when you decide to adopt different conventions.

I’ve included the conventions that I believe are worth the extra effort to learn and are worth the few bids that are lost.

Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid

Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid

As we all know, bridge players like to recognize hands that are hard to describe and invent bids which allow them to solve or circumvent those problems. My choice for **Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid** is to use the bids of 3♣, 3♦, 3♥ and 3♠ to show distributional hands with nine or more cards in the minor suits. These hands can be particularly hard to bid, especially if you have a very weak hand (less than eight points) or a very strong hand (fourteen or more points) where slam might be possible if opener's hand matches yours well. For purposes of this book, anytime you see a designation of the suits listed as 1-3-4-5, this will list the number of cards you would hold in each suit in order of rank. For example: the designation 1-3-4-5 would show one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and five clubs.

Over an opening bid (or overcall) of 1NT, a bid by responder of:

- 3♣ shows a hand with at least five clubs, at least five diamonds and less than eight points. You will sometimes hear people refer to this as "5/5 Weak".

- 3♦ shows a hand with at least five clubs, at least five diamonds and game forcing, possibly slammish. You will sometimes hear people refer to this as “5/5 Strong”.
- 3♥ shows a hand with the distribution of 1-3-4-5 or 1-3-5-4, game forcing, possibly slammish. You will sometimes hear people refer to this as a “Fragment Bid”.
- 3♠ shows a hand with the distribution of 3-1-4-5 or 3-1-5-4, game forcing, possibly slammish. You will sometimes hear people refer to this as a “Fragment Bid”.

In the case of the 3♦, 3♥ and 3♠ bids, responder will not have a ten point hand. Yes, ten points would be game forcing values, but game would be the limit of the hand. Slam would not be possible. On those hands responder will simply bid 3NT. These three-level bids are used to show strong hands, either because of their shape or high card point value, that responder feels slam may be possible if opener’s hand fits well with responder’s hand.

So let’s take these bids one at a time. After the 3♣ bid, opener has a choice of two bids:

- Pass, which says, “I prefer to play clubs”; or,
- 3♦, which says, “I prefer to play diamonds”.

Opener's choice will be based solely on which suit, diamonds or clubs, he holds the largest number of cards.

After the 3♦ bid, opener has three choices:

- 3NT indicates a willingness to simply play 3NT and denies a good fit for either of responder's minor suits;
- 4♣ would show interest in slam with clubs as trumps; and
- 4♦ would show interest in slam with diamonds as trumps.

After responder's 3♥ bid, opener has four choices:

- 3NT indicates a willingness to simply play 3NT and denies a good fit for either of responder's minor suits;
- 4♣ would show interest in slam with clubs as trumps;
- 4♦ would show interest in slam with diamonds as trumps; and
- 4♥ would show a willingness to play game in hearts.

After responder's 3♠ bid, opener has four choices:

- 3NT indicates a willingness to simply play 3NT and denies a good fit for either of responder's minor suits;

- 4♣ would show interest in slam with clubs as trumps;
- 4♦ would show interest in slam with diamonds as trumps; and
- 4♠ would show a willingness to play game in spades.

Responder's second bid after his initial 3♣ bid will simply be "Pass", regardless of opener's rebid.

The following are some examples of how opener and responder might communicate at the first two levels of bidding.

<u>Hand 1</u>		<u>Hand 2</u>		<u>Hand 3</u>	
North	South	North	South	North	South
1NT	3♦	1NT	3♥	1NT	3♠
4♦		4♣		3NT	

Hand 1 – **South's** 3♦ bid shows at least five clubs and at least five diamonds and interest in slam.

North's 4♦ bid shows interest in slam and confirms a Diamond fit.

Hand 2 – **South's** 3♥ bid shows a distribution of 1-3-4-5 or 1-3-5-4, game forcing values and interest in slam.

North's 4♣ bid shows interest in slam with a fit in clubs.

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Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid

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 Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid convention.



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