

Responders Invitational Bidding

How do I know what kind of hand I have after partner opens?

Minimum: 5 – 9 points
Invitational: 10 – 12 points
Game Force: 13+

How can I show my partner what kind of hand I have?

With minimum hand (responder bids in bold):

- Raise partner's suit: **1♥ – 2♥**
- Rebid own suit: **1♥ – 1♠ – 1NT – 2♠**
- Bid or rebid 1NT: **1♥ – 1NT** or **1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 1NT**
- Rebid suit lower ranking than opening bid: **1♦ – 1♠ – 1NT – 2♥**

With an invitational hand (responder bids in bold):

- Jump raise partner's suit with **four-card** support: **1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 3♠**
- Raise to 3 in agreed suit: **1♣ – 1♥ – 2♥ – 3♥**
- Raise partner's notrump bid: **1♥ – 1♠ – 1NT – 2NT**
- Jump to 2NT to invite 3NT. Note do NOT do this if you have a four card major you can bid at the 1-level: **1♦ – 2NT**

How can I show that I have two suits (5-5) and an invitational hand?

- Open with your highest ranking suit, then jump bid the lower ranking suit: **1♣ – 1♠ – 1NT – 3♥** (responder bids in bold)

How should the opener respond to an invitational bid by responder? Opener has already shown a minimal hand (12-15). Responder is inviting game if the opener is at the upper end of this range (14-15):

- With 14-15 HCP for NT or 14-15 support points (HCP plus distribution) for suit contracts, opener should bid on to game.
- On 12-13 HCP/support point minimums, opener should stay in part score.
- When the responder shows two suits and opener has a minimum, opener can rebid the first suit to show suit preference but no interest in game: **1♣ – 1♠ – 1NT – 3♥ – 3♠** (responder bids in bold)
- When opener returns to their major after a 2NT invitational bid by responder, rebidding the major shows a minimum with 6 cards in the suit. If responder has 2-card support they can add support points (if any) and possibly go to game with additional values.

Responders Bidding – Initial Hand Assessment Worksheet

What would you respond with these invitational hands?

Your Hand (Responder)	Auction	Your Bid
1. ♠Q87, ♥AJ32, ♦J982, K6	1C – 1H – 1NT - ?	
2. ♠Q872, ♥AJ3, ♦9832, K6	1S - ?	
3. ♠K974, ♥94, ♦AJ1053, ♣Q2	1H – 1S – 1NT - ?	
4. ♠AK932, ♥K9742, ♦53, ♣9	1C – 1S – 1NT - ?	
5. ♠AK87, ♥J1043, ♦Q82, ♣107	1D – 1H – 2H - ?	
6. ♠AK87, ♥J1043, ♦Q82, ♣107	1C – 1H – 1S - ?	
7. ♠AK87, ♥J1043, ♦Q8, ♣1073	1D – 1H – 2C - ?	