

New 2NT systems

Adam Meyerson and Greg Humphreys

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1 Latest Ideas

After a natural, balanced 2NT bid, we have the following continuations:

3♣	Muppet Stayman, asking about majors
3♦	transfer to hearts
3♥	transfer to spades
3♠	single suited slam try, or signoff in 3nt with apology
3NT	4441 short in a minor, at least minimal slam interest
4♣	at least 5-5 in the minors, slam try
4♦	transfer to hearts
4♥	transfer to spades
4♠	a 4NT bid with 2344 or 3244 shape, keeping 6-minor in the picture
4NT	quantitative, normally 4333

The hand that wants to sign off in 3NT needs to bid 3♣ or 3♠ since the 3NT call has a special meaning. I'm a little worried about this being forgotten, but hey we are pretending we have good memories.

1.1 Continuations after Muppet Stayman

Opener makes his normal puppet response, with 3♥ and 3NT flipped:

3♦	no 5-major, at least one 4-major
3♥	no 4-card or longer major
3♠	five spades
3NT	five hearts

After 3NT the continuations are as follows:

4♣	five or more clubs, forcing
4♦	five or more diamonds, forcing
4♥	to play
4♠	keycard in hearts
4nt	quantitative, no fit
5♣	cuebid for hearts, higher bids have same meaning

After 3♠ the bidding is similar, except that a 4♥ call sets spades in a forcing way, and 4♠ is to play. This eliminates the need for keycard since opener will bid 4♠ over the 4♥ call and responder can now keycard over this.

After 3♥ by opener, the continuations are:

3♠	five spades (and four hearts) looking for the best game
3NT	to play
4♣ ♦	natural forcing five or more cards
4♥	4144 (short hearts) at least some slam interest
4♠	1444 (short spades) at least some slam interest
4NT	quantitative

After 3♦ by opener, the continuations are:

3♥	4 or more spades, asking about partner's major
3♠	4 or more hearts, asking about partner's major
3NT	to play
4♣ ♦	natural forcing five or more cards
4NT	quantitative

After the 3-major call, opener bids the appropriate major if a fit has been found, or can cue at the four level to show a fit (especially useful in a strong sequence). With no fit, opener bids 3NT. After this 3NT call, supposing responder first bid 3♥ (showing spades) the continuations are:

4♣ ♦	natural, five or more cards, forcing
4♥	to play, a heart fit has been located
4♠	4144, this bid is "impossible" since there can be no ♠ fit, slam try

If responder started with 3♠ (showing hearts) then the 4♥ and 4♠ call are flipped.

1.2 Continuations after Transfers

In a game forcing sequence, holding a good fit for partner's suit, opener should cuebid. In this case accepting the transfer shows a poor fit for the suit. If a signoff is a possibility, then opener will normally accept the transfer. If opener cuebids, then suit calls by partner are further cuebids. A suit has been agreed. If opener accepts the transfer, suit bids by responder are natural and forcing.

Opener should always accept a four-level transfer, after which we can bid kickback.

1.3 Continuations after 2nt-3♠

Opener should always bid 3nt, after which responder's options are:

Pass	Apology; to play
4♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	all natural and <i>forcing</i> a cuebid
4NT	Apology, quantitative

1.4 Continuations after 2nt-3nt

This sequence shows 4441 short in a minor and is forcing. Opener's bids are:

4♣		good hand for slam if partner is short in clubs
4♦		good hand for slam if partner is short in diamonds (but not in clubs)
4♥ ♠		natural, four card suit, but wastage in both minors
4NT		no major fit, wastage in both minors, suggests playing here

Responder is permitted to pass a bid of 4-major or 4NT. If he has continued slam interest he can cuebid over a major suit call or bid keycard (the major is agreed). Over 4NT he can bid his four-card minor at the five-level to force at least one round and indicate continued slam interest.

Over 4♣ and 4♦ by opener, responder's bids are as follows:

4♦		shows short clubs, looking for slam and asking where our fit is
4♥		pass or correct, short in the "wrong" minor and willing to give up on slam
4♠		short in the right minor (which will be diamonds), forcing, asking where our fit is
4NT		short in the "wrong" minor but still looking for slam, quantitative values, not forcing
5♣		short in the "wrong" minor but forcing to slam, asking for fit

1.5 Continuations after 2nt-4♣

Opener bids 4♦ to show better diamonds than clubs, or otherwise cuebids. All other bids accept clubs; 4NT is a cuebid of diamonds with no major suit ace.

1.6 Continuations after 2nt-4♠

Bidding 4NT shows a minimum hand. Other bids are natural and show maximum values. After the 4NT call, responder can bid 6♣ (pick a slam) or pass.