

NO TRUMP RANGES by Maritha Pottenger

Opening Bids

Balanced Hands (4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2, rarely 4-2-5-2)

15-17: Open One No Trump

18-19: Open one of a suit; if partner makes 1 over 1 response, rebid 2NT.

20-21: Open Two No Trump

22-24: Open 2 Clubs; if partner bids at 2 level, rebid 2NT.

25-27: Open Three No Trump

RESPONDING TO PARTNER'S ONE NO TRUMP OPENING BID

(Adjust point ranges accordingly for 2NT openings, etc.)

0 to 8- points and no 5-card major: pass

0 to 8- points & 5-card major: use Jacoby transfers to drop partner in 2H or 2S

8+ to 9 points and no 5 OR 4-card major: bid 2 NT.

8+ to 9 points and a 5-card major: use Jacoby transfers & raise to 2NT, inviting game. (Partner can pass 2NT, bid 3 of major, bid 3NT or bid 4 of major.)

8+ to 9 points and at least one 4-card major: bid 2 Clubs (Stayman)—asks for major. (If partner has no major, or wrong major, bid 2NT—invitational.)

10-15- HCP & no 5-card or 4-card major: bid 3 NT

10-15- HCP & a 5-card major: use Jacoby transfer and then jump to 3 NT.

10-15- HCP & a four-card major: use Stayman and then jump to appropriate game.

10-15- HCP & a six-card major: bid game (4H or 4S).

15+ HCP—after exploring for correct venue (hearts, spades, or NT), explore for slam.

15+-17- (balanced, no 4 or 5-card major): bid 4NT (quantitative), inviting 6NT

17-19- (balanced, no 4 or 5-card major): bid 6NT.

19+-20 (balanced, no 4 or 5-card major): bid 5NT (quantitative), forcing 6NT, inviting 7NT if opener is maximum

21 or more: bid 7NT.

Remember: **Game** in 3NT or 4 Hearts/Spades = **25-26 HCP** in two hands.

Small Slam in NT = **33 HCP** in two hands.

Grand Slam in NT = **37 HCP** in two hands.

When Opener starts with a Major or Minor and Responder Bids No Trump

1C-1NT: 6-10- HCP and no four-card major

1D-1NT: 6-10- HCP and no four-card major

1H-1NT: 6-10- HCP & fewer than 3 hearts, fewer than 4 spades

1S-1NT: 6-10- HCP & fewer than 3 spades

1C-2NT: 11-12 HCP and no four-card major; *Invitational (With 13-15, bid 3NT)*

1D-2NT: 11-12 HCP & no four-card major; *Invitational (With 13-15, bid 3NT)*

1H-3NT: 13-15 HCP two cards in hearts, fewer than 4 spades; no good 5-card minor.

1S-3NT: 13-15 HCP & 2 cards in spades; no good 5-card heart or minor suit.

(With the four above bids, if you are unbalanced—with a singleton or void—should bid a suit which is forcing at least one round, NOT no trump.)

Responding 2NT to a major opening has a special meaning (Jacoby 2NT) and shows 4-card trump support with no singleton or void.