

No Trump Responses - Revision

A key component of every bidding system in the world is the one no trump opening bid. For us it shows fifteen to seventeen High Card Points and a balanced hand (this is any hand with no more than one doubleton). The hand shapes we call balanced are 4333, 4432 and 5332.

If you can open one no trump, do it. Don't consider any other alternative bid.

The one no trump opening is so descriptive and we have so many "bidding gadgets" we can use (stayman, transfers, quantitative raises, slam tries....) there is no better bid. In addition, if you DON'T open one no trump and bid no trumps later you will be showing 12-14 HCPs or 18-19 HCPs if you jump. Failing to open One No Trump when you should means you have no sensible rebid!

What should we open with the following hands?

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| ♠ AKQ92 | ♠ 32 | ♠ 42 | ♠ K432 |
| ♥ 32 | ♥ 543 | ♥ AKQJT | ♥ A32 |
| ♦ KT3 | ♦ AKQ2 | ♦ QJ2 | ♦ A32 |
| ♣ A54 | ♣ KQJ3 | ♣ QJ3 | ♣ A32 |

Possibly overkill, but you get the idea!

How do we decide how to respond to a One No Trump Opening?

Our first decision will be: Can we make game? There are three answers:

If we hold 0-8 HCPs the answer is no. If we hold 10+ HCPs the answer is yes. If we hold 9 HCPs the answer is maybe.

Having answered the first question, we can ask the question "Which game is right? Or if we can't make game, which part-score contract is right?" Our systems are geared towards the majors:

With no four or five card majors the game is 3NT.

- With 0-8 pass. With 9 bid 2NT. With 10+ bid 3NT.

With one or more four card majors the game is either 3NT or 4-of-a-major. We will find out with stayman.

- With 0-8 **pass**. With 9 bid 2C and then 2NT or 3M. With 10+ bid 2C and then 3NT or 4M.
(It will depend if we find a 44 fit in a major or not – if yes, choose the major. If no then choose No Trumps).

With a Five card major, the game is either 3NT or 4-of-that-major. We will let our partner to choose via a transfer.

With a 5 card Heart suit we bid 2D (and our partner **must** bid 2H).

With a 5 card Spade suit we bid 2H (and our partner **must** bid 2S)

- With 0-8 transfer and then pass. With 9 transfer and then bid 2NT. With 10+ transfer and then bid 4M.

With a Six card major, the game is 4-of-that-major. We will start with a transfer which our partner will complete.

- With 0-8 **TPs** transfer and then pass. With 9 **TPs** transfer and then bid 3M. With 10+ **TPs** transfer and then bid 4M.

What should we respond with the following hands if our partner opens One No Trump?

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| ♠ AJ762 | ♠ AJ2 | ♠ T5 | ♠ 65432 |
| ♥ 43 | ♥ KJ72 | ♥ 98432 | ♥ AJ3 |
| ♦ 874 | ♦ T943 | ♦ 652 | ♦ KJ3 |
| ♣ T4 | ♣ 76 | ♣ T43 | ♣ AQ |