

## No Trump Responses – Slam Bidding

It is not often we will think we can make Slam (a contract at the six or seven level). But one time it comes up more than often is when our partner opens One No Trump. If we have a similar strength hand, Slam could well be possible. What are some strategies for bidding slam?

### Bidding At The Three Level Is a Suit Setting Slam Try

If our partner opens One No Trump, a bid of Three of any Suit (including clubs!) is a suit setting slam try. It says “We are definitely playing in this suit, I have a good six card or longer suit, I am interested in slam. I have 14-15 HCPs.”

♠ AKJT74  
♥ 4  
♦ QT7  
♣ AJ2

♠ QJ2  
♥ KQ5  
♦ void  
♣ KQJ542

♠ AQ  
♥ AQT9642  
♦ 43  
♣ K2

♠ A43  
♥ A5  
♦ A76432  
♣ K2

What should the one no trump opener do? They should rebid 3NT specifically with two small trumps and no interest in slam. They should bid game with a better trump holding but no interest in slam. Anything else is cooperating with the slam try (and will generally be 4NT asking for aces or possibly a cue bid if your partnership has incorporated those).

Note that most of the time, even if the opener rebids Three No Trump (showing two small and no interest in slam), responder is likely to insist on their suit. Opener is just answering questions – as usual in a no trump auction, responder is in charge!

### Bidding Four No Trumps is termed a Quantitative raise – it is essentially an invitation to bid slam

If our partner opens One No Trump and we have a One No Trump bid of our own, we can bid Four No Trumps. This is similar to an invitation to game. It says “Pass with fifteen, bid Slam with Seventeen. Make a choice with Sixteen”.

♠ K64  
♥ AQT  
♦ KJT9  
♣ KJ2

♠ KQ5  
♥ KQT  
♦ KQ982  
♣ 53

♠ 43  
♥ A8  
♦ KQ4  
♣ KQJT742

♠ AK62  
♥ QT76  
♦ K4  
♣ KJT

Respond 4NT

Respond 4NT

Respond 3C

Respond 2C

A Four No Trump response should generally deny the majors – it is more important to find the right strain (ie No Trumps versus the Major) than it is to find slam.

### What if we KNOW slam is right?

Don't get lost in using science. If your partner opens One No Trump, you can quite often tell immediately that this is a slam hand. (You might need to check for aces first!)

♠ 2  
♥ KJ  
♦ AKQT762  
♣ AQ2

♠ AJ7  
♥ AK3  
♦ AT32  
♣ A43

♠ AKJ3  
♥ AQJT  
♦ KJ4  
♣ T2

♠ A3  
♥ 2  
♦ 3  
♣ AKQJ86543

3D then 4N then 6 or 7

6N or 7N

2C then 4N then 6 or 7

3C then 4N then 6 or 7