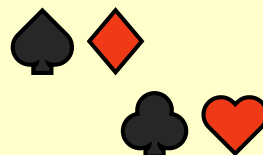


Bridge on Sundays



Announcements

For some time now, we are required to announce, rather than alert, the following bids:

- The range of an opening 1NT bid
- Common responses to 1NT
- Some opening bids at the two level

Opening 1NT bid

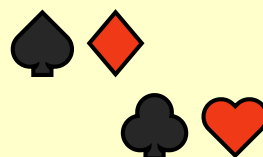
- You simply announce the range, e.g. 12-14, and say if it may contain a singleton

Responses to a 1NT opening bid

- Most players in the world use 2♣ as an asking bid instead of a natural bid of clubs. Many inexperienced players seem to forget this convention even though they have been taught it. A response of 2♣ over 1NT goes by the name *Stayman*. Provided the responses are simple, the responder will now announce the bid by saying *Stayman*. The 2♦ reply to Stayman (no 4-card major suit) will neither be announced nor alerted, nor will responses of 2♥ or 2♠. **Any other responses such as a bid to show both major suits will have to be alerted and for such bids you would not announce *Stayman* as a responder.**
- The use of transfer bids over an opening bid of 1NT has become widespread. The simple red suit transfer bids, whereby the responder bids 2♦, meaning a 5 card ♥ suit and 2♥ meaning a 5-card ♠ suit, is very common amongst club players. These bids will now be announced. Partner opens 1 NT and you would bid 2♦ and the opener will say *hearts* and likewise if you hold a 5-card ♠ suit you would bid 2♥ and opener says *spades*. If the bid is not announced or alerted, it is a natural bid in the suit (usually a weakness take-out). Any follow -up bids after the completion of the transfer do not need to be alerted or announced if they are natural.

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Bridge on Sundays



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Announcements

Minor suit openings at the 1-level

- In simple systems you do not alert or announce suits which are at least 3 cards in length. If the suit may contain only 1 or 2 cards we say, for example, *may be a two card suit*. Strong club systems are still alerted.

Opening bids at the two level

- Instead of alerts we can make announcements for the *simple* weak two opening bids in the major suits, where the suit bid guarantees that suit
- The game forcing 2♣ opening will be alerted because it is a conventional bid, not promising four cards in the ♣ suit
- If you play Precision Club or a Strong club system where 2♣ is a club suit of at least 5 cards and 11-15pts partner will announce *intermediate*. If 2♣ is a natural bid showing clubs and no specific holding in another suit you do likewise
- If you play the other suit bids at the two level as 8 playing tricks, partner will announce *strong forcing* or *strong non-forcing* depending on whether partner must reply to the bid.
- If you play a weak two bid in the majors with a 6 card major suit, then partner will announce *weak*. If the bid shows another suit of more than 4 cards you may not announce and the bid must be alerted by partner.
- 2NT, if it is natural, is not announced but if the 3♣ response is simple *Stayman* we announce it and neither announce or alert responses. If 3♦/♥ are transfers to hearts and spades respectively, they are announced like over a 1NT opening