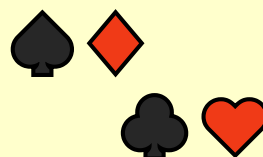


# Bridge on Sundays



## Game Bids Over Partner's Opening Bid of 1 of a Major Suit

- **The direct bid to 4 of a major**

Shows 4 card or longer support in the major, with no slam ambitions.

For those using the losing trick count, it is a hand of 7 losers and often around 10 – 13 points. The bid can be made on a highly distributional hand.

Opener can ask for aces or cue bid in a new suit if a slam in the major is likely.

- **A Splinter bid**

This is a triple jump in a new suit and shows a singleton or void in the new suit, with at least 4 cards in opener's major suit. It's a better hand than in a direct bid to the 4 level.

It is usual not to make a splinter bid if the singleton is an ace and be cautious about holding a singleton honour such as a king /queen.

Partner, if interested in a slam, cue bids aces in order or signs off in 4 of the agreed major suit. *The bid is forcing.*

- **The Jacoby 2NT convention.**

Players learn that a response of 2NT shows 10-12 points. It is better first to respond in a new suit, then bid 2NT to show 10-12 points as this avoids getting too high if opener has a very light opening bid.

The Jacoby 2NT response is a better use of this bid and shows 4 card support plus high card strength, without a void/singleton, with values for at least a game in the major suit.

Partner can sign off in game or show any singleton at the 3 level.

A bid of a new suit at the 4 level shows a 5 card suit and interest in a slam. Since the 2NT bid is forcing to game, a simple re-bid of the major suit by opener shows a *strong* hand, and a jump to game in the major shows a *weak* opening hand

These 3 different raises enable you, as responder, to show different game going support hands. The direct raise shows a distributional hand, the splinter bid shows a shortage, and 2NT shows high card support but no shortage. If partner's suit is overcalled, you can still make a splinter bid, or raise direct to game, but not bid 2NT.