

2-OVER-1 GAME FORCE - WINTER 2014 - WEEK 2
FORCING NO TRUMP BIDDING CONVERSATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Reserving a cheap response at the two level for hands with 13 or more declarer points presents a problem when responder has 10-12 points and the opening bid is **1♥** or **1♠**. To resolve this problem when using *2-Over-1*, a **1NT** response following a **major suit opening bid**:

- ✓ expands the strength range to 6-12 points instead of the standard 6-9 points and,
- ✓ forces partner to bid for one round¹ instead of inviting partner to bid.

Note that **1NT** forcing does not apply when:

- ✓ **The opening bid is a minor suit.**

The only suit that responder can not show at the one level is clubs. All of the other one level responses are forcing for one round so there is little need for a forcing no trump. A standard **1NT** response can be used to describe a hand with 6-9 points without a four card major and a standard **2NT** response can be used to describe a balanced hand with 10-12 points without a four-card major.

- ✓ **Responder is a passed hand (failed to open in first or second seat).**

The pass has already limited responder's strength to 0-12 points so a **1NT** response can be used to describe a weak hand with 6-9 points

- ✓ **Responder's right hand opponent overcalls or doubles the opening bid.**

After interference, responder's **1NT** is natural and invitational. It describes a balanced hand with 6-9 points that does not have support for opener's suit. It also shows a stopper in an overcaller's suit.

- ✓ **There is a more descriptive standard response.**

For example, if the opening bid is **1♠** and responder has 10-12 points and four-card spade support, the correct response is a limit raise to **3♠**.

Paul Thurston, author of *25 Steps to Learning 2/1*, says:

"The Forcing 1N response can be thought of as a NOT bid — the hand's not right for any thing else so bid **1NT**! One of the most useful functions of the *Forcing 1N* is that you start by telling your partner, 'My hand is NOT this and NOT that' and, since partner is forced to rebid and give you a second chance, you'll soon be able to describe what it actually is."

¹ When playing duplicate, opener must announce "*forcing for one round*" when responder makes a *Forcing 1N* response. For example, a first or second seat *2-Over-1* opener must announce after a sequence like **1♥** → P → **1NT**.

EXAMPLE

Assume that your partner opened the bidding in first or second seat, your right hand opponent passed and your partnership has agreed to play *2-Over-1*. Suppose you hold:

You (responder): ♠9 7 ♥K 9 7 ♦K 9 6 3 ♣Q 8 4 2

What is the appropriate response after your partner:

- **Opened 1♠:** Respond a *Forcing IN* to describe a hand with 6-12 points.
- **Opened 1♥:** Respond a standard 2♥ to describe a weak hand with 6-9 dummy points and at least three hearts.
- **Opened 1♦:** Respond a standard 2♦ to describe a weak hand with 6-9 dummy points, at least four diamonds, and no four-card major.
- **Opened 1♣:** Respond a standard new suit forcing 1♦ to describe a hand with at least 6 points, at least four diamonds, and no four-card major.

EXAMPLE

Now, suppose you hold:

You (responder): ♠Q 9 7 ♥K 9 7 6 ♦A J 6 5 ♣8 7

What is the appropriate response after your partner:

- **Opened 1♠:** Respond a *Forcing IN* to describe a hand with 6-12 points. Plan to jump raise spades on the next turn to show the three card support with 10-12 dummy points.
You do not have enough strength to respond a 2-Over-1 2♦ or a 2-Over-1 2♥ (which would also require five hearts).
- **Opened 1♥:** Respond a standard limit raise 3♥ to describe a hand with 10-12 dummy points and at least four hearts.
- **Opened 1♦:** Respond a standard new suit forcing 1♥ to describe a hand with at least 6 points and at least four hearts. Plan to show your four-card diamond support on the next turn.
- **Opened 1♣:** Respond a standard new suit forcing 1♦ or 1♥, depending on partnership agreement, to describe a hand with at least 6 points and at least four cards in the new suit.

EXAMPLE

Finally, suppose you hold:

You (responder): ♠T 9 7 ♥K 8 4 ♦A J 6 5 ♣K 6 3

What is the appropriate response after your partner:

- **Opened 1♠ or 1♥:** Respond a *Forcing IN* to describe a hand with 6-12 points.
- **Opened 1♦ or 1♣:** Respond a standard 2NT to describe a balanced hand with 10-12 points and no four-card major.

FORCING 1N BIDDING CONVERSATIONS

After a *Forcing 1N*, opener's first rebid should provide further information about the strength and shape of the hand. Opener's rebids are, with one exception, the same as those for standard methods.

Responder's reply should confirm or deny a trump fit and suggest the appropriate level (partscore, game, or slam). Because responder has already limited the hand to 6-12 points, none of responder's replies are forcing.

The following bidding conversations apply to a forcing no trump conversation that started with either **1♥** or **1♠**. But all of the examples assume the auction started with:

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1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass																							
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East	South	West	North																							
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT																							
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Opener: **Cheap rebid of the major** (invitational):

Limits the hand to 13-16 points with at least six cards in the major. For example:

Rebid 2♠ with: ♠A J T 7 4 2 ♥A K 9 ♦4 ♣7 5 3

Responder: **Pass:**

Describes a hand with 6-9 dummy points and (usually) two-card trump support. For example:

Pass with: ♠4 3 ♥Q J 6 3 ♦J 9 7 ♣K 8 7 2

If the hand is weak and unbalanced, trying to improve the contract is usually futile. With a 6-1 trump split it is usually best to pass. For example:

Pass with: ♠4 ♥8 6 3 ♦Q 9 5 ♣K J 8 6 4 2

Cheap raise opener's major:

Describes a hand with 10-12 dummy points and two-card (possibly three-card) trump support. For example:

Reply 3♠ with: ♠9 5 ♥Q 8 4 ♦A K 6 3 ♣Q 9 4 2

Jump to game in opener's major:

Describes a hand with 10-12 dummy points and three-card trump support. The nine-card trump fit makes up for the possibility that the partnership might not have 26 total points.

Reply 4♠ with: ♠Q 9 6 ♥Q 7 5 4 ♦A Q J 3 ♣8 6

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Opener: **Cheap rebid of a lower ranking new suit** (invitational):

Describes a hand with 13-16 points and usually at least four cards in the suit. But opener may rebid a three-card minor suit if there is no better alternative (see last conversation). For example:

Rebid 2♣ with: ♠A J 9 7 3 ♥K Q 3 ♦7 ♣Q 9 6 5

Rebid 2♥ with: ♠A J 9 7 3 ♥K Q 6 3 ♦7 ♣Q 9 5

Opener's cheap rebid of 2♠ after a 1♥ opening bid is a *reverse* (a cheap rebid of a higher ranking suit) that describes a hand with 17+ points and at least four spades. Responses to a reverse are described in the bidding conversation on page 10.

Responder: **Pass** (shows preference):

Describes a hand with 6-9 points and better trump support for opener's lower ranking second suit. For example, if opener rebid 2♣:

Pass with: ♠2 ♥J T 6 4 ♦K 8 6 4 ♣K T 4 3

Cheap raise opener's major (shows preference):

Describes a hand with 6-9 dummy points and some support for opener's major. For example, if opener rebid 2♣:

Reply 2♠ with: ♠6 4 ♥J 9 6 5 ♦K Q 6 5 ♣8 4 3

Cheap raise opener's second suit:

Describes a hand with 10-12 points and at least five cards to raise a minor and at least four cards to raise hearts. For example, if opener rebid 2♣:

Reply 3♣ with: ♠K 6 ♥A 9 7 4 ♦T 8 ♣K J 8 7 4

Jump raise opener's major suit:

Describes a hand with 10-12 dummy points and three-card major suit trump support (a three-card limit raise). For example, if opener rebid 2♣:

Reply 3♠ with: ♠K 8 4 ♥J T 8 ♦A K 5 2 ♣8 7 4

Cheap rebid a new suit:

Describes a weak hand with either a good five-card suit or a six-card or longer suit that has little or no support for either of opener's suits. For example, if opener rebid 2♣:

Reply 2♦ with: ♠8 ♥J T ♦Q T 9 6 5 4 2 ♣K 3

Reply 2NT:

Describes a balanced hand with 10-12 points and stoppers in both unbid suits. For example, if opener rebid 2♦:

Reply 2NT with: ♠6 4 ♥A J 9 2 ♦Q 8 4 ♣K J 7 3

See Also
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EXAMPLE 1

♠ **KT**
 ♥ **KQT 8 6 2**
 ♦ **AQT**
 ♣ **7 4**

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

♠ **J 8 6**
 ♥ **7 5**
 ♦ **8 5 4 2**
 ♣ **AQ 9 2**

EXAMPLE 2

♠ **AKT**
 ♥ **QJ 8 7 3 2**
 ♦ **K 9 3**
 ♣ **8**

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ **QJ 7**
 ♥ **A 5**
 ♦ **A 7 6 2**
 ♣ **7 4 3 2**

EXAMPLE 3

♠ **KT**
 ♥ **KQT 8 6 2**
 ♦ **AQT**
 ♣ **7 4**

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ **A 6 3**
 ♥ **J 7 4**
 ♦ **8 5 2**
 ♣ **AQ 9 2**

EXAMPLE 4

♠ **A 7**
 ♥ **AQ 7 6 3**
 ♦ **AJT 7**
 ♣ **7 3**

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ **J 5 4**
 ♥ **4 2**
 ♦ **K 8 4**
 ♣ **Q 9 5 4 2**

EXAMPLE 5

♠ **AQ 7 3 2**
 ♥ **7 2**
 ♦ **K 8 3**
 ♣ **QJ 7**

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ **8**
 ♥ **QT 6 5 4 3**
 ♦ **Q 6 2**
 ♣ **K 5 2**

EXAMPLE 6

♠ **AQ 7 5 2**
 ♥ **A 2**
 ♦ **7 2**
 ♣ **KQ 9 2**

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ **K**
 ♥ **K 7 5 4**
 ♦ **AT 8 3**
 ♣ **J 7 6 5**

EXAMPLE 1

- ✓ North **2♥** → limits to 13-15 points with six hearts.
- ✓ South **PASS** → weak with 6-9 points and some heart support.

EXAMPLE 2

- ✓ North 2♥ → limits to 13-15 points with six hearts.
- ✓ South 3♥ → invites with 10-12 points and at least two hearts.

EXAMPLE 3

- ✓ North 2♥ → limits to 13-15 points with six hearts.
- ✓ South 4♥ → sign-off with 10-12 points and three-card heart support.

EXAMPLE 4

- ✓ North 2♦ → limits to 13-16 points with five hearts and usually four or more diamonds.
- ✓ South 2♥ → weak with 6-9 points and preference for hearts.

EXAMPLE 5

- ✓ North 2♣ → limits to 13-16 points with five spades and usually four or more clubs. North has no better alternative.
- ✓ South 2♥ → weak with 6-9 points, at least six hearts, and no trump support.

EXAMPLE 6

- ✓ North 2♣ → limits to 13-16 points with five spades and usually four or more clubs.
- ✓ South 2NT → promises 10-12 points with stoppers in diamonds and hearts. Better than 3♣ because North might only have three clubs.

Opener: **Jump rebid of the major** (invites game):

Describes a hand with 17-18 declarer points and at least six cards in the major. For example:

Rebid 3♠ with: ♠A K J 8 4 2 ♥A ♦7 6 3 ♣K Q 4

Responder: **Pass:**

Describes a weak hand with or without a trump fit where there is little or no chance for a game: For example, if opener jump rebid 3♠:

Pass with: ♠4 2 ♥9 6 3 ♦K 8 7 5 4 ♣Q J 2

Pass with: ♠J 6 5 ♥8 6 ♦K 8 7 5 4 ♣Q 4 2

Raise opener's major suit to game:

Describes a hand with some combination of trump support and/or dummy points that is likely to produce a game. For example, if opener jump rebid 3♠:

Reply 4♠ with: ♠T 9 6 4 ♥T 7 ♦A Q 7 5 ♣9 8 6

Reply 4♠ with: ♠9 6 4 ♥Q 6 ♦A Q 7 5 ♣K 9 8 6

Reply 3NT:

Describes a balanced hand with 9-12 high card points and stoppers in the three unbid suits. For example, if opener jump rebid 3♠:

Reply 3NT with: ♠5 3 ♥K 8 6 5 ♦K 9 4 3 2 ♣A 6

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Opener: Jump shift to a new suit (forcing to game):

Describes an unbalanced hand with at least 17 points and at least four cards in the new suit. For example:

Jump shift to 3♦ with: ♠A Q J 9 7 ♥8 ♦K Q J 6 5 ♣A Q

Jump shift to 3♦ with: ♠A K J 8 5 ♥K 6 4 ♦K Q J 5 ♣A

Responder: Cheap raise opener's first (major) suit (slow arrival):

Usually describes a hand with 10-12 dummy points and at least three-card trump support. For example, if opener rebid a jump shift to 3♦:

Reply 3♠ with: ♠K T 4 ♥K J 7 6 4 ♦A 9 2 ♣8 4

The raise may also describe a weak hand without a better alternative. For example, if opener rebid a jump shift to 3♦:

Reply 3♠ with: ♠5 3 ♥6 4 2 ♦K Q 7 ♣J T 8 3 2

Opener will continue with either a control-showing bid or a shape-showing bid. With the first hand, responder should cooperate by showing the heart control. With the second, responder should sign-off with 4♠.

Cheap raise opener's second suit (slow arrival):

Describes a hand with 10-12 dummy points, at least four-card support with better support for opener's second suit over opener's first suit.

Raise opener's first (major) suit to game (fast arrival):

Describes a weak hand with support for opener's major suit. For example, if opener rebid a jump shift to 3♦:

Reply 4♠ with: ♠J 9 3 ♥7 6 4 ♦K 9 7 3 ♣Q 6 2

Reply 3NT:

Describes a hand with little trump support for either of opener's suits but stoppers in the two unbid suits. For example, if opener rebid a jump shift to 3♦:

Reply 3NT with: ♠7 4 ♥K 8 6 ♦J 9 7 ♣K Q 6 3 2

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EXAMPLE 7						
WEST		South	West	North	East	EAST
♠ A		Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	♠ Q 6 4
♥ K Q 8 5 4 2		Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	♥ 6 3
♦ K 7 6		Pass	Pass	Pass		♦ Q 8 5 2
♣ K J 4						♣ A Q 8 6

EXAMPLE 7

- ✓ West 3♥ → strong with 17-18 declarer points and six hearts.
- ✓ East 4♥ → enough points to ensure a game and some heart support.

Opener: Rebid 2NT (invites game):

Describes a balanced hand with 18-19 high card points. For example:

Rebid 2NT with: ♠K Q T 7 2 ♥A 7 ♦K J 5 ♣A J 4

Responder: Pass:

Describes a bare minimum hand without three-card trump support. For example:

Pass with: ♠6 5 ♥J 8 6 ♦Q T 6 4 ♣K 5 4 3

Reply 3NT:

Describes a hand with 8-12 high card points and less than three-card trump support. For example:

Pass with: ♠6 5 ♥J 8 6 ♦Q T 6 4 ♣K Q 4 3

See Also
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Jump to game in opener's major:

Describes a hand with 8-12 points and three-card trump support. For example:

Reply 3♠ with: ♠J 6 4 ♥K Q 9 ♦A 7 6 4 ♣8 7 5 2

See Also
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Jump to game in your long suit:

Describes a hand with 8-12 points, little or no support for opener's major, and at least six cards in the new suit to ensure an eight-card trump fit. For example:

Reply 4♥ with: ♠5 ♥K Q J 8 7 5 ♦Q 7 5 ♣7 6 4

Opener: Jump to game in the major (semi-sign-off):

A very rare rebid that describes a hand with 19-21 declarer points and at least six cards in the major. Responder will usually pass but with Aces and Kings in side suits, responder might advance towards slam.

Opener: Rebid longest minor or 2♣ with equal length:

A last resort. Describes a hand that does not have a side four-card suit.

For example, in these hands you do not have a sixth heart, a side four card suit, or the strength to rebid 2NT:

Rebid 2♦ with: ♠A Q 9 7 5 ♥Q 8 6 ♦K Q 4 ♣7 4

Rebid 2♣ with: ♠A Q 9 7 5 ♥Q 8 ♦K Q 4 ♣9 7 4

Rebid 2♣ with: ♠A Q 9 7 5 ♥A K Q ♦4 3 ♣9 7 4

Responder: *See responses to a cheap rebid of a new lower ranking suit.*

FORCING 1N REVERSE BIDDING CONVERSATION

A *reverse* is a cheap rebid of a higher ranking suit than the the opening suit. If opener opened **1♥** and responder bid a forcing **1NT**, opener must have extra strength to rebid a **2♠** reverse because a responder with a weak hand and a preference for hearts would have to reply at the three-level. If both the opener and the responder have minimum hands, a three-level contract might be too high.

Note that a reverse after a 2-Over-1 response does not require extra strength because the partnership is going to at least the four-level.

Opener:

Reverse to 2♠ after opening **1♥** (forcing one round):

Describes a hand with at least 17 points and at least four spades but fewer spades than hearts. For example:

Rebid 2♠ with: ♠A K Q T 7 ♥A K Q 8 5 4 ♦6 ♣J

Rebid 2♠ with: ♠A Q T 7 ♥A K J 8 5 ♦9 6 ♣K 7

But with a hand that is too weak to reverse:

Rebid 2♥ with: ♠A Q T 8 7 ♥A K 9 8 5 4 ♦6 ♣J

Rebid 2♣ (or 2♥) with: ♠A Q T 7 ♥A K J 8 5 ♦9 6 ♣8 7

In the last example, either rebid is a lie but the club rebid is usually the best choice. Responder will expect three clubs but since clubs get no respect, responder will make an effort to avoid passing a club rebid.

Responder:

After a reverse, responder should show three card or longer support for hearts. Without support, responder should rebid no trump.

Cheap raise opener's hearts:

Describes a hand with 6-9 dummy points and at least three hearts. For example, if opener rebid **2♠** after opening **1♥**:

Reply 3♥ with: ♠6 4 ♥J 9 6 5 ♦K Q 6 5 ♣8 5 3

Jump to game in opener's hearts:

Describes a hand with 10-12 dummy points and at least three hearts. For example, if opener rebid **2♠** after opening **1♥**:

Reply 3♥ with: ♠K 8 4 ♥J T 8 ♦A K 5 2 ♣8 7 4

Reply 2NT:

Describes a hand with 6-9 points and less than three hearts. For example, if opener rebid **2♠** after opening **1♥**:

Reply 2NT with: ♠9 6 4 ♥J 9 ♦J 8 4 3 ♣K Q 7 5

Reply 3NT:

Describes a hand with 10-12 points and less than three hearts. For example, if opener rebid **2♠** after opening **1♥**:

Reply 3NT with: ♠A 6 4 ♥J 9 ♦J 8 4 3 ♣K Q 7 5

EXAMPLE 8			
<p>♠ AKT 9 8</p> <p>♥ 7 4</p> <p>♦ A J</p> <p>♣ AQ 9 3</p>			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
<p>♠ 6 5</p> <p>♥ A J 5 3</p> <p>♦ K 9 4 3 2</p> <p>♣ T 8</p>			

EXAMPLE 9			
<p>♠ AKJ 9 2</p> <p>♥ K 3</p> <p>♦ K 4 3</p> <p>♣ A 9 5</p>			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
<p>♠ 7 3</p> <p>♥ Q J 5 4</p> <p>♦ A 6 5</p> <p>♣ K T 4 2</p>			

EXAMPLE 10			
<p>♠ A 6</p> <p>♥ AKJ 7 2</p> <p>♦ Q 3 2</p> <p>♣ A 5 3</p>			
North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
<p>♠ 8 7 3 2</p> <p>♥ Q 5 4</p> <p>♦ A T 6</p> <p>♣ K J 4</p>			

EXAMPLE 8

- ✓ North 3♣ → jump shift implies 18+ points with at least four clubs.
- ✓ South 3NT → no spade or club support but stoppers in diamonds and hearts.

EXAMPLE 9

- ✓ North 2NT → balanced with 18-19 high card points.
- ✓ South 3NT → sign-off with 8-12 high card points and less than three spades.

EXAMPLE 10

- ✓ South 1NT → better than new suit forcing 1♠ because limits to 6-12 and can rebid hearts to narrow to 10-12 with three-card support.
- ✓ North 2NT → balanced with 18-19 high card points.
- ✓ South 4♥ → sign-off with 10-12 dummy points and three-card heart support.