

# Rebids by Opener

## Who has Opened One of a Suit

When you make an opening bid, you should have a planned rebid, but you will not necessarily make that bid. This lesson will concentrate on the most common situation:

**Opener's rebids after a response at the one level (of a suit) of one diamond, one heart, one spade or one notrump.**

The point ranges listed here may vary by 1 point either way, depending on the source of the information. However, it is important that you and your partner have the exact same definition of the meanings of bids to help you in defining your hands.

You will discover that rebids in other situations are similar to the ones described here, so a firm understanding of these rules will give you a solid background from which to expand. The explanations below help to clarify this. Keep in mind that even though you will often open a 12-point hand (or even 11 with distribution), you are in effect using a rule (rule of 20, for example) which upgrades it. Point count is an inexact science, as we know, but it will help us to make the correct decision.

**Here is the chart for opener's rebids from SAYC\*:**

Rebids with a minimum hand (13-16 points):

- Rebidding notrump at the cheapest available level;
- Raising responder's suit at the cheapest level
- Rebidding a new suit (but not reversing);
- Rebidding opener's suit at the lowest level.

Rebids with a medium hand (17-18) points:

- Jump raise or jump rebid of opener's suit;
- Reverse in a new suit
- Non-reverse bid in a new suit (this has the wide range of 13-18 points).

With a maximum hand (19-21 or 22 points) opener must make a very strong rebid:

- Jump in notrump;
- Double jump raise in responder's suit or double jump rebid of opener's suit;
- Jump shift in a new suit.

*\* SAYC stands for Standard American Yellow Card, a form of bidding almost universally accepted in any tournament level of play. Note that you may find some discrepancy in the point ranges listed below.*

### 1. NO TRUMP REBIDS

It is common for opener to rebid in notrump. The meanings of these rebids depend on whether the response is a suit or notrump because opener will have different options available in each case.

If the response is one of a suit:

| Points | Hand Pattern       | Rebid |
|--------|--------------------|-------|
| 12-16  | Balanced or Almost | 1 NT  |
| 17-19  | Balanced or Almost | 2 NT  |

You may have an "almost" balanced hand (4-4-4-1, 5-4-2-2, 5-4-3-1, 6-3-2-2 and 6-3-3-1 shape) and rebid 2 or 3NT if your partner bids your shortness, also. If you chose to not open a 15-17 point hand 1NT, you should group 15-16 point hands with the first option and 17 point hands with the second option.

If the response is one notrump:

| Points | Hand Pattern | Rebid |
|--------|--------------|-------|
| 13-14  | Balanced     | Pass  |
| 18     | Balanced     | 2NT   |
| 19     | Balanced     | 3NT   |

## 2. RAISING RESPONDER'S SUIT

Usually the most desirable rebid by opener is to raise the suit bid by responder. This is common when the response is a major suit, but it is also possible when the response is one diamond.

Opener should have four trumps to raise since responder promised only a four-card suit when he bid at the one level. Basically, the more strength opener has, the higher the level he should raise.

| Points | Trumps       | Raise to |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| 13-15  | 4 (rarely 3) | 2 level  |
| 16-18  | 4+           | 3 level  |
| 19+    | 4+           | 4 level  |

*Note that opener will become the dummy so he should use the 5-3-1 formula to count distributional points.*

## 3. NEW SUIT REBIDS

If opener has four or more cards in an unbid suit (a suit that has not been bid), it may be convenient to bid that suit. This is almost mandatory when opener has a four-card major suit that can be shown at the one level. If opener must name his new suit at the two level, he should have an unbalanced hand. Further, this second suit must be lower ranking than his first suit or else it is called a reverse bid (see below) and requires at least 17 points.

Opener's options are summarized below:

| Points | Suit Length | Rebid                |
|--------|-------------|----------------------|
| 13-17  | 4+          | Cheapest bid in suit |
| 18+    | 4+          | Jump in suit*        |

*\*This is the strongest rebid you can make, to jump into a new suit. It is absolutely forcing and shows a very strong hand, not far off a 2C opening (18-19 points unbalanced or four losers) but the sort where you'll need partner at least able to respond at the 1-level for game to be a make. Once you jump-shift, the auction becomes game-forcing.*

*The astute student may observe that the partnership is not certain to hold 25 points (18 + 6 = 24), but the odds are overwhelming that opener and responder do not have exactly 18 and 6 points, respectively. Point-count bidding cannot be 100-percent accurate because of the limited number of bids available.*

## 4. REBIDDING YOUR ORIGINAL SUIT

Opener also may rebid the same suit with which he opened the bidding. This usually requires at least six cards. With only a five-card suit always look for some other rebid option. Do not form the habit of rebidding five-card suits or you will be tagged as a bad bridge player.

As usual, the stronger opener's hand is, the higher he is allowed to bid. The following table summarizes the options:

| Points | Suit Length   | Rebid          |
|--------|---------------|----------------|
| 13-15  | 6+ (rarely 5) | 2 of your suit |
| 16-18  | 6+            | 3 of your suit |
| 19+    | 7+ (rarely 6) | 4 of your suit |

## 5. REVERSE

A two-level reverse (where you must go to the 2-level to show your second suit) shows a distributional hand with extra strength, and it forces partner to bid again. Specifically, it promises:

1. At least 17+ high-card pts.;
2. At least 5-4 distribution in your two suits;
3. Your first suit must be longer than your second suit;
4. Your second suit must be higher in rank than your first suit; and
5. Partner must have bypassed your second suit with his response.

Opener's one-level rebid (1C-1H-1S) is not a reverse. Your rebid is a reverse only if you must go to a higher level to show the suit (1C-1NT-2S).

## Sources

SAYC Bidding Chart, Richard Palvlicek's Bidding Guide at <http://www.rpbridge.net/bgtc.htm>, Karen Walker Bridge Guide at <http://kwbridge.com>.

# OPENER'S REBID QUIZ

1. A 6 2  
K Q 10  
A J 8  
10 9 5 4

You open 1C, partner responds 1S.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Q 8 7 6  
A K 2  
K 10 9 7 4  
6

You open 1D, partner responds 1NT

\_\_\_\_\_

3. A J 5  
K Q 7  
K 4 3  
A Q 9 6

You open 1C, partner responds 1NT

\_\_\_\_\_

4. K 6  
A K J 8 6 4  
J 10 8  
A 2

You open 1H, partner responds 1NT

\_\_\_\_\_

5. A Q J 2  
K Q 9 4  
A K 3  
7 4

You open 1D, partner responds 1H

\_\_\_\_\_

6. K J  
K 8 7 2  
A J 10 9 6 5  
2

You open 1D, partner responds 1S

\_\_\_\_\_

7. K J  
K 8 7 2  
A J 10 9 6  
J 2

You open 1D, partner responds 1S

\_\_\_\_\_

8. K Q J 9 7 5 4  
A K 2  
K 2  
3

You open 1S, partner responds 1NT

\_\_\_\_\_

9. AKQJ2  
AKJ4  
J32  
7

You open 1S, partner responds 1NT

\_\_\_\_\_

10. J107  
3  
AQJ7  
AKQ102

You open 1C, partner responds 1H

\_\_\_\_\_

11. AK1054  
KQ9862  
A4  
Void

You open 1H, partner responds 1NT

\_\_\_\_\_

12. K9  
AQ72  
AQ  
KJ754

You open 1C, partner responds 1S

\_\_\_\_\_

Fold over or cover suggested answers:

|  |
|--|
| 1. 1NT 2. Pass 3. 3NT 4. 3H 5. 4H 6. 2D 7. 1NT 8. 3S or 4S 9. 3H 10. 2D 11. 2S 12. 2NT |
|--|