

# Opener's Jump Shift

A jump shift by opener is **GAME FORCING**. It shows a very big hand. It does NOT show an invitational bid. How big is big? At least 19 playing points (may be 18 with a highly distributional hand). It may be even stronger, but the hand is not suitable to open 2♣ because you have 2 **suits of equal or unequal length**.

What is your next bid?

Opponent	Opener	Opponent	Responder
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	?		

1. ♠4 ♥A2 ♦AQJ92 ♣AKJ32 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_

2. ♠4 ♥82 ♦KQJ92 ♣AKQ32 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_

Opponent	Opener	Opponent	Responder
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	?		

3. ♠A3 ♥AQJ2 ♦2 ♣AKJ652 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_

4. ♠4 ♥KJ92 ♦A2 ♣AQ832 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_

# Opener's Reverse

The opener's reverse is a **nonjump bid** by opener at the two-level in a new suit that ranks higher than the suit opener bid first. This applies only if the responder's bid was at the 1-level.

A reverse shows at least **16-18 playing points**. It may be even stronger, but the hand is not suitable to open 2♣ because you have **2 suits of unequal length with the lower ranking suit longer**. The modern-day treatment is to count extra for long suits (such as 5-6 in your suits).

Also, most modern-day players will not rebid 1NT with a singleton in partner's major suit bid (promises 2 or 3).

What is your next bid?

Opponent	Opener	Opponent	Responder
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	?		

5. ♠5 ♥J43 ♦AQJ9 ♣AKQ54 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_ What if responder bid 1♠? \_\_\_\_\_

6. ♠4 ♥QJ2 ♦AQJ9 ♣KJ534 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_ What if responder bid 1♠? \_\_\_\_\_

Opponent	Opener	Opponent	Responder
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	?		

7. ♠2 ♥AQJ3 ♦AKJ98 ♣K54 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_

8. ♠2 ♥QJ32 ♦AKJ65 ♣K32 Second bid \_\_\_\_\_

## Summary

A reverse is one-round forcing--a responder cannot pass. However a reverse is NOT forcing to game. Note the difference between a reverse, which shows extras and might be a huge hand, while a jumpshift GUARANTEES a powerful hand and is game-forcing.

**Opener's Jumpshift** = Game forcing (Roughly 18-19 or more up to a 2♣ opening with 2 equal or unequal length suits.)

**Opener's Reverse** = One round forcing (Roughly 16 or more up to a 2♣ opening with 2 unequal length suits with the lower ranking suit longer.)

Answers: 1. 3C 2. 2C 3. 2H 4. 1H 5A. 2D 5B. 2D 6A. 2C or 2H 6B. 2C 7. 2H 8. 2D

## After Opener Reverses

If the responder rebids his suit, it shows 5 cards and is forcing one round, but not to game. Example: 1♦--1♠--2♥--2♠ (5+ ♠, forcing one round.)

If responder rebids 2NT. (Example: 1♦--1♠--2♥--2NT is a weak hand--the responder can pass opener's next bid.)

Notes: There is confusion (rightly so) over other "reverse" auctions. For example, is 1♥--2♣--2♠ a "reverse?" It is, but does it show extras if playing that 2♣ was already GF? There is no universal answer, but most say that in a 2/1 GF auction, there should be no such thing as "reverses" -- i.e., they don't show extras.

Also, is 1♠--2♥--3♣ a reverse? Again, no consensus, but Larry Cohen recommends that it does NOT promise extras, just shape. There are other auctions where it is not clear if opener has reversed, nor whether he has promised extras. Also, this article is a summary. There are nuances that are not covered.

\*Check larryco.com for more information about this topic and lots of useful information!

\*Great article on bridgewinners.com on partnership understandings on 2/1 by Jeff Lehman: <http://bridgewinners.com/forums/read/intermediate-forum/what-do-you-mean-when-you-say-you-play-2-over-1/>.

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