

1NT openings and continuations – The Swedish Way.

This article was written by Janne Roos and explains a system of responses to a 1NT opening. It assumes that the 1NT opening does not contain a 5-card major:

First of all I would like to say that this is not my system, but rather a system that many good players in Sweden have adopted. And I am not going to talk about points, the system can be adjusted to whatever your opening 1NT range is. Also, if you open 1NT with two 4-card majors then you must respond 2♥ and not 2♠ or 2NT to a 2♣ ‘Stayman’ bid.

1NT - 2♣ You use this 2♣ bid with many types of hand:

1 You use it when you wish to play game in NoTrumps or in a major.

For example, 1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3NT, 3NT shows a desire to play in either 3NT or 4♠. So if the 1NT opener has 4♠’s in addition to his 4♥’s then he bids 4♠ as responder would not have asked for majors if he does not have one himself.

2 With many types of hand when you think it’s better to play in a low-level suit contract rather than 1NT. These hands always have a 4-card ♠ suit, maybe 0-7 points.

Example 1: xxxx xxxx x xxxx

You ask for majors with 2♣ and pass if partner bids a major. If he responds 2♦ then you bid 2♥. The 1NT opener can now choose his best major.

Example 2: xxxx x xxxxx xxx

You have a 4 card ♠ suit and a 5-card minor.

If it goes 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ or 1NT - 2♣ - 2♠ then you pass.

If it goes 1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ then you bid 2♠ showing exactly 4♠’s and a 5-card minor. Partner may pass 2♠ or bid 2NT, asking for the 5-card minor.

3 If you have a strong hand and want to play in at least game or maybe slam.

You bid this with a 5-card suit.

Example 1: xx xxx xxxxx xx

1NT - 2♣ - 2any - 3♦

If the 1NT opener likes ♦’s he now cue bids.

If he doesn’t like ♦’s the he bids 3NT.

Example 2: xxxxx xx xxx xxx

1NT - 2♣ - 2any - 3♠

If the 1NT opener has 3♠’s he cue bids as he does not know how strong partner is.

4 If you have a game going hand but need to know more about opener's shape.

1NT - 2♣ - 2any - 2NT is forcing to game and asks more information about opener's hand – where is the 1NT opener's 4/5 card suit (over 2♦) or do you have another 4-card suit (over 2♥/♠)?

Example: The 1NT opener has xxxx xx xxxx xxx

1NT - 2♣ - 2♠ - 2NT - 3♦

If responder does not like ♦'s he bids 3NT, otherwise he cue bids.

Finally,

1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3♥ and 1NT - 2♣ - 2♠ - 3♠ are forcing to game, start cue bidding.

1NT - 2♦ is used with just two hand types

1 You want to play in 2♥ or 2♠.

xx xxxxx xxxx x

1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - pass

Partner must always bid 2♥ over 2♦. If you have 5♠'s and not 5♥'s you bid the same but correct 2♥ to 2♠.

2 If you have a 6-card suit and want to play in at least game then you bid

1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3any

If you bid 3♣/♦ then the 1NT opener bids 3NT with bad slam cards or else cue bids.

If you bid 3♥/♠ then the 1NT opener bids 4♥/♠ with bad slam cards or else cue bids.

<u>Invitations</u>

1 1NT - 2♥/♠

This is an invitation with a 5-card major. If opener does not like the suit he should pass. Opener never bids 2NT.

2 1NT - 3any

Minors invite to 3NT

Majors invite to 4 of the major

3 1NT - 2NT

2NT can have a 4-card major so if the 1NT opener wants to play in game he can ask for majors.