

KRZYSZTOF MARTENS

CAMOUFLAGE

GARSŲ PASAULIS

Vilnius - 2010

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Garsų Pasaulis – Vilnius

ISBN ??????????

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CAMOUFLAGE AND WAITING BIDS

The word 'camouflage' comes from French and means camouflaging, masking, concealment, to cover tracks. In my opinion, in the 21st century it will be one of the main postulates in the modern bridge theory. Until now, bridge theoreticians, improperly, have disregarded the need of camouflage. I had an opportunity to watch pairs bidding without any partnership agreements, shooting off the cuff in a primitive way. Occasionally it was a shot right on target because it was consistent with the idea of camouflage. Without much information derived from the bidding, defenders are at loss and finding the optimal opening lead is more difficult. This analysis should inspire conclusions. Our bidding tools should be used skilfully. In a situation when players do not required precise information to arrive at the final contract, such exchange of information should be limited to basic things. I think that modern systems are not constructed in compliance with the idea of camouflage.

Short Camouflage Glossary

Atonality of bidding – final contract has no link to specific bids between the partnership

Pot-boiling – colloquial term for bidding sequence driving to the final contract

Courtyard bidding – combines courtyard bidding with elements of conventions applied without rhyme or reason

Bidding dissonance – bid that is inconsistent with former bids

Feeling bidding – bidding based on intuition when a player is in a good form

Improvisation – as the name shows, it is unique, characteristic for an outstanding player and his personality

Flippant bidding – solo bidding in order to show off is monkeying about

Musicality of a bridge player – general sensitivity to bidding, its beauty, tempo, and rhythm

Free Style – will always be popular. Its disadvantage is atonality and breaking the cooperation

Chapter 1

EXAMPLES OF CAMOUFLAGE

1.1. Stayman without a four card major (uncamouflage)

The example of pathetic de-camouflage will demonstrate in the best way the need of camouflage.

The ultimate absurdity was invitational bid after 1NT opening with the use of Stayman convention without a four card major.

W	E
1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♥	2 NT
?	

In this way, we used to invite partner to a thin game, disclosed our hand and eliminated a favourable opening heart lead that might have given the contract away.

There is a theoretical solution of this problem. In many systems we need 2NT bid as a transfer to diamonds but we may assign an extra meaning to the transfer to clubs bid - invitational without a four-card major with 8-9 HCPs.

W	E
1 NT	2 ♣
?	

2 NT - minimum;

3 ♣ - maximum.

These bids do not show the quality of a club fit and this is a slight disadvantage.

1.2. Further questions following the Stayman convention

The Stayman convention with further relay asking about a precise hand distribution is *passé*, which does not mean that we should get rid of this mechanism in order to get precise information when we really need it.

W	E
1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♠ (waiting)
?	

- 2 NT – I do not want to show anything because I do not have a good hand – camouflage!;
- 3 ♣ – 5 clubs and a good hand;
- 3 ♦ – 5 diamonds and a good hand;
- 3 ♥ – 2-3-4-4 distribution and a good hand;
- 3 ♠ – 3-2-4-4 distribution and good hand;
- 3 NT – 3-3-3-4, 3-3-4-3 distributions and maximum.

When a poor hand will discourage us, the opener's hand will not be disclosed.

If, however, we want to know about partner's hand, we can use another waiting bid.

W	E
1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♠ (waiting)
2 NT	3 ♣ (come on; just show me what you have!)

- 3 ♦ – I have a five-card minor;
- 3 ♥ – 2-3-4-4 distribution;
- 3 ♠ – 3-2-4-4 distribution;
- 3 NT – 3-3-3-4, 3-3-4-3 distributions.

W	E
1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♠ (waiting)
2 NT	3 ♣
3 ♦	3 ♥ (which five-card suit?)
?	

3 ♠ – clubs;

3 NT – diamonds.

Similar sequence follows a two-heart response:

W	E
1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♥	2 ♠ (waiting)
?	

2 NT – poor hand;

3 ♣ – four clubs;

3 ♦ – four diamonds;

3 ♥ – five hearts.

The main point is not to disclose declarer's hand when our partner gives up the idea of playing a slam. We should not make the opponents' life easy. This mechanism has some advantages. After a two-spade waiting bid and a negative response, 4NT invitational has somewhat different character. We are asking our partner whether he has some positive values within his poor power and distribution. Similar situation is when the answer is positive. An invitational 4NT bid means - do you really have super-maximum, partner?

1.3. Camouflage of the minor suits on the opening

An idea of a one-diamond opening with a five-carder (if four cards then only with a three-suiter shape) was a strong point of the Polish Club system. Such information is essential. All balanced hands within 12-14 HCPs range were included in a one-club opening. I remember discussions with

American players, who were not able to understand that after a typical sequence like the one below:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
1 NT	3 NT
pass	

the opener may have four clubs and two diamonds or four diamonds and two clubs.

It is much easier to lead against players opening a “better minor.”

1.4. Preference of major suit

The major suit preference that was en vogue some time ago played a similar camouflage role.

♠ A 8 7 3	N	♠ K Q 6 4
♥ 7 5	W	♥ 10 8
♦ A J 10 6 2	E	♦ Q 8
♣ Q J	S	♣ A K 10 9 4

The classical bidding will proceed as follows:

W	E
1 ♦	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♠
pass	

After this course of bidding, the opening heart lead is almost a certainty. All experts will recommend an aggressive opening lead because hearts may be disposed on diamonds or clubs. It is possible to take even worse, more transparent, course of bidding:

W	E
1 ♦	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♦	4 ♠
pass	

We are exposed to an opening heart lead. The major suit preference will reduce the bidding to the following sequence:

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♠	4♠
pass	

It is obvious that defenders' position is now much more difficult. I definitely support the major suit preference. Modern bidding methods provide the tools for finding a solution in this delicate position.

♠ A 9	N	♠ K 6 5 2
♥ A 10 4 3 2	W E	♥ J
♦ Q 8 3	S	♦ A K J 9 7 4 2
♣ Q 4 2		♣ K 5

Classical bidding:

W	E
1♥	2♦
2♥	2♠
3♦	?

We are at the level of three and know very little about the opening hand. In the major suit preference approach, the bidding will go as follows:

W	E
1♥	1♠
1NT	2♣
2♦	3♦
4♦	4NT
5♠	6♦
pass	

- 2♣ - waiting bid,
- 2♦ - minimum, without three spades,
- 3♦ - 5+ diamonds, forcing,
- 5♠ - two Aces + ♦Q.

At the level of two diamonds, we know about spade doubleton, three card diamond fit, and minimum strength. There is enough room to convey the intention. Agreeing a suit at the level of four is based on card evaluation. With the minimum power range, the opening hand has two aces and a trump queen. The club queen is also a positive value.

With less attractive hand, like the one below:

♠ Q 10
♥ K Q 9 8 5
♦ 10 8 3
♣ A J 4

partner will respond with a negative 3NT

1.5. Classical check back

The old version of the check back convention in the sequence below is wrong:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
1 NT	2 ♣
?	

- 2 ♦ – minimum without three spades;
- 2 ♥* – four hearts!!! – de-camouflage;
- 2 ♠ – minimum with three spades;
- 2 NT – maximum without three spades;
- 3 ♣* – 2335 max with a solid club suit;
- 3 ♦** – max with a solid club suit and 3 card in spades;
- 3 ♥*** – maximum with three spades.

* – this is a typical example of disclosing unnecessary information about four hearts that can be useful for opponents to choose an opening lead against 3NT.

** – prematurely revealed precise information about declarer's hand, which will encourage the defenders to unfavourable aggressive lead for declarer

*** - pointless overbid when there are fat chances for a slam and bidding space is needed for the exchange of information.

The following sequence is definitely much better:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
1 NT	2 ♣
?	

- 2 ♦ – minimum without three spades;
- 2 ♥ – maximum with three spades;
- 2 ♠ – minimum with three spades;
- 2 NT – maximum without three spades.

This information seems necessary and if partner is interested in hearts, he has to show them. The two-way check back works well in the following sequences:

A responder may obtain information about a club suit if he needs such information.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♥	2 NT
3 ♣	

- 2 ♥ – maximum with three spades;
- 3 ♣ – 5 cards in ♣.

1.6. A game invitational bid after a major suit

An interesting camouflage agreement concerns invitational sequence after one of a major opening bid.

W	E
1 ♥/♠ ?	2 NT (invitational with 3 or 4-card fit)

- 3 ♣ – bid carefully, please, I can see the slam chance;
- 3 ♦ – I have some doubts about a game contract, your choice.

The above provides a mechanism for accurate intellectual conversation on slam possibilities. The mechanism is obviously more useful when opening hands are within 11-21 HCPs range. A three-diamond bid includes only two options for partner: bid 3♣ or 4♠.

1.7. Unidentified weak splinter bid

Similar mechanism is applied after one of a major opening and a weak splinter response with 10-12 HCPs power range.

W	E
1 ♥ 3 ♥**	3 ♦* ?

* – unidentified weak splinter (game forcing)

** – waiting

- 3 ♠ – I have a void;
- 3 NT – spade singleton;
- 4 ♣ – club singleton;
- 4 ♦ – diamond singleton.

Further bidding in case of a void:

W	E
1 ♥	3 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠
3 NT (waiting)	?

- 4 ♣ – a void in the club suit;
- 4 ♦ – a void in the diamond suit;
- 4 ♥ – a void in the spade suit.

After a 1♠ opening, the scheme is the same. So, where is the camouflage? With an average opening hand, the opener will not be interested in a short suit and you will bid the game without revealing the shortage.

1.8. A 2♣ call and the opening suit as two waiting bids after partner's overcall at the level

Below follows a very useful Polish scheme that has been in use for 30 years in the two-way bidding.

W	N	E	S
1 ♦	1 ♥	pass	?
2 ♣ – 10+ HCPs with a heart fit;			
2 ♦ – 13+ HCPs without the fit.			

Two clubs and two diamonds are two different waiting bids. After a fit promising two-club bid we may determine the level of a heart contract without disclosing information to the opponents.

W	N	E	S
1 ♦ pass	1 ♥ ?	pass	2 ♣
2 ♦ – waiting, I have some doubts about playing the game, your choice;			
2 ♥ – poor hand, I do not want to play the game contract;			

4♥ – let us take the chance.

All bids in between are possible. We may propose our partner to play a no-trump contract. Even a slam is possible if North shortage is useful or if we find double fits in case of a two-suited hand. This, however, is not an issue for a discussion now.

Let us analyse a two-diamond waiting bid.

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♥	pass	2♦
pass	?		

The two-diamond waiting bid invites partners for the exchange of information. In this situation, we cannot camouflage. We do not know what the final contract will be as the suit has not been agreed.

A similar situation is after partner's one-spade overcall.

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	pass	2♣
pass	?		

2♦ – I have some doubts, your decision;

2♥ – no camouflage, maybe a heart contract will be better;

2♠ – I do not want to bid the game;

4♠ – I am taking a chance.

One more symmetric sequence:

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	pass	?

2♣ – 10+ HCPs with a spade fit;

2♥ – 13+ HCPs without a spade fit.

A situation is different after a one-club opening since we do not have two waiting bids. North needs to be more careful. Bidding the game contract is out of question.

A two-diamond waiting bid is useful in this situation.

W	N	E	S
1 ♣	1 ♥	pass	2 ♣*
pass	?		

* - 10+ HCPs with a fit or 13+ HCPs without a fit.

2 ♦ – there is something to talk about;

2 ♥ – poor hand, we have to stop in a partial score.

All higher bids are natural and show good hands. When South shows a fit, we shall also have a possibility to camouflage. In my opinion, this scheme is extremely popular in Poland, but totally unknown elsewhere, although its advantages are obvious.

1.9. A 2♣ waiting bid after a 1♥ or 1♠ opening bid

In most sequences, the modern bidding system provides an opportunity to create a mechanism to avoid the exchange of information we do not require.

Let us look at some bidding sequences that illustrate how waiting mechanisms can be used in an intellectual communication with partner.

Partner opens 1♠. How would you respond with the following hands?

1)	2)	3)
♠ Q 5	♠ A 7	♠ J 7
♥ A K 7 3	♥ K Q 8 6	♥ A J 6
♦ K 10 9 8	♦ A J 10 6	♦ A Q J 9
♣ J 7 6	♣ 7 5 4	♣ J 7 6 3

Opposite a one-spade opening, a two-heart response promises at least five-card suit in almost all bidding systems. Many players reckon that for a two-diamond response it is enough to hold a good four-card suit. West European and American bridge players in particular, will respond two diamonds to each of the above hands. This is in contradiction to a basic bidding requirement:

Do not divulge unnecessary information to the defenders, bid in such a way as to reach a proper game contract with the least exchange of information.

Let us discuss the first of these responding hands opposite a typical one-spade opener.

Example 1

♠ A 10 7 4 2	N	♠ K 8
♥ K 4		♥ A Q 7 3
♦ K Q 6		♦ A J 9 2
♣ 7 4 3	W E S	♣ 9 5 2

Classic bidding:

W	E
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	3 ♥
?	

I shall give half of my kingdom to any West player who would think of the winning 3NT bid now. Four diamonds is a correct bid but it leads to nowhere.

This is the recommended course of modern bidding:

W	E
1 ♠	2 ♣ (waiting)
2 ♠	2 NT (waiting)
3 NT	pass

The waiting two-club response still allows you to find a diamond fit (if the opener rebids in diamonds). It also follows the rule of camouflage. Declarer did not divulge his distribution or location of honours.

Below follows a typical hand and two different stories.

♠ K Q 7 3 2	N	♠ 9 6
♥ 8 7		♥ A K J 2
♦ A 6 2		♦ K J 9 3
♣ A 6 2	W E S	♣ K 5 3

What do you prefer?

Open room:

W	E
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT (forcing)
3 NT	pass

Closed room:

W	E
1 ♠	2 ♣ (waiting)
2 ♠	2 NT (forcing)
3 NT	pass

Opponents' hand on lead:

♠ 10 4
 ♥ 10 6 5
 ♦ Q 10 8 7
 ♣ Q 10 8 7

Full hand:

	♠ A J 8 5										
	♥ Q 9 4 3										
	♦ 5 4										
	♣ J 9 4										
♠ K Q 7 3 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 8 7		♥ A K J 2									
♦ A 6 2		♦ K J 9 3									
♣ A 6 2		♣ K 5 3									
	♠ 10 4										
	♥ 10 6 5										
	♦ Q 10 8 7										
	♣ Q 10 8 7										

Open room, opening lead - ♣7.

The declarer ducked the first trick. He won the second club trick and played a spade to the queen. North withheld his ace. Now followed a heart to the ace and a spade to the king. The defender played the club back won in the dummy and a spade for 3-3 distribution, South discarded a diamond. After a successful heart finesse - one off.

Closed room, opening lead - ♦7.

The declarer won with the nine in his hand and played the nine of spade, defender covered with the ten, and declarer ducked to main-

tain the communication with the dummy. A heart return won in hand and a spade played to the queen. Ten tricks in the bag.

Did anybody make a mistake? The hand was played in a routine way in both rooms. Declarer's play and lead were correct.

1.10. The 1♥, 1♠-2♠-2♦ sequence as waiting

After one-heart and one-spade openings, many partnerships build further bidding sequences placing stress on card evaluation. I would like to present my invention:

We show a poor hand by bidding our opening suit once again.

Good hand is shown by using transfer bids above the opening suit level.

A two-diamond waiting bid means: I do not have other good bidding options.

What hands are included in a two-diamond bid (after 1♥ opening)?

- a) 5+ hearts - 4 diamonds;
- b) 5332 – this is not the right hand to bid no-trump;
- c) 6 hearts, good hand with a poor quality suit;
- d) 5 hearts - 4 clubs, good hand but clubs are of poor quality;
- e) 5 hearts - 4 spades.

W	E
1 ♥	2 ♣
?	

- 2 ♦ – I have no other bidding options, at least average hand;
- 2 ♥ – poor hand;
- 2 ♠ – club transfer 5+ hearts and 4 clubs, good hand;
- 2 NT – good hand, I like to play NT;
- 3 ♣ – 5+ hearts - 5+ diamonds, good hand;
- 3 ♦ – 6+ hearts, good hand;
- 3 ♥ – +7 hearts, standard hand in a classical bidding sequence 1♥-2♣-4♥;
- 3 ♠, – auto splinter, +7 hearts (solid suit) – very good hand;
- 4♣ /♦
- 3 NT – low honours, good hand.

Repeating the suit as an obvious negative bid allows to close the bidding (specifically with a fit) without divulging any information to the opponent on declarer's layout. Extra length transfer bids serve to enter smoothly the slam zone.

Free three-heart bid can be used for checking slam options without taking the risk of overbidding.

Here is the full deal.

What next after a two-diamond waiting bid?

W	E
1 ♥	2 ♣
2 ♦	?

2 ♥ – waiting support;

2 ♠ – waiting artificial bid;

2 NT – waiting, I would like to play a no-trump contract from my hand;

Other – natural, or semi-natural.
bids

What next after a three-heart response?

W	E
1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♥	?

3 ♠ – waiting;

3 NT – to play;

4 ♣ – natural, how about a club slam.

W	E
1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♥	3 ♠
?	

3 NT – shortage in spades;

4 ♣ – shortage in clubs;

- 4 ♦ – shortage in diamonds;
- 4 ♥ – no shortage.

You can find descriptions that are more detailed in my *Extra Length Transfer Bid*.

After a 1♠ opening:

W	E
1 ♠	2 ♣
?	

- 2 ♦ – no 4 hearts, there are no other sensible bidding options;
- 2 ♥ – natural; unlimited (can be weak hand);
- 2 ♠ – poor hand without four hearts;
- 2 BA – positive, I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand;
- 3 ♣ – 5 spades and 4+ clubs, good hand;
- 3 ♦ – 5-5 spade and diamonds, good hand;
- 3 ♥ – extra spade length, 6+ spades
- 3 ♠ – 7+spades, standard layout in a classical sequence 1♠-2♣-4♠;
- 3 NT – not a very attractive hand, low values;
- 4♣/♦/♥ – auto-Splinter, 7+ spades (solid suit) – very good hand.

What after a two-diamond waiting bid?

W	E
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	?

- 2 ♥ – waiting;
- 2 ♠ – support, slam aspirations;
- 2 NT – waiting, I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand.

Showing a poor hand by repeated bidding of the opening suit leads to reaching the game level without the exchange of information. This is consistent with the idea of camouflage.

1.11. Playing a no-trump contract from the right hand with elements of camouflage

The idea of playing a no-trump contract from the right hand with the elements of camouflage may be demonstrated in simple hands.

W	E
1 ♣	2 NT*
2 ♦	?

* - forcing, **may be four cards in a major**, I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand.

Typical distribution with East:

- ♠ K J 7 5
- ♥ Q 10 6
- ♦ K 10 4
- ♣ A J 9

It is obvious that a no-trump contract should be played from the East hand.

Typical sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
1 NT	

leads to playing a no-trump contract from the wrong hand. It requires reconstructing the meaning of other bids.

W	E
1 ♣	1 NT (9-11 HCPs)

With 7-8 HCPs without four cards in a major, we can easily bid 1♦.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♦ (negative)
1 ♥/♠	1 NT (5-8 HCPs)

In a natural system, 7-8 HCPs without four cards in a major does not create any problem. We can bid natural 1♦ or raise a club suit. With 12 HCPs, we can take a chance in going straight to the game or make a modest 1NT bid. Opponents like to support the bidding in this sequence. We still may encounter a nice surprise.

W	E
1 ♣ ?	2 NT

- 3 ♣ – natural;
- 3 ♦ – asking about a four card major;
- 3 ♥/♠ – shortage.

W	E
1 ♣ 3 ♦	2 NT ?

- 3 ♥/♠ – natural, better hand for a no-trump contract, it will also be better for a suit contract;
- 3 NT – no majors;
- 4 ♣ – both majors, bid via transfer.

With the hand that is not suitable for playing a no-trump, like the one below,

♠ A x x x
♥ A x
♦ A x x
♣ J 10 9 x

after a 1♣ opening, we bid 1♠, not 2NT.

1.12. Camouflage after a 1♣ opening and a natural 1♦ response

The camouflage element appears in purely natural bidding sequence 1♣-1♦.

It is quite popular but combining this sequence with the 'two way check back' makes it more elegant.

What will you bid with the following hands?

a)	b)
♠ 7 5	♠ A K Q J
♥ J 9 7 4	♥ 7 5
♦ K Q 10 9 3	♦ K 7 4 3 2
♣ Q 6	♣ K 7

With a) hand after partner's 1♣ opening, we bid 1♥ although we have only four poor quality hearts and a five-card solid diamond suit.

With b) hand we bid 1♦ although we have a solid spade suit.

a)

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	1 NT

b)

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♠ (5+ diamonds - 4+ spades, 13+ HCPs)

This convention requires precise mechanisms in further bidding rounds. For instance, a two-way check back.

Example:

♠ K 10 6 3	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 2
N	E					
W	S					
♥ A J 9		♥ Q 5 3 2				
♦ J		♦ K Q 9 5 3 2				
♣ K J 9 6 3		♣ 10 2				

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣*
2 ♦	pas

* - the two-way check back, partner must bid 2♦ with 12-14 HCPs.

We shall have our reward in a deal below. Here comes a natural sequence:

♠ K 10 6
♥ A J 9 3
♦ 8 7
♣ K J 9 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 8 7
♥ 10 5
♦ A K Q 9 5
♣ A 10 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♦
1 NT	3 NT
pass	

We bid the game without disclosing information to the opponents. A favourable heart lead will be a reward for a thoughtful camouflage.

Chapter 2

WAITING BID

2.1 Introduction

A decade or two ago, there was a fashion for artificial relay systems. Strongly advocated was a one-way course of bidding. After partner's opening, the responder took control of the auction. A series of relay bids was intended to find out about the opener's strength and distribution. The responder then bid the final contract based on the information he had acquired in course of the bidding.

The captain of a ship sets the course and gives the necessary orders. A crew member does not ask questions about where the ship is heading, he merely follows orders. If a bridge player at the helm does not know how to use the compass, sextant and other navigational tools, the partnership is doomed to fail pretty soon. The captain is the master of the deal and everything follows his wishes. The precision of such relay bidding is nonetheless superficial. It does not take into consideration many vital elements of card evaluation, such as the location of honours and the quality of the trump suit. That is because there is no opportunity for an intellectual conversation between partners.

The one-way approach, favoured by relay bidding, can work well on occasional deals and should not be disregarded or rejected. Natural bidding, however, has many advantages. Both players can show their intentions with the calls they make and they can indicate whether or not they would be happy to play a no-trump contract. Since they are not tied to a table of relay responses, they have a free hand in deciding whether to give accurate information on their hand or to avoid giving away such information. And finally, the most important thing is a considerable resilience to intervention by the opponents.

In the 21st century, bidding systems look for a symbiosis between relay bidding and a two-way exchange of information. Specific consideration is given to camouflage, wherever this is possible without obstructing the quality of the final contract.

Most of the sequences presented in this chapter are fairly complicated. What is more, I often contemplate further bidding, which is often avoided by the authors of nifty conventions. Why? It is tedious for the author and the reader. I am an ardent teacher, and in my opinion it is dishonest towards readers (students) to present difficult conventions without an instruction how to use them sensibly.

2.2. Waiting bids after agreeing a suit one over one by the opener

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What is the common feature for these sequences?

The opener showed accurately his distribution and strength but the answerer's hand is pretty vague. In such situations, we should create

a waiting mechanism that will provide an opportunity to take on an initiative and receive missing information from the opener. The waiting bid should be economically situated in course of the bidding to have enough space to acquire all necessary information.

After agreeing a heart suit, a spade suit will play a role of a waiting bid.

After agreeing spades, a no-trump will be a waiting bid.

A responder has three options:

- A. Take control of the auction with all balanced hands (waiting).
- B. Bid naturally if a suit was agreed at the level of two.
- C. Show a shortage even in his partner's suit.
 - 1) with the jump, if the suit was agreed at the level of two.
 - 2) without a jump if the suit was agreed at the level of three.

After a waiting bid, the mechanism that puts in order the opener's answers is quite simple:

- 1) repeating the opener's suit shows good hand without a shortage;
- 2) returning to the agreed suit shows poor hand (within the presented course of bidding) - without a shortage;
- 3) in the remaining two options we show a shortage in a natural way if this is possible.

2.2.1. After a 1♣ opening

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♥	?

- 2 ♠ – waiting;
- 2 NT – natural, forcing;
- 3 ♣ – natural;
- 3 ♦ – natural;
- 3 ♥ – preemptive;
- 3 ♠ – singleton or void in spades;
- 4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds.

It is a trivial sequence, in which the opener has a balanced hand in most of the cases, although a shortage is not precluded. The waiting mechanism will be less useful but the responder can use the range of natural bids.

Example:

♠ A Q 5
♥ J 8 7 4
♦ K J 9
♣ Q J 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 8
♥ A 5 3 2
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ K 3 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 NT	pass

This way, the opener will clearly underline the balanced hand and good extra values.

How to bid after a 2♠ waiting bid?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♥	2 ♠

2 NT – singleton or void in spades;

3 ♣ – maximum without a singleton;

3 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;

3 ♥ – minimum without a singleton;

3 NT – balanced hand with positive extras in power.

Example:

♠ 6
♥ A 10 8 7
♦ K 7 5
♣ A J 7 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 3
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ A J 9 3
♣ 9 6

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♥	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♥
pass	

The responder is in control of the auction and the flow of information goes one way. A spade shortage is discouraging for the bidder at the helm.

Let us view a situation when the opener agrees a suit with the jump:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
3 ♥	?

- 3 ♠ – waiting;
- 3 NT – singleton or void in spades;
- 4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds.

In this case, the opener will usually have an unbalanced hand. A waiting bid will play a key role in this situation. The responder can use a different option. He may bid his shortage. It will be specifically important if he has a void. With every balanced hand when there is a chance of a slam contract, a 3♠ waiting bid will be the best solution for the responder.

Example

♠ 4	N W E S	♠ A K 6 2
♥ A Q J 4		♥ K 9 5 3 2
♦ A K 7		♦ Q J 10 2
♣ J 10 8 7 2		♣ --

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
3 ♥	4 ♣
4 ♦	5 ♣
5 ♦	5 NT
6 NT	7 ♥
pass	

- 4♣ – shortage;
- 4♦ – useful shortage, cue bid;
- 5♣ – void;
- 5♦ – very good hand, cue bid;

5NT – asking for aces (precluding A♣);

6NT – two Aces + Q♥ + 1 King.

Note, that asking for aces, 5NT, is not risky as the response without the trump queen will be 6♥. We have received information about the diamond king in course of the cue bid exchange.

What next after a 3♠ waiting bid?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠

3 NT – singleton or void in spades;

4 ♣ – maximum without a singleton;

4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;

4 ♥ – minimum without a singleton.

Example 1

♠ 4	N	♠ K Q 6
♥ A Q 5 4	W E	♥ K J 3 2
♦ K 7 6	S	♦ A J 10 4
♣ A Q 10 8 7		♣ 3 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♥
pass	

A spade shortage discouraged the responder.

Example 2

♠ —	N W E S	♠ J 10 7
♥ A 10 6 5		♥ K Q 9 7 2
♦ A 9 3 2		♦ 5 4
♣ A Q 10 9 2		♣ K J 8

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♣
4 ♠	4 NT
5 ♣	6 ♣
7 ♥	pass

3NT – spade shortage

4♣ – cue bid, I like the shortage

4♠ – void

6♣ – slam invitational (inquiry about the club queen)

Waiting bids after a 1♠ response

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♠	?

2 NT – waiting;

3 ♣ – natural;

3 ♦ – natural;

3 ♥ – natural;

3 ♠ – preemptive;

3 NT – NT hand;

4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;

4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;

4 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts.

Always remember about the idea of camouflage in course of the bidding.

Example 1

♠ A 9 8 2	N W E S	♠ K Q J 3
♥ 6 5		♥ A 10
♦ 7 2		♦ A 10 9 3
♣ A K J 10 2		♣ Q 6 5

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
4 ♣	4 NT
5 ♥	6 ♠
pass	

2NT – waiting;

4♣ – shape 4-2-2-5, all points are concentrated in black suits.

Example 2

♠ Q 7 6 5	N W E S	♠ A K 10 9 2
♥ A K 5 4		♥ Q 6
♦ 6		♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ A 10 8 7		♣ K Q

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♦	4 ♣
4 ♥	4 NT
5 NT	6 ♠
pass	

3♦ – shortage.

5NT – 2 aces + trump queen + 1 king.

What next after a 2NT waiting bid?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
?	

- 3 ♣ – maximum without singleton;
- 3 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
- 3 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts;
- 3 ♠ – minimum without a singleton;
- 3 NT – balanced hand with positive extras in power.

After a jump to 3♠, a 3NT will play a role of a waiting bid. It will raise some protests from 3NT contract supporters.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♠	?

- 3 NT – waiting;
- 4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
- 4 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts.

Example

♠ A K 6 4	N W E S	♠ Q J 9 8 2
♥ A K 5 4		♥ Q 10 8
♦ 5		♦ A K 10 8 7
♣ J 10 7 6		♣ —

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♦	5 ♣
6 ♣	7 ♠
pass	

4♣ – this is my short suit;

- 4♦ – cue bid, I like this shortage;
 5♣ – what do you think about the void?
 6♣ – excellent, all my values are outside clubs.

I strongly support a convention, in which that raising a short suit promises total exclusion in this suit.

How shall we bid after 3NT waiting bid?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♠	3 NT
?	

- 4 ♣ – maximum without singleton;
 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
 4 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts;
 4 ♠ – minimum without a singleton.

Example 1

♠ A Q 10 8	N	♠ K J 9 2
♥ K 8 7	W E	♥ 10 3 2
♦ 5	S	♦ A Q J 6
♣ A Q 4 3 2		♣ K 8

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♠	3 NT
4 ♦	4 ♠
pass	

A shortage in diamonds is not what we want. However, if we switch hearts to diamonds in the opener's hand, we shall reach an excellent slam.

Example 2

♠ A Q 10 8	N W E S	♠ K J 3 2
♥ 5		♥ 10 3 2
♦ K 8 7		♦ A Q J 5
♣ A Q 4 3 2		♣ K 8

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♠	3 NT
4 ♥	5 ♣
5 ♦	5 ♥
6 ♠	pass

- 4♥ – shortage;
- 5♦ – cue bid, precludes a heart void;
- 5♥ – false cue bid; repetitive cue bid exchange indicates concern about the quality of the trump suit;
- 6♠ – do not worry about trumps.

Note that in the classical approach to cue bids the bidding will be identical in both cases:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♦	4 ♠
?	

A 5♣ cue bid will guarantee the second round control in hearts. How can we distinguish hands in both examples?

2.2.2. After a 1♦ opening

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♥	?

- 2 ♠ – waiting bid;
- 2 NT – natural bid;
- 3 ♣ – natural bid;

- 3 ♦ – natural bid;
- 3 ♥ – preemptive;
- 3 ♠ – singleton or void in spades;
- 4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds.

Waiting bids in this sequence will be more useful in those systems, in which 1♦ opening promises five diamonds or a three suiter. With a four diamond opening option, a short suit will be less frequent in the opener's hand.

Example 1

♠ 3
♥ Q 7 5 2
♦ A K 10 4 2
♣ K 10 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q J 10
♥ K 8 4 3
♦ Q J
♣ Q 9 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♥	2 ♠
2 NT	3 NT
pass	

We need to have a lot of confidence in our partner. A no trump-contract from a hand with a shortage in spades is quite a chance (but not in this case).

Example 2

♠ 2
♥ Q 7 5 2
♦ A K J 3 2
♣ Q 9 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 8 5
♥ A K J 6 4
♦ –
♣ A 4 3 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♥	4 ♦
4 ♥	pass

4♦ – splinter bid.

You may ask: in partner's suit? Why not? If the opener has the following hand:

♠ K Q	N W E S	♠ A J 8 5
♥ Q 7 5 2		♥ A K J 7 4
♦ J 10 9 7 6		♦ —
♣ K Q		♣ A 4 3 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♥	4 ♦
4 ♣	5 ♦
6 ♦	7 ♥
pass	

5♦ – void;

6♦ – total exclusion of values in diamonds.

Development of the bidding after a 2♣ waiting bid

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♥	2 ♠
?	

2 NT – singleton or void in spades;

3 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;

3 ♦ – maximum without a singleton;

3 ♥ – minimum without a singleton.

Next sequence:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
3 ♥	?

3 ♠ – waiting bid;

3 NT – singleton or void in spades;

4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;

4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;

Example 1

♠ A Q J 6
♥ K 7 3 2
♦ A J 6 5
♣ 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ —
♥ Q 8 5 4
♦ K Q 3 2
♣ A Q J 9 2

W	E
1♦	1♥
3♥	3NT
4♥	pass

3NT - I have shortage in spades;

4♥ - I do not like that at all.

Example 2

♠ 3
♥ A K 10 2
♦ A Q J 6 5
♣ J 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 5 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 3
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ —

W	E
1♦	1♥
3♥	4♣
4♦	5♣
5♦	5♠
6♣	6♦
7♦/♥	pass

4♣ - club shortage;

4♦ - cue bid, I like the shortage;

5♣ - void;

6♣ - exclusion of club honours;

7♦ or 7♥ - a diamond slam is safer.

What next after a waiting bid? The scheme of responses is identical in all symmetrical sequences.

W	E
1♦	1♥
3♥	3♠
?	

- 3 NT – singleton or void in spades
- 4♣ – singleton or void in clubs
- 4♦ – maximum without a singleton
- 4♥ – minimum without a singleton

Example 1

♠ 7 6	N W E S	♠ A Q 2
♥ A K 7 4		♥ Q J 9 8
♦ A Q 10 4 3		♦ 5 2
♣ K 8		♣ A J 3 2

W	E
1♦	1♥
3♥	3♠
4♦	4 NT
5♣	6♥
pass	

- 4♦ – maximum, without a shortage;
- 4NT – a slam contract looks quite promising.

Example 2

♠ A Q 5	N W E S	♠ 9 8 2
♥ A Q 10 8		♥ K J 4 2
♦ A 10 8 7 3		♦ K 5 4
♣ 5		♣ K Q J

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♥
pass	

Our dreams about a spade shortage have not come true.

Let us discuss the next sequence:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠	?

- 2 NT – waiting;
- 3 ♣ – natural;
- 3 ♦ – natural;
- 3 ♥ – natural;
- 3 ♠ – preemptive;
- 3 NT – balanced hand;
- 4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
- 4 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts.

Example 1

♠ A K 7 5	N W E S	♠ Q J 10 6 2
♥ 10 8		♥ A K 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 4 3 2		♦ —
♣ A		♣ K Q 10 3

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠	4 ♦
5 ♦	5 NT
6 ♣	7 ♠
pass	

- 4♦ – shortage;
- 5♦ – total exclusion of diamond values. Three aces out of five arouse enthusiasm;
- 5NT – Blackwood convention.

Example 2

♠ 9 8 7 5	N W E S	♠ Q J 10 6 2
♥ Q J 10		♥ A K 3 2
♦ A K Q 10 5		♦ —
♣ 8		♣ K Q 10 3

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠	4 ♦
4 ♠	pass

Further sequence after a 2NT waiting bid:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
?	

- 3 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 3 ♦ – maximum without a singleton, solid diamond suit;
- 3 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts;

- 3 ♠ – minimum without a singleton;
 3 NT – no trump hand, maximum power.

Example 1

♠ J 7 5 2
 ♥ K 8
 ♦ A K Q 10 3
 ♣ J 7



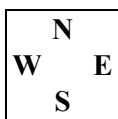
♠ K 9 4 3
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ A 10 9 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
3 NT	pass

A delicate but sensible decision.

Example 2

♠ K 10 8 5
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A K 6 5 2
 ♣ Q 8 3



♠ A 6 3 2
 ♥ Q J 9
 ♦ 9 7
 ♣ A 7 5 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♥	3 ♠
pass	

A waiting scheme may be needed in order to stop in a partial score. The shortage in hearts is not good news.

Example 3

♠ K Q 8 5	N W E S	♠ A 6 3 2
♥ 7 3 2		♥ Q J 9
♦ A K 6 5 2		♦ 9 7
♣ 3		♣ A 7 5 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♣	4 ♠
pass	

Another sequence:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
3 ♠	?

- 3 NT – waiting;
- 4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
- 4 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts;

Example 1

♠ A 10 9 7	N W E S	♠ K Q J 8 3
♥ 9		♥ A 7 5 3
♦ K Q 10 4 2		♦ –
♣ A Q 3		♣ 10 7 5 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♦
4 ♠	pass

- 4♦ – shortage;
- 4♠ – negative response.

Example 2

♠ A 10 9 7	N W E S	♠ K Q J 8 3
♥ 9		♥ 10 8 2
♦ K Q 10 4 2		♦ A 6 3
♣ A Q 3		♣ 10 7

W	E
1♦	1♠
3♠	3NT
4♥	5♦
6♠	pass

5♦ – cue bid precluding a club control.

Further sequences following the waiting bid:

W	E
1♦	1♠
3♠	3NT
?	

- 4♣ – singleton or void in clubs
- 4♦ – maximum without a singleton, solid diamond suit
- 4♥ – singleton or void in hearts
- 4♠ – minimum without a singleton

Example

♠ Q J 8 2	N W E S	♠ A K 9 4 3
♥ A 2		♥ 10 8
♦ A Q J 6 2		♦ 9 4 3
♣ J 8		♣ K Q 2

W	E
1♦	1♠
3♠	3NT
4♠	pass

2.2.3. After a 1♥ opening

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♠	?

- 2 NT – waiting;
- 3♣ – natural;
- 3♦ – natural;
- 3♥ – natural;
- 3♠ – preemptive;
- 4♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
- 4♥ – singleton or void in hearts.

Example 1

♠ QJ82	N W E S	♠ AK943
♥ AKJ32		♥ 108
♦ Q62		♦ 943
♣ 8		♣ QJ2

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♠	2NT
3♣	3♠
pass	

Queen and jack of clubs have no value at all in this deal.

Example 2

♠ J852	N W E S	♠ AK943
♥ AKJ32		♥ 108
♦ K62		♦ QJ3
♣ 8		♣ 943

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♠	2NT
3♣	4♠
pass	

Further sequences after a 2NT waiting bid comply with our scheme:

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 NT
?	

- 3 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 3 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
- 3 ♥ – maximum without a singleton;
- 3 ♠ – minimum without a singleton;
- 3 NT – balanced hand, maximum.

The bidding is similar after a strong suit agreement:

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♠	3 NT
?	

- 4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds;
- 4 ♥ – maximum without a singleton;
- 4 ♠ – minimum without a singleton.

To sum up – the mechanism is the same in all presented sequences. It allows to check the shortage is with the opener or the power range if there is no shortage. We can also show our own shortage if we consider it necessary.

Example 1

♠ A Q 10 6	N W E S	♠ K 8 5 4 3
♥ J 10 7 4 2		♥ —
♦ A K 7		♦ Q J 9 7 4
♣ 4		♣ A 7 5

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♥
5 ♣	5 ♥
6 ♦	?

4♥ - shortage;
5♥ - void.

The responder showed his short suit. The opener's cue bids are not that obvious - do they show honours or shortages? The opener may take a chance in a slam if we bid 6♥.

Other way.

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♠	3 NT
4 ♣	4 ♥
5 ♦	5 ♥
6 ♦	6 ♥
7 ♠	pass

6♥ - I am concerned about spades

It is a very complicated and risky way to a slam. We ask for a shortage and force two-diamond cue bids. There is still a trump problem. True, that monotonous repetition of cue bids indicates concern about the trump suit. However, we have to have a great confidence in our partner being convinced that persistent bidding of a heart suit does not mean that a heart slam is what we really want. Asking for a shortage should prejudice a spade contract but logic does not have to be the same on both sides within the partnership.

2.3. Other interesting waiting bids after 1♣ opening

2.3.1. Sequence 1♣ - 1♥ - 1♠ - ?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	?

- 2 ♣ – **waiting**, invitational or sign off with diamonds;
- 2 ♦ – **waiting**, game forcing;
- 2 ♥ – natural, NF;
- 2 ♠ – natural, NF;
- 2 NT – invitation;
- 3 ♣ – weak, 4 hearts + 5 clubs;
- 3 ♦ – 5-5 GF;
- 3 ♥ – invitation;
- 3 ♠ – invitation.

Two waiting bids work well in this sequence. Clear intention of a responder simplifies further bidding.

Further sequences after a 2♣ waiting bid

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣
?	

- 2 ♦ – 12-14 HCPs;
- 2 ♥ – 12-14 HCPs, 4-3-1-5 shape (does not apply to a system with a 2♣ Precision opening);
- 2 ♠ – 12-14 HCPs, 4 spades - 6 clubs distribution (does not apply to a system with a 2♣ Precision opening);
- 2 NT – 18+ HCPs, balanced (if 2NT opening is strong we can accurately indicate 18-19 HCPs);
- 3 ♣ – forcing with 5+ clubs, 16+ HCPs;
- 3 ♦ – transfer to hearts, good hand with 4♠ 3♥ 1♦ 5♣ or 4♠ 3♥ 0♦ 6♣;

Example

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	pass

Model responder's hand:

♠ 6
 ♥ Q 8 7 3
 ♦ A 10 8 7 4 2
 ♣ J 6

How will the responder describe his invitational hand?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	?

- 2 ♥ – with 5+ hearts;
- 2 ♠ – 4+ hearts - 4 spades;
- 2 NT – balanced hand, 5-3-3-2 distribution with five hearts;
- 3 ♣ – 4 hearts and 5+ clubs;
- 3 ♦ – 4 hearts and 5 diamonds;
- 3 ♥ – 6 hearts, strength-based, invitational bid.

All responder's bids are invitational.

Example 1

♠ A K 6 3
♥ 7
♦ 10 5 3
♣ A Q 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 8
♥ A 10 8 3 2
♦ A 6 4
♣ J 8

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	pass

2♥ - invitational, 5+ hearts

2♠ - misfit in hearts.

Example 2

♠ A K 6 5
♥ A 8
♦ J 10 2
♣ A Q 7 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 8
♥ K 9 3 2
♦ A 4
♣ K J 9 8 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 NT	3 ♣
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♥	5 ♥
6 ♣	pass

3♣ - natural;

4♣ - I like your suit;

4♦ - cue bid;

5♥ - cue bid, the possibility of a slam is open.

Example 3

♠ A 10 9 2
♥ Q 5
♦ A Q 2
♣ Q 9 8 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6
♥ K J 7 2
♦ K J 9 8 3
♣ K 4 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	3 ♦
3 NT	pass

3♦ – invitational, 4+ hearts, 5+ diamonds.

Example 4

♠ A 10 9 2
♥ Q 5
♦ A Q 2
♣ Q 9 8 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6
♥ K J 7 2
♦ K J 9 8 3
♣ 6 4 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♦	pass

After a 2♦ waiting bid, which is game forcing, the opener describes his hand.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
?	

- 2♥ – three hearts;
- 2♠ – waiting;
- 2NT – 12+, no-trump oriented hand, I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand;
- 3♣ – 5+ clubs, 4 spades without three hearts, positive hand;
- 3♦ – 12-14 HCPs – 4-3-1-5 distribution;

- 3 ♥ – 15-17 HCPs – 4-3-1-5 distribution;
- 3 ♠ – 6 clubs, 5 spades, good hand;
- 3 NT – 12-13 HCPs, without three hearts.

A 2♣ waiting bid requires some explanations. It covers two types of hands:

1) In the modern natural bidding, we should not bid a no-trump contract from the wrong hand:

♠ A 7 5 4
♥ A 8
♦ 8 5 4
♣ K Q 6 2

With the hand like above, a 2♣ waiting bid is suggested.

2) Showing five clubs by bidding 3♣ is slam invitational. Poor hand with clubs is also bid via 2♣ waiting sequence. Below follows a development of the sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♣	2 NT
?	

- 3 ♣ – 5+ clubs;
- 3 ♦ – 4-1-3-5 distribution;
- 3 ♥ – 4225 with 2 honours in hearts, may be helpful in choosing the better game contract;
- 3 ♠ – 4225 with good spades, may be helpful in choosing the better game contract;
- 3 NT – I wanted you to play a no-trump contract from your hand.

Example 1

♠ QJ98
♥ Q7
♦ KJ5
♣ KJ87



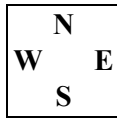
♠ A5
♥ AKJ862
♦ Q8
♣ 1032

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
3 NT	?

The jump to a three no trump pre-empts the exchange of information and shows poor hand with low honours.

Example 2

♠ A Q 6 5
♥ Q 6 5
♦ 9 8 4
♣ K J 4



♠ K 10 2
♥ A K 10 8 3 2
♦ 3
♣ A 9 5

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	4 ♦
4 ♠	4 NT
5 ♦	6 ♥
pass	

4♦ – splinter.

A relatively brusque way of bidding has brought us to a good slam. It is difficult to bid in a more precise way as splinter in this case is not a comfortable bid.

Example 3

♠ A K 7 3
♥ K 4 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ 10 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 10 2
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ 3
♣ A K J 5

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
2 NT	4 ♦
4 ♥	4 NT
5 ♥	6 ♠
pass	

2♠ - I agree on a spade suit;

4♦ - late splinter is much stronger and encourages for a slam contract;

4♥ - three key values encourage to give partner a chance.

This is a good way to avoid risky decisions at the level of five. With a direct splinter bid, the opener will not cue bid hearts with 4-3-3-3 distribution and a useless queen of diamond.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	4 ♦
4 ♠	?

Making a bid at the level of five will lead to a disaster if we find partner with the following hand:

♠ A K 7 3
♥ 5 4 3
♦ K Q 6
♣ 10 4 2

Example 4

♠ A Q 6 5	N W E S	♠ J 3
♥ Q 4 3		♥ J 8 6 5 2
♦ 7		♦ K Q J
♣ A J 8 6 2		♣ K Q 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♦	3 NT
pass	

3♦ - 4-3-1-5 distribution.

Example 5

♠ A 10 6 2	N W E S	♠ 9
♥ 6		♥ A J 9 3 2
♦ 7 2		♦ A K Q 3
♣ A Q J 7 4 2		♣ K 10 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♣	3 ♦
4 ♣	4 NT
5 ♠	7 ♣
pass	

4♣ bid shows 4 spades and 6 clubs. It has been essential to force partner to provide information about the distribution. Further bidding was a piece of cake.

2.3.2. Sequence 1♣ - 1♥ - 2♣ - ?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	?

- 2♦ – waiting;
- 2♥ – not forcing;
- 2♠ – honours in spades, game forcing, transfer a no-trump contract to a better hand;
- 2NT – invitational;
- 3♣ – invitational;
- 3♦ – 7-9 HCPs, 6+ diamonds and 4 hearts, not forcing;
- 3♥ – 6+ hearts, invitational;
- 3♠ – singleton or void in spades, with a club fit.

Example 1

♠ 7 6	N	♠ A 10 5 3
♥ J 5 3	W E	♥ A K 4 2
♦ K 3	S	♦ 8 7
♣ A K 10 8 4 2		♣ Q 9 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♠
2 NT	3 NT
pass	

2♠ – waiting bid showing the location of honours, third suit is usually natural or shows values;

2NT – partner is not interested in a three-heart fit, but in a diamond stopper.

Example 2

♠ K 6	N W E S	♠ A 10 5
♥ J 5		♥ A K 4 2
♦ 10 4 3		♦ 9 8 7
♣ A K 10 8 4 2		♣ Q 9 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 NT
pass	

Lack of a diamond stopper should not prevent us from arriving at a 3NT contract. No intervention with a diamond suit suggests that diamonds break 4-3.

Example 3

♠ A 6	N W E S	♠ J 2
♥ K 7 5		♥ Q 9 8 2
♦ 4 2		♦ K J 10 8 7 5 3
♣ A Q 10 9 4 2		♣ —

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	3 ♦
pass	

We have to remember about a convention that is typical for the modern bidding.

If a suit at the level of two is used as a waiting bid, then the jump in this suit shows poor hand and an intention to play it.

Example 4

♠ K Q 10	N W E S	♠ 9
♥ 7 6		♥ A Q 10 8
♦ 5 4		♦ A J 10
♣ A K 9 8 3 2		♣ Q J 6 5 4

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	3 ♠
3 NT	pass

3♠ – splinter.

How will the opener respond to a 2♦ waiting bid?

A 2♦ diamond waiting bid is game forcing therefore it is more difficult than other waiting bids. It may include invitational hands. Therefore, the opener's responses must indicate distribution and power.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦ (waiting)
?	

- 2 ♥ – three hearts, minimum;
- 2 ♠ – waiting, good hands without three hearts;
- 2 NT – natural, minimum;
- 3 ♣ – 6+ clubs without three hearts, minimum;
- 3 ♦ – transfer, 6+ clubs with three hearts good hand;
- 3 NT – no-trump oriented hand, maximum.

Example

♠ Q 2	N	♠ A 5 4
♥ A 8	W E	♥ K Q J 5
♦ 8 7 3	S	♦ A 10 9
♣ A K Q 9 5 2		♣ J 8 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♣	3 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♥	6 NT
pass	

2♠ - good hand;

3♦, 3♠ - waiting bids;

4♣ - only a solid suit may persuade us to bypass 3NT;

4♥ - cue bid;

6NT - There are 12 ready tricks. Partner may not have a side king or a seventh club. In both cases, the hand would qualify for a 3♣ response after 1♥ call.

Following the classical convention in a sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
?	

3♦ - shows maximum power with three hearts.

Bidding will proceed more smoothly if this meaning is assigned to a 3♦ bid.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♦	3 ♥ – how about a heart slam?

- 3 ♠ – singleton or void in spades;
 2 NT – no singleton;
 4 ♣ – solid suit, no singleton;
 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds.

Example

♠ 2	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">S</td> </tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ J 10 8 3
N		E				
W		S				
♥ A 6 5		♥ K Q 10 4 2				
♦ K 8 7	♦ A 9					
♣ A Q J 5 3 2	♣ K 4					

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♦	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♦	4 NT
5 ♥	6 ♥
pass	

- 3♦ – maximum with three hearts;
 3♠ – shortage.

We may turn our nose up at the contract convinced that a club slam is much safer but arriving at a slam in this deal is a partnership's success.

2.3.3. Sequence 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♣ - ?

After a 1♠ response, the situation is slightly different.

W	E

1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	?

- 2♦ – waiting;
- 2♥ – natural, forcing for one round;
- 2♠ – not forcing;
- 2NT – invitational;
- 3♣ – invitational;
- 3♦ – 7-9 HCPs, 6+ diamonds and 4 hearts, not forcing;
- 3♥ – 5+ spades and 5+ hearts, invitational;
- 3♠ – invitational.

An important observation – a two-diamond waiting-bid precludes four hearts, which releases the opener from a duty to show four hearts. This provides a tool for including all hands with extra values in a two-heart bid.

Example 1

♠ A 7	N	♠ K 9 6 3 2
♥ K 9 3 2	W E	♥ A Q J 5
♦ 5	S	♦ 10 8
♣ A K 8 7 3 2		♣ Q 4

W	E

1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
4 ♦	4 ♠
5 ♣	6 ♥
pass	

- 4♦ – splinter;
- 4♠ – cue bid, an attempt to convey an initiative to partner;
- 5♣ – the Blackwood convention will lead to nowhere. After a 5♦ response, we know nothing about a queen of heart. A 5♣ cue bid will enable partner to imagine the declarer’s hand – AK in clubs, ♥K and ♠A.

Example 2

♠ K 9	N	♠ A J 7 6 2
♥ A 6	W E	♥ Q 9 3 2
♦ J 7 3	S	♦ K 6 5
♣ K Q 9 8 3 2		♣ 4

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	pass

Natural bidding.

How will the opener respond to a 2♦ waiting call?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
?	

- 2 ♥ – waiting, good hand;
- 2 ♠ – 3 spades, minimum hand;
- 2 NT – natural, minimum;
- 3 ♣ – 6+ clubs without 3 spades, minimum;
- 3 ♦ – 6+ clubs and 4 diamonds, good hand without 3 spades;
- 3 ♥ – transfer, 3 spades, good hand;
- 3 NT – low honours, good hand.

Example 1

♠ A 7	N	♠ K Q J 5 4
♥ K 8 5	W E	♥ A J 7
♦ 4 3	S	♦ 10 8
♣ A Q J 8 6 4		♣ 10 7 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♠
pass	

2♥ - waiting, good hand, without 3 spades;
 3♠ - values in spades.

Example 2

♠ A K Q	N	♠ 8 7 4 3 2
♥ 7 6	W E	♥ A K 4
♦ 10 4	S	♦ A K 3
♣ K 7 6 5 3 2		♣ A 8

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♠	4 ♣
5 ♣	5 ♦
6 ♠	?

2NT - waiting, I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand;
 3♠ - good trumps, no shortage;
 4♣ - cue bid;
 5♣ - enthusiastic cue bid;
 5♦ - opener does not have cue bids in either of the red suits.

Unnecessary exchange of cue bids shows concern about trumps.
 6♠ - I have very good trumps. Assuming a 3-2 break of black suits, we may take a chance in grand. Choosing a small slam is not easy. A

4-1 spade break will not prevent us from driving a no-trump contract home. Careful declarer's play will also bring the contract home (play a trump only once and ruff a club). A 4-1 club break will practically doom 6NT (checking the club break we destroy the communication for the execution of any sort of squeeze). A spade slam, though, is viable if club shortage is with South (play a trump once and ruff a club). A 4-1 break of both black suits will beat every slam. A possibility of acquiring precise information to make a detailed analysis of play before displaying the dummy is the ultimate in elegance of bidding.

Example 3

♠ 6	N W E S	♠ A J 10 5 3
♥ K Q J		♥ 8 3 2
♦ 7 3 2		♦ A Q 6
♣ A K J 10 5 2		♣ 9 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♥	3 NT
pass	

2♥ – good hand without 3♠;

3♥ – values, transfer a no-trump contract to a better hand.

Example 4

♠ 7	N W E S	♠ A J 9 6 2
♥ 6 5		♥ A K
♦ A K 10 7		♦ Q J 9 2
♣ A K 5 4 3 2		♣ J 7

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♦	4 ♦
4 NT	5 NT
7 ♦	pass

- 3♦ - 5+ clubs - 4 diamonds;
 - 4♦ - suit agreeing;
 - 4NT - brusque way to a grand slam without a heart control;
 - 5NT - two aces + Q♦ + 1 king
- This is all what we need to make a slam.

Below follows another bidding sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠ - how about slam in spades?

- 3 NT - no singleton;
- 4 ♣ - solid club suit, no singleton;
- 4 ♦ - singleton or void in diamonds;
- 4 ♥ - singleton or void in hearts;
- 4 ♠ - solid trumps, no singleton.

Example

♠ K Q 2	N	♠ A J 10 8 5
♥ A 6 2	W	♥ K 4
♦ 7	E	♦ J 9 8 4 3
♣ K Q 10 9 5 4	S	♣ A

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♦	4 ♥
4 NT	5 ♥
6 ♠	pass

- 3♥ - three spades, good hand;
- 3♠ - how about a spade slam?
- 4♦ - shortage;
- 4♥ - cue bid, I like shortage in diamonds;
- 4NT - time to take control of the bidding.

What next in the following bidding sequence 1♣-1♠-2♣-2♥?

Below follows a classical construction, slightly outdated and imperfect.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
?	

- 2 ♠ – not forcing (may be two spades);
- 2 NT – not forcing;
- 3 ♣ – not forcing;
- 3 ♦ – good hand fourth suit, transfer to no-trump;
- 3 ♥ – hearts, game invitational;
- 3 ♠ – maximum, with 3 spades;
- 3 NT – to play;
- 4 ♦ – singleton or void in diamonds, heart support;
- 4 ♥ – good hand.

3♠ and 4♥ – in my opinion a jump with good hand, pre-empting the exchange of information, is not a perfect solution.

Example 1

♠ 3 2	N	♠ A K 10 6 5
♥ K 8	W E	♥ J 9 3 2
♦ 5 4 3	S	♦ K 10 2
♣ A K Q J 9 5		♣ 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♦	3 NT
pass	

Example 2

♠ 8 7	N	♠ K 10 5 3 2
♥ Q 8	W E	♥ A J 9 2
♦ K J 9	S	♦ 5
♣ A Q 10 8 4 3		♣ 9 6 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 NT	3 ♣
pass	

I have a pleasure to present a solution that is better and more up-to-date.

Extra length transfer bid may be used in many sequences.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
?	

- 3 ♦ – transfer to hearts, four hearts;
- 3 ♥ – transfer to spades, good hand with three spades prejudices the game contract;
- 3 ♠ – transfer to a no-trump contract, very good hand without four hearts, three spades and a diamond stopper.

Further bidding after transfers:

A)

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♦	?

- 3 ♥ – weak, you may pass;
- 3 ♠ – how about slam in hearts?
- 4 ♣/♦ – shortness.

B)

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♥	?

3 ♠ – slam invitational;

4 ♣/♦ – shortness.

C)

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♠	?

4 ♣ – to play, must be a possibility to stop in 4♣.

2.4. Changes in partnership agreements after a Precision 2♣ opening

If a 2♣ Precision bid indicates:

2♣ – 11-15(16) HCPs, 5 clubs and a 4-card major suit or 6+ clubs then the waiting bids in the following sequences slightly changes due to the fact that a 2♣ rebid shows 15+ HCPs and is forcing for one round.

a)	W	E	b)	W	E
	1 ♣	1 ♥		1 ♣	1 ♠
	2 ♣	?		2 ♣	?

The bidding sequence after a 1♥ response looks as follows:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	?

2♦ – waiting, game forcing;

- 2♥ – non-forcing;
- 2♠ – honours in spades, game forcing (very often only 4♥);
- 2NT – non-forcing;
- 3♣ – non-forcing;
- 3♦ – 7-9 HCPs, 6+ diamonds and 4 hearts, non-forcing;
- 3♥ – 6+ hearts, game forcing.

In this case, a 2♦ waiting bid is game forcing. The opener will have an easier job in course of bidding. Partnerships may focus on trying to find a better game or a slam.

Example 1

♠ Q 8 7	N W E S	♠ K 3 2
♥ A 4 2		♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ K		♦ Q J 10 6 4 2
♣ A Q J 7 5 3		♣ —

W	E
1♣	1♥
2♣	3♦
pas	

Stopping in a partial score despite holding 24 HCPs and a long suit is quite an achievement of a pair.

Example 2

♠ Q 8 7	N W E S	♠ A K 10 9
♥ A K 4		♥ Q J 6 5
♦ 4		♦ 9 8
♣ A Q J 7 5 3		♣ K 10 8

W	E
1♣	1♥
2♣	2♠
4♦	4♠
4NT	5♥
6♣	pass

2♠ - waiting bid showing the location of honours, which does not indicate any interest in three hearts but in a diamond stopper;

4♦ - 3-3-1-6 - a model distribution. Enthusiasm is justified by the fact that partner has denied any honours in diamonds.

How should the opener respond to a 2♦ waiting bid?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
?	

- 2♥ - three hearts, does not specify the power;
- 2♠ - waiting without three hearts;
- 2NT - natural;
- 3♣ - 6+ clubs without three hearts, solid suit;
- 3♦ - 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds, without three hearts;
- 3♥ - 1-3-4-5 distribution;
- 3♠ - 6+ clubs with a spade singleton and three hearts (good hand).

Example 1

♠ A 6 5	N	♠ Q 3 2
♥ K 6	W E	♥ A 9 8 3 2
♦ A 4	S	♦ Q 8 7
♣ A J 8 6 4 3		♣ Q 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
3 NT	pass

2♠ - the opener should not play a no-trump contract from his hand despite having stoppers in diamonds and spades. This is an operational bid covering all hands that are difficult to bid.

Example 2

♠ 7 5	N W E S	♠ A K 6
♥ A K		♥ Q J 3 2
♦ 8 7 4 2		♦ A Q 5 3
♣ A K Q 10 8		♣ J 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
3 NT	5 NT
6 NT	pass

2♠ - waiting bid instead of a 3♦ call showing 5 clubs and 4 diamonds.
 The diamond suit is of poor quality. It is also possible to bid 3♣.
 5NT - forcing, choose a slam.

Example 3

a)

♠ 7 5	N W E S	♠ A K 6
♥ A K		♥ Q J 3 2
♦ K 7 4 2		♦ A Q 10 3
♣ A K 8 4 3		♣ J 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♦	4 ♦
4 ♥	4 NT
5 ♣	5 NT
6 ♥	7 ♦
pass	

5NT - asking about the number of kings.

Two kings will solve the problem. What can we do when partner has only one king? With the West's hand like the one below the grand is cold:

b)

♠	7 5
♥	A 5
♦	K 7 4 2
♣	A K Q 4 3

Maybe after the inquiry about the number of kings the opener may appreciate the potential of his club suit.

Admittedly, after the 5♣ (3 aces) response, we may plan our bidding more economically:

5♦ - asking about ♦Q. After showing three aces stopping in 5♦ is out of question.

5♥ - asking about the number of kings, but this does not change much, although there are some chances.

In variant B) the bidding will proceed as follows:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♦	4 ♦
4 ♥	4 NT
5 ♣	5 ♥
5 NT	6 ♣
?	

5NT - 1 king;

6♣ - asking about ♣Q.

At worst, the grand will rely on a finesse if your partner has the following hand:

c)

♠	7 5
♥	A K
♦	K J 9 8
♣	A Q 8 4 3

This is a primitive method, which many problems will leave unsolved. Will your partner guess that he may bid a grand with the following hand?

b) ♠ 7 5
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ K 7 4 2
 ♣ A K Q 8 4

It is not clear at all.
 Your hand may look as follows:

♠ A K
 ♥ Q 10 9 6 5
 ♦ A Q J 10
 ♣ 9 7

With two kings, the grand is cold.
 The followers of the classical natural bidding method will manage much better in the following deal:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	?

At the level of two, they will have information that we acquire at the level of three by bidding 3♦.

Example 4

♠ 5	N W E S	♠ A 10 9
♥ A K 7		♥ Q J 9 5 3
♦ A 10 5 3		♦ K Q
♣ A K 8 7 2		♣ 10 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♠	4 NT
5 ♦	5 NT
6 ♦	7 ♥
pass	

3♥ - 1-3-4-5 distribution;
 3♠ - agreed hearts (4♣ - clubs, 4♦ - diamonds);
 4♠ - beautiful, intelligent bid that conveys precise information and intention is a rarity.

A 4♣ cue bid denies a spade void (void priority). We have four aces (out of five) and a king so we are interested even in playing the grand. Additionally, partner has all information he may need about our distribution and, furthermore, we can easily show our values. A 4♠ bid is a clever transfer to the Blackwood convention. 'Just ask me, I have some good news for you.' Before the opening lead, declarer will have a pleasure to describe every single card that will be displayed in the dummy.

A scheme to be used after a 1♠ response

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	?

- 2♦ - waiting, game forcing;
- 2♥ - natural, forcing for one round;
- 2♠ - non-forcing;
- 2NT - non-forcing;
- 3♣ - non-forcing;
- 3♦ - 7-9 HCPs, 6+ diamonds and 4 hearts, non-forcing;
- 3♥ - 5+ spades and 5+ hearts, game forcing;
- 3♠ - game forcing.

In this sequence, we shall face the most difficult task after a 2♥ response.

Example 1

♠ 8	N W E S	♠ A 10 9 4 2
♥ A Q 4 3		♥ K J 9 8
♦ 5 4		♦ A 10
♣ A K Q 9 6 2		♣ 8 7

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
?	

A difficult position since 2♥ is forcing for one round only, which implies that:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
?	

- 3 ♥ – is weaker, partner may pass;
- 4 ♥ – is stronger, 2-4-2-5 distribution.

This way, (by bidding 4♥), we pre-empt the possibility of exchanging information when there are slam options.

To those who like extra length transfer bids, I would like to recall a more interesting version:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
?	

- 3 ♦ – I have four hearts;
- 3 ♥ – maximum with three spades;
- 3 ♠ – good hand without a diamond stopper (previously a 3♦ bid).

Further sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♦	3 ♠ - how about a heart slam?
?	

- 3 NT – spade shortage;
- 4 ♣ – no shortage, good hand;
- 4 ♦ – shortage;
- 4 ♥ – no shortage, minimum within the range I have shown.

Example 1

♠ 8	N W E S	♠ A 10 9 4 2
♥ A 10 4 3		♥ K Q 9 8
♦ Q 4		♦ A 10
♣ A K Q 10 6 2		♣ 8 7

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♦	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♦
4 NT	5 ♣
5 ♦	5 ♠
7 ♥	pass

3♦ - transfer, I have four hearts;

3♠ - how about a heart slam;

3NT - shortage in spades;

4♦ - I like your shortage;

4NT - your partner likes the shortage, now you have to take control of the bidding;

5♦ - asking about a trump queen.

Example 2

♠ A	N W E S	♠ K Q J 7 3
♥ A 9 7 3		♥ K Q J 10
♦ A K		♦ 8 7 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 2		♣ 5

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♦	4 ♣
4 ♦	4 ♥
6 ♥	pass

4♣ - I have a club shortage;

4♦ - I like the shortage;

4♥ - this is all what I can do for you;

6♥ - this is enough.

A scheme to be used after a 3♥ transfer bid (max with three spades)

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠ - how about a spade slam?
?	

3 NT - no shortage;

4 ♣ - solid club suit, no shortage;

4 ♦ - shortage;

4 ♥ - shortage.

Example 1

♠ A K 6	N W E S	♠ Q J 9 8 2
♥ -		♥ 10 8 6 4
♦ 10 9 3 2		♦ A K
♣ A K 7 5 3 2		♣ Q 9

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♥	5 ♦
5 ♥	6 ♦
7 ♠	pass

5♥ - void;

7♠ - four key cards (♠A, ♠K and ♣A, ♣K) should drive a grand home.

Example 2

♠ Q	N	♠ A J 8 7 4
♥ A K 6	W E	♥ Q 10 3 2
♦ 6 3 2	S	♦ 10 8 4
♣ A K J 10 9 3		♣ Q

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♠	3 NT
pass	

3♠ – good hand without a diamond stopper;

3NT – obvious choice of a final contract despite the lack of a diamond stopper.

Example 3

♠ J	N	♠ K Q 7 6 2
♥ A Q 4	W E	♥ K 9 8 6
♦ 5 3 2	S	♦ 8 6
♣ A K Q 8 6 3		♣ J 5

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♣
pass	

It is quite surprising that a 4♣ bid is not forcing, but there is no reason to bid a silly game just because we do not know how to stop in a sensible partial score. The opener described his hand in a very precise way. To arrive at a club slam we need a diamond cue bid. If there is no diamond cue bid, a slam is out of question. A choice of a better game is another delicate matter.

2.5. Waiting bid after a 1♦ opening

After a 1♦ opening, we can choose a waiting bid out of a few.

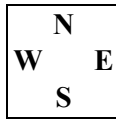
2.5.1. Sequence 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ - ?

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	?

- 2♣ – transfer to diamonds or all invitational hands;
- 2♦ – game forcing;
- 2♥ – natural;
- 2♠ – natural;
- 2NT – invitational;
- 3♣ – weak, 4 hearts and 6+ clubs;
- 3♦ – support;
- 3♥ – invitational;
- 3♠ – invitational;
- 4♣/♦ – splinters.

Example 1

♠ A 10 7 5
♥ A J
♦ Q J 7 5 2
♣ J 8



♠ K 6
♥ 10 8 7 5
♦ A 4 3
♣ 10 9 4 2

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	pass

The classical bidding would look as follows:

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♦
pass	

Example 2

♠ K Q 7 5	N W E S	♠ A 2
♥ K J 5		♥ Q 10 9 4 2
♦ K 10 9 8 3		♦ A 4
♣ A		♣ J 10 9 4

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♥	4♥
pass	

2♥ - positive with three hearts

Example 3

♠ J 10 8 6	N W E S	♠ A K
♥ A K		♥ Q 10 9 4 2
♦ A J 10 9 8 3		♦ K Q 2
♣ A		♣ 7 4 3

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♦
?	

2♦ - game forcing.

Arriving at a diamond slam will require a lot of thinking. Each sequence has some its advantages and disadvantages. In our case, we are in a worse situation than the classical scheme.

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
?	

3♦ - would stress the strength and show the 6♦-4♠ shape.

Still, the bidding has to go on:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
?	

- 2 ♥ – three hearts;
- 2 ♠ – transfer to clubs with the following shapes: 4-1-4-4, 4-0-5-4, 4-0-4-5 (if we open one diamond with 11-15 HCPs power range and a 4-diamond and 5-club shape), or – I do not want to play a no-trump contract from my hand and I do not have good bidding options;
- 2 NT – natural;
- 3 ♣ – transfer, 6 diamonds - 4 spades, does not show the strength;
- 3 ♦ – transfer, good hand with three hearts;
- 3 ♥ – transfer to a no-trump, good hand 4♠ 1♥ 5♦ 3♣ without a club stopper.

For those, who like a detailed description of sequences:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
?	

- 3 ♣ – 4144
- 3 ♦ – 4054
- 3 ♥ – 4045
- 3 ♠ – 4153
- 3 NT – 4252

Differentiating the invitational bids

As we can easily observe, two waiting bids allow to differentiate distributional and strength-based invitational bids.

Direct invitation

W	E
1 ♠	1 ♥
1 ♠	?

3 ♠ – (D1) distributional, good fit;

3 ♥ – (D2) distributional with a 7-carder in hearts;

3 ♠ – (D3) distributional.

Example (D1)

♠ K 7 5 2
♥ A
♦ A J 9 8 3
♣ Q J 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 3
♥ Q J 8 4 2
♦ K Q 10 4 2
♣ 10 4

W	E
1 ♠	1 ♥
1 ♠	3 ♠
pass	

Direct invitational bid is not inviting to a 3NT contract, but to a suit game.

pass – poor values for a suit game

Example (D2)

♠ K J 7 2
♥ 3
♦ K Q 9 8 3
♣ K Q 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 3
♥ Q J 10 8 7 4 2
♦ 3
♣ A J 10

W	E
1 ♠	1 ♥
1 ♠	3 ♥
pass	

Majority of tested players bid 3NT with West hand. However, this was not the point.

Example (D3)

♠ QJ72	N W E S	♠ K 10 6 3
♥ J 7		♥ K Q 9 8 6 2
♦ A 9 8 6 3		♦ 2
♣ A 8		♣ 10 4

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	3♠
4♠	pass

In spite of a minimal power, West has positive values for accepting a direct invitation.

Invitational bid preceded by a 2♣ waiting call

W	E
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	?

- 2♠ – (S1) invitational with three spades;
- 3♦ – (S2) strength-based;
- 3♥ – (S3) strength-based;
- 3♠ – (S4) strength-based .

It is time for examples of strength-based invitational bids.

Example (S1)

♠ Q 10 7 2
♥ 7
♦ A Q 8 7 3
♣ A 8 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 9
♥ A 9 8 6 2
♦ 6 2
♣ 10 5 4

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	2♠
pass	

Example (S2)

♠ Q J 7 2
♥ J
♦ A Q 8 7 3
♣ K Q 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ K J 6 2
♣ 10 4 2

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	3♦
3 NT	pass

Example (S3)

♠ Q J 7 2
♥ 5
♦ A Q J 7 3
♣ K Q 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9
♥ K Q 10 8 3 2
♦ K 6
♣ 10 4 2

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	3♥
3 NT	pass

Example (S4)

♠ Q J 7 2	N W E S	♠ A K 10 9
♥ 10		♥ K J 8 2
♦ A K Q 7 3		♦ J 2
♣ J 9 8		♣ 10 4 2

W	E
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	3♠
pass	

Why the differentiation of invitational bids is a strong point of transfer waiting bids?

A) Distributional invitation invites for a suit game; the opener should accept the invitation with aces and kings. Low honours will not be useful in this situation.

B) Strength-based invitation encourages to play a no-trump game and every extra in values will be useful.

2.5.2. Sequence 1♦ - 1♥ - 2♦ - ?

Repeating the diamonds after a 1♥ response promises a 6-card suit. A no-trump waiting bid has obvious limitations. It may be used only with a hand from which we want to play a no-trump contract.

Example:

♠ K 7 2	N W E S	♠ A Q 10 3
♥ 3		♥ A K J 2
♦ A Q 10 9 8 3		♦ J 2
♣ K 9 6		♣ 5 4 2

W	E
1♦	1♥
2♦	?

East hand is not fit for a 2NT waiting bid.

2♠ - waiting bid showing the location of honours is a proper call in this sequence.

What after a 2NT waiting bid?

W	E
1♦	1♥
2♦	2NT- waiting, I want to play a
?	no-trump contract from my
	hand

- 3♣ – 6+ diamonds with a club singleton;
- 3♦ – 6+ diamonds with a heart singleton;
- 3♥ – 6+ diamonds, 3 hearts, a hand without a singleton;
- 3♠ – 6+ diamonds with a spade singleton;
- 3NT – 6+ diamonds without 3 hearts and without a singleton.

A question arises how we can invite our partner to play a game contract.

3♦ is the only available invitational bid. Without a diamond fit, we may pass to 2♦ or take a chance and play a thin game. We can reduce our losses but instead, we are gaining a comfortable waiting mechanism.

Example 1

♠ 8 7 5
♥ A J 5
♦ K Q J 7 5 3 2
♣ –

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 6
♥ K Q 10 4
♦ A 4
♣ Q 10 9 4

W	E
1♦	1♥
2♦	2NT
3♣	3♦
4♣	4NT
5♠	7♦
pass	

- 3♦ – agreeing diamonds;
- 4♣ – void, 3-3-7-0 shape;
- 5♠ – 2 (out of 5) aces + ♦Q;
- 7♦ – ten of hearts gives an additional chance for 4 tricks even if partner opens the bidding without the jack of hearts.

Example 2

♠ A K 7	N W E S	♠ Q 5
♥ —		♥ J 8 7 4 3 2
♦ K 10 9 5 4 3 2		♦ A Q
♣ J 10 2		♣ K Q 9

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 NT- waiting
3 ♦	3 ♠
4 ♥	4 NT
5 ♥	6 ♦
pass	

3♠ - some doubts regarding the final contract. Partner, with a poor hand and 3-1-6-3 distribution may bid 3NT;

4♥ - void;

4NT - it is easy to imagine that partner has three aces out of five or two aces and a king of spades.

In the following sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	?

a third suit (2♠ or 3♠) is natural or shows honours location and serves for assigning a no-trump contract to the other hand.

2.5.3. Sequence 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♣ - ?

Another transfer scheme can be useful in the following sequence:

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	?

- 2♦ – natural;
- 2♥ – transfer to 2♠, I want to play two spades or any strength-based invitational hand;
- 2♠ – 2♠ - any GF;
- 2NT – GF but I want to play a no-trump contract;
- 3♣ – invitational, good support;
- 3♦ – invitational, good support;
- 3♥ – 6-5 shape, distributional invitation;
- 3♠ – 6+ spades, invitational.

Example

♠ 3	N	♠ A K J 8 7 2
♥ J 9 2	W E	♥ 10 7
♦ A K 6 5 2	S	♦ 8 3
♣ K J 8 3		♣ 9 6 2

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥
2♠	pass

2♠ – After a classical bidding sequence 1♦-1♠-2♣-2♠ - I would pass.

Analogically, as in the previous sequence (transfer waiting 1♦-1♥-2♣), we have two invitational options:

- 1) direct, based on distribution or good fit,
- 2) strength-based, preceded by a 2♥ transfer.

Example 1

♠ 6 3	N W E S	♠ A 10 8 2
♥ Q		♥ 10 9 4
♦ K Q 6 5 2		♦ A 3
♣ A Q J 8 6		♣ K 10 4 3

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♥	4 ♣
5 ♣	pass

- 3♣ - strength-based invitational call;
- 3♥ - forth suit;
- 4♣ - I do not have a heart stopper.

Example 2

♠ 6 3	N W E S	♠ A J 8 2
♥ Q		♥ 10 9 4
♦ K Q 6 5 2		♦ 3
♣ A Q J 8 6		♣ K 10 9 4 3

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♣
pass	

- 3♣ - distribution-based invitational bid with a good fit.

Example 3

♠ 6 3	N W E S	♠ A J 8 2
♥ Q 2		♥ K 10 4
♦ K Q 6 5 2		♦ 7 4 3
♣ A Q J 8		♣ K 4 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥
2♠	2NT
3NT	pass

2NT – invitational.

How will the opener respond to a 2♥ transfer?

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥
?	

- 2♠ – I pass after the natural bidding sequence: 1♦-1♠-2♣-2♠;
- 2NT – good hand for playing a no-trump contract;
- 3♣ – misfit, 5+ clubs - 5 diamonds;
- 3♦ – misfit, 6 diamonds - 4 clubs;
- 3♥ – transfer, hand with 3 spades;
- 3♠ – invitational hand with a spade doubleton.

Example 1

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ A J 8 7 6 2
♥ Q J 2		♥ K 10 7
♦ A K Q J 2		♦ 8 3
♣ J 10 8 3		♣ 9 6

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥
2BA	pass

Example 2

♠ —	N W E S	♠ A K 9 8 6 2
♥ 7 6 2		♥ 10 8
♦ A Q 6 5 2		♦ 4 3
♣ A K 8 6 2		♣ 7 4 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥
3♣	pass

Let us stop in a partial score – the hands are misfitted.

Example 3

♠ —	N W E S	♠ K Q 10 8 6 3 2
♥ Q 6 2		♥ A 8
♦ A Q 6 5 2		♦ 4 3
♣ A K 8 6 2		♣ 4 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	3♠
pass	

3♠ – distributional invitation;

pass – after the invitational bid based in most cases on a 7-carder, a 3NT contract does not have much sense.

Example 4

♠ —	N W E S	♠ K Q 9 8 6 2
♥ 7 6 2		♥ A 8
♦ A Q 6 5 2		♦ J 3
♣ A K 8 6 2		♣ Q 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥
3♣	pass

Misfits are not encouraging for a 3NT contract.

After accepting a transfer, the responder passes or describes his hand.

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	?

- 2 NT – invitational with the balanced hand (may be only 4 cards in spades);
 3 ♣ – strong invitation with +4♣;
 3 ♦ – strong invitation with a diamond support;
 3 ♥ – strength-based invitation, 5 spades - 5 hearts;
 3 ♠ – strength-based invitation, 6+ spades.

Example 1

♠ 10 3
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ Q 10 6 5 2
 ♣ A Q J 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 8 5 2
 ♥ A Q 7
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ 10 6 3

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	2 NT
pass	

Example 2

♠ 3
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ A 9 6 5 2
 ♣ K Q 10 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 8 4 2
 ♥ Q 9 7
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A J 4 3

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♣
3 NT	pass

What next after a game forcing 2♠ bid?

Please, note, that we can use two game forcing bids.

A) 2♠ – I do not want to play a no-trump contract from my hand.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠
?	

2 NT – natural;

3♣ – 5 clubs;

3♦ – 5+ diamonds – 4 clubs, without a stopper in hearts;

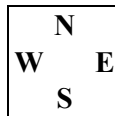
3♥ – transfer to spades, 3-1-5-4 distribution;

3♠ – transfer to a no-trump contract, 1-3-5-4 shape, good hand without a heart stopper;

3 NT – low honours.

Example 1

♠ Q 10 3
♥ 2
♦ A K J 5 2
♣ K Q J 8



♠ A K 8 2
♥ A 8 7
♦ 8 3
♣ A 10 6 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠
3♥	4♣
4♦	4♠
4 NT	5♣
5♥	5 NT
7♣	pass

2♠ – game forcing;

3♥ – transfer to spades = 3♠1♥5♦4♣;

4♣ – agreeing clubs;

4♠ – cue bid, an intellectual transfer to the Blackwood convention (values that can be easily shown) indicating the king of spades in the spade suit;

5♥ - asking about the number of kings;

7♣ - too optimistic, no guarantee that the responder has only two diamonds.

Ten of clubs is a nice surprise. Note that extra length transfer bid gives a lot of comfort in the bidding sequence.

In the classical course of bidding:

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥ - fourth suit
3♠	?

4♣ bid would be unclear. It may show:

- a) spade suit agreeing cue bid, or
- b) agree clubs

In our transfer, we may agree spades at the level of three, so 4♣ invites to a club slam.

Example 2

♠ 5
♥ 9 8 2
♦ A K 9 5 2
♣ A K 8 6

	N
W	E
	S

♠ A 10 8 2
♥ A K
♦ Q J 8 3
♣ 4 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠
3♠	4♦
4♥	4NT
5♣	5♥
5NT	7♦
pass	

3♠ - good hand, 1♠-3♥-5♦-4♣ distribution, without a heart stopper;

4♥ - clever transfer to Blackwood, we cannot bid 4♣ as we would indicate a void;

5NT - 1 king;

7♦ - a ♦10 with the opener would be useful.

B) Waiting 2NT - a no-trump contract will be played from my hand.

W	E
1 ♠	1 ♣
2 ♣	2 NT
?	

- 3 ♣ - 5♦-5♣;
- 3 ♦ - 6♦-4♣;
- 3 ♥ - transfer 3♠ 1♥ 5♦ 4♣;
- 3 ♠ - transfer to hearts 1♠ 3♥ 5♦ 4♣;
- 3 NT - 2♠ 2♥ 5♦ 4♣.

Natural bidding with transfer elements

2.6. Changes in agreements when a 1♦ opening may include 4 diamonds and 5 clubs

Diamond sequences become complicated when 1♦ opening may include 4 diamonds and 5 clubs distribution. In my opinion, such agreement is useful for 11-15 HCPs range. Many trivial hands cause various problems.

- a)
- ♠ 3
 - ♥ A 5 2
 - ♦ K Q J 2
 - ♣ Q 8 6 5 3

The above hand will be better described if we use the sequence in Example 1) than in 2):

1)	W	E	2)	W	E
	1 ♠	1 ♣		1 ♣	1 ♣
	2 ♣			2 ♣	

If our partner has the following hand:

♠ K J 6 5 4
 ♥ K J 4
 ♦ 10 8 6 4
 ♣ 9

In the first case, 2♦ will become the final contract.

In the second – 2♣ or possibly 2♠.

The following bidding sequence applies to a 1♦ opening only, which may include 4 diamonds – 5 clubs and 11-15 HCPs power range.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠*
3♣**	

* – game forcing

** – 5♣ +4♦

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠
3♣	3♦ – waiting
?	

3♥ – transfer to spades, 3-1-4-5 distribution;

3♠ – 1-3-4-5, 2-2-4-5 distributions without a heart stopper;

3NT – 5-5 distribution with a heart stopper;

4♣ – 5-5 distribution without a heart stopper.

Example 1

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ J 8 7 6 2
♥ 6 5 2		♥ A K
♦ K Q J 2		♦ A 8 3
♣ A K 10 8 3		♣ Q 9 6

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠
3♣	3♦
3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥
4♠	4NT
5♥	6♣
pass	

- 3♦ - waiting;
- 3♠ - 4♦-5♣, without a heart stopper;
- 4♣ - agreeing clubs;
- 4♦,♥,♠ - cue bids.

It does not look bad but this is overbidding the hand.
Why?

A 3♠ bid does not show the exact distribution. The opener's hand may easily look as follows:

♠ K 3	N W E S	♠ J 8 7 6 2
♥ 6 5		♥ A K
♦ Q J 4 2		♦ A 8 3
♣ A K 10 8 3		♣ Q 9 6

3NT should be the final contract.

Example 2

♠ J 10 6	N W E S	♠ A K Q 5 2
♥ 2		♥ 10 8
♦ A Q 5 2		♦ K 4 3
♣ A Q 8 6 2		♣ K 4 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠
3♣	3♦
3♥	3♠
4♣	4NT
5♥	6♠
pass	

3♥ - transfer to spades indicating 3145 shape

3♠ - to check a possible heart void

With 3♠0♥5♦5♣ distribution, the opener does not bid 4♣ - 5-5 but will show a spade support. He will manage to show a heart void indicating 5-5 distribution.

A similar scheme will be used in case of a 2NT waiting bid.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♣	2NT*
3♣**	3♦***

* - game forcing

** - 5♣+4♦

*** - waiting

2.7. The Garozzo waiting bid in the sequence 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♦ - ?

We have finally arrived at the most difficult, in my opinion, waiting bid. I would like to recall a solution, which Benito Garozzo presented years ago.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	?

- 2♥ – natural or waiting showing the location of honours;
- 2♠ – natural, not forcing;
- 2NT – game forcing, waiting;
- 3♣ – game forcing, natural or transfer to a no-trump contract;
- 3♦ – invitational;
- 3♥ – 5+ spades, 5 hearts, invitational.

2♥ waiting bid, showing the location of honours, may include the following hands:

A) poor spade and heart hands:

♠ K 8 7 5 3 2
♥ K 7 5 3 2
♦ –
♣ 7 5

B) invitational hand with 5 spades and 4 hearts:

♠ A K 10 7 5
♥ K J 3 2
♦ 5 4
♣ 3 2

C) game forcing, 5 spades - 4 hearts:

♠ A K 10 7 5
♥ K 10 3 2
♦ –
♣ A K 4 2

- D) waiting showing the location of honours – game forcing.
 (D1) an idea to assign a no-trump contract to our partner:

♠ A K 3 2
 ♥ A K
 ♦ 6 5 3 2
 ♣ 4 3 2

- (D2) – an attempt to find a spade fit and a no-trump transfer

♠ A K 10 7 5
 ♥ K Q
 ♦ Q 3 2
 ♣ 4 3 2

The opener must show his attitude to a 2♥ waiting bid in such a way that all avenues are open and bear in mind the comfort of further bidding. It is obvious that the scheme needed for untangling all intricacies will be complicated.

The following agreement will solve some of our problems:

	W	E
	1♦	?
2♥	– 5+ spades - 4+ hearts 6-8(9) HCPs;	
2♠	– 5+ spades - 4+ hearts 10-11 HCPs.	

Further opener's bidding:

	W	E
	1♦	1♠
	2♦	2♥ – waiting
	?	
2♠	– 2+ spades and minimum;	
2NT	– stopper in clubs, without 3♠ or 4♥;	
3♣	– have 4 hearts!!!;	
3♦	– minimum (usually a spade singleton);	
3♥	– transfer, 3 spades, maximum;	
3♠	– maximum without a club stopper and without 3 spades.	

Here comes another change of the meanings of certain bids, which will help to control the slam zone.

Let us contemplate further bidding.

W	E
1 ♠	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♣	2 NT - waiting

- 3 ♣ – singleton in clubs (3-3-6-1);
- 3 ♦ – singleton in hearts (3-1-6-3);
- 3 ♥ – 3 hearts without a singleton (2-3-6-2);
- 3 ♠ – 3 spades without a singleton (3-2-6-2);
- 3 NT – (2-2-6-3).

We may adopt an entirely different scheme. It should be consistent with other symmetrical bidding sequences in your system.

Example

♠ J 9 8	N W E S	♠ A K Q 10 3
♥ K 7 4		♥ A Q 5 3
♦ A K 10 9 3 2		♦ 4
♣ 3		♣ J 9 8

W	E
1 ♠	1 ♠
2 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♣	2 NT (waiting)
3 ♣	?

We are facing a very difficult task. Partner should have exactly what we need. We may squeeze all information we need out of our partner but only when we are in full control of the bidding.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2♠	2 NT (waiting)
3♣	3♦
3♥	3♠
4♦	5♣
5♦	6♠
pass	

3♦ – we are at the helm to find out about the king of hearts;

5♣ – we are at the helm to find out about the king of diamonds.

According to my knowledge, usually partners are not happy with this kind of approach. We may roughly ask about the aces and bid a slam, hoping for partner's 11-12 HCPs outside a club suit, which will make a slam viable.

Further bidding sequence

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2 NT	?

3♣ – game forcing, I need more information;

3♥ – 5+ spades and 5 hearts, **weak hand**, (1♦-1♠-2♦-3♥ is invitational)!!!

Example

♠ 10 9	N W E S	♠ A K Q 5
♥ 7 6 5		♥ A K Q
♦ A K Q 10 9 8		♦ 4 3 2
♣ K 8		♣ 9 7 6

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2NT	3♣
3♦	3♥
4♣	4♦
6NT	pass

- 3♣ – game forcing;
- 3♦ – good suit;
- 3♥ – values;
- 4♣ – cue bid;
- 6NT – partner is inviting a slam, he cannot count on more.

What options does the responder have when he finds out about four hearts?

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♣	?

- 3♦ – asking about a club stopper or a waiting call with a heart support;
- 3♥ – invitational;
- 3♠ – asking about a club stopper, suggestion to play a spade contract;
- 4♣ – hearts agreeing cue bid;
- 4♥ – to play.

Example 1

♠ 7 6
♥ A K 10 9
♦ A Q 10 8 7
♣ 4 3



♠ A K 10 8 5
♥ Q J 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ A Q

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♣	4♣
4♦	4♥
5♥	6♥
pass	

3♣ - I have four hearts;

4♣ - heart agreeing cue bid;

5♥ - no other side cue bid, solid heart suit.

Example 2

♠ 9
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ A J 8 5 3
♣ K J 8



♠ K Q 10 8
♥ K Q
♦ K 10 4 2
♣ 4 3 2

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♣	3♦
3NT	pass

3♦ and pass - what about a club stopper?

Example 3

♠ J 8	N W E S	♠ A K Q 3 2
♥ A 10 9 3		♥ K Q
♦ A Q J 5 3		♦ 10 8 2
♣ 10 9		♣ 4 3 2

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♣	3♠
4♠	pass

3♠ – asking about a club stopper, suggestion to play a spade contract.

Opener with the following hand:

W: ♠ J

♥ A 10 9 3
♦ A Q J 5 3
♣ 10 9 8

West should bid 3NT in spite of the lack of a club stopper.

Example 4

♠ J 8	N W E S	♠ A Q 5 4 3
♥ A 10 9 4		♥ K J 8 7
♦ K Q 10 9 4		♦ 5 2
♣ Q 3		♣ J 10

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♣	3♥
pass	

3♥ – pass or bid 4♥.

Further bidding sequence:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠*
?	

* - what about a club stopper or slam in spades?

3 NT – club stopper;

4 ♣ – singleton or void in clubs;

4 ♦ – solid diamondsuit, no singleton, no club stopper;

4 ♥ – singleton or void in hearts, no club stopper;

4 ♠ – solid trumps, no singleton.

Bidding after 3NT

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠
3 NT	?

Further bidding shows cue bids with the agreed spade suit.

Example 1

♠ K 6 2	N W E S	♠ A Q J 9 7
♥ 4 2		♥ A 6 5
♦ A K J 10 6 4		♦ 7 3
♣ K 5		♣ A 3 2

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♥	3♠
3NT	4♣
4♦	4♥
4NT	5♣
5♦	5♠
?	

2♥ - it is not the best solution to play a no-trump from a hand with ace stoppers in unbid suits;

3NT - club stopper;

4♣,♦,♥ - cue bids on the way to a spade slam;

? - after receiving information on three aces and a trump queen we may take a chance in slam. At worst, it will rely on a diamond finesse. With unfavourable distributions, the slam will fail.

Example 2

♠ K Q 6	N W E S	♠ A J 9 7 3
♥ J 10		♥ A 6
♦ A K J 10 6 4		♦ 7 3
♣ 7 5		♣ A J 9 4

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♥	3♠
4♦	4♥
5♠	6♠
pass	

3♥ - good hand with three spades;

4♦ – solid diamond suit, a hand without a singleton and without a club stopper;

4♥ – guarantees control in clubs;

5♠ – positive extra values in trumps (strong trump support).

Example 3

♠ K 6 3	N W E S	♠ A Q 7 5
♥ Q 4 2		♥ A K 5
♦ A K J 6 5 3		♦ Q 7 4
♣ 9		♣ 4 3 2

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♥	3♠
4♣	4♦
4♠	6♦
pass	

3♥ – good hand with 3 spades;

3♠ – what about club stopper or slam in spades;

4♣ – shortage;

4♦ – first attempt of persuading partner that diamonds are our agreed suit;

4♠ – negative, I have minimum within the good hand and I do not have a club void;

6♦ – fairly good hand is enough for playing a slam.

Example 4

♠ K 6 5	N W E S	♠ A Q J 10 8
♥ 3 2		♥ A K 7
♦ A K J 10 7 6		♦ Q 2
♣ K 5		♣ 8 7 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥
3 ♥	3 ♠
3 NT	4 ♥
6 NT	pass

4♥ – slam-inviting cue bid, lack of control in minor suits.

2.7.1. Transfer bids can solve certain problems

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	?

- 2 ♥ – transfer to 2♠, I want to play 2♠ or I have an invitational hand;
- 2 ♠ – GF with all sorts of hands;
- 2 NT – GF, but I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand;
- 3 ♣ – natural, GF;
- 3 ♦ – invitational, based on a solid diamond support;
- 3 ♥ – 6-5 distribution-based invitation;
- 3 ♠ – 6+ spades, distribution-based invitation.

Example 1

♠ 3	N	♠ K Q 10 7 6 2
♥ A J 4 2		♥ Q 8 6
♦ A K 5 3 2		♦ J 8
♣ 8 6 4	S	♣ 7 5

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2♠	pass

2♥ - transfer to 2♠;

2♠ - I would pass in the classical bidding sequence - 1♦-1♠-2♦-2♠.

Example 2

♠ 3	N	♠ A K 7 6 2
♥ A J 4 2		♥ K
♦ A 10 5 3 2		♦ J 8
♣ A 8 6	S	♣ K Q J 10 5

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	3♣
4♣	4NT
5♣	7♣
pass	

4♣ - 2♦ precluded four clubs, bypassing 3NT is justified by the type of the hand;

7♣ - excellent trumps will allow to ruff two spades in the dummy (the second spade with the trump ace).

How should the opener respond to a 2♥ transfer bid?

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
?	

- 2♠ – I shall pass in the natural bidding 1♦-1♠-2♦-2♠;
- 2NT – good hand for a no-trump contract;
- 3♣ – good hand with 6+ diamonds, and misfit in spades;
- 3♦ – misfit, weak hand;
- 3♥ – transfer, a hand with three spades;
- 3♠ – Good hand with 2 cards in spades.

Example 1

♠ 3	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ QJ7642
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A42	♥ K87										
♦ AKQ1052	♦ J										
♣ J86	♣ 1053										

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2NT	pass

2NT - I think that a 2NT contract will be better.

Example 2

♠ –	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ QJ7642
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A42	♥ K7										
♦ KQ107652	♦ J8										
♣ Q86	♣ 1053										

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♦	pass

3♦ - I prefer to play 3♦.

Example 3

♠ —	N W E S	♠ J 6 4 2
♥ A 4 2		♥ K 7
♦ A K 10 7 6 5 3		♦ 9 8 4
♣ Q 8 6		♣ A K 5 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♣	3♥
3♠	4♣
4♦	4NT
5♣	5♦
5♠	6♣
7♦	pass

- 3♣ – good hand, misfit in spades;
- 3♥ – waiting;
- 3♠ – void;
- 4♣ – cue bid;
- 5♦ – asking about ♦Q;
- 5♠ – seventh diamond substitutes for a trump queen – somewhat contrived;
- 6♣ – grand slam invitation, asking about ♠Q.

Further sequence:

After accepting a transfer, the responder passes or describes invitational hand.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2♠	?

- 2NT – invitational, like 1♦-1♠-2♦-2NT in the natural bidding;
- 3♣ – invitation - 4 spades and 6 clubs;
- 3♦ – 5 spades and 4 hearts, invitational;
- 3♥ – 5-5, strength-based invitation;

3♠ – 6+ spades, strength-based invitation.

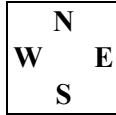
A difficult to remember agreement requires some clarification:

3♦ – 5 spades - 4 hearts, invitation

An artificial 2♥ bid eliminates the possibility to inform partner about spade and heart distribution with the opener. With a minimum opening hand, a partial score will do. With 5 spades and 4 hearts, in most cases it will be a 3♦ contract, even if a suit is 6-1. Note that accepting a 2♠ transfer means that we would pass in the natural 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♣ sequence. It will often be a spade singleton.

Example 1

♠ 3
♥ A 4 2
♦ A K 10 6 5 2
♣ J 8 6



♠ A 6 4 2
♥ J 7
♦ 3
♣ K Q 10 7 5 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2♠	3♣
5♣	pass

3♣ – invitational hand with 4♠+5♣

Example 2

♠ 3
♥ A 4 2
♦ A K 10 6 5 2
♣ J 8 6



♠ A J 8 2
♥ Q J 7
♦ 8 3
♣ K 10 7 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2♠	2NT
pass	

2NT – invitational as in the classical sequence 1♦-1♠-2♦-2NT;

Example 3

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ A Q J 8 2
♥ A 4 2		♥ K 9 7 5
♦ A K 10 6 5 2		♦ J
♣ J 8 5		♣ 10 6 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2♠	3♦
pass	

3♦ – invitation, 5 spades - 4 hearts

After a 2♠ game-forcing bid, the opener should describe the character of his hand and show his intentions.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♠
?	

- 2 NT – natural, I want to play a no-trump from my hand;
- 3♣ – 5+ diamonds – 4 hearts, it is necessary to differentiate 5-4 distribution from +6♦;
- 3♦ – 6+ diamonds, I do not want to play a no-trump from my hand;
- 3♥ – transfer with three spades;
- 3♠ – good hand, 6+ diamonds, without club stopper and spade fit;
- 3 NT – low honours.

Example 1

♠ 10 3	N W E S	♠ A K J 8 2
♥ K 2		♥ A Q 7
♦ A K 10 6 5 2		♦ J 8 3
♣ Q J 8		♣ 6 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♠
2NT	3NT
pass	

Example 2

♠ 5 3	N W E S	♠ A K 8 2
♥ A Q 9 2		♥ K J 7
♦ A Q 10 6 5		♦ K 8 4 3
♣ 8 6		♣ 4 3

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♠
3♣	3♦
3♥	4♦ (♥)
5♦	pass

3♣ - 5+ diamonds - 4 hearts;

3♦ - support;

3♥ - values.

After a 1♠ response, repeating diamonds does not promise a six-carder as a 2♦ bid may include the following hands:

- 6+ diamonds,

- 5+ diamonds - 4 hearts.

Waiting 2NT invites to show the distribution.

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2NT
?	

- 3♣ – 6+ diamonds with a club singleton or 5+ diamonds and 4 hearts without a spade singleton;
- 3♦ – 6+ diamonds with a spade singleton or 1-4-5-3 shape;
- 3♥ – 6+ diamonds with a heart singleton;
- 3♠ – 6+ diamonds with 3 spades without a singleton;
- 3NT – 6+ diamonds without 3 spades and without a singleton.

A waiting scheme is slightly more intricate than in 1♦-1♥-2♦ sequence.

Example 1

♠ 10 8 4	N	♠ A K 5 2
♥ 3	W	♥ A 10 6
♦ K Q J 9 8 6	E	♦ 5 4 2
♣ A Q 4	S	♣ K 9 8

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2NT
3♥	4♦
5♣	5♦
pass	

4♦ – delicate slam attempt, partner may have seven diamonds or a spade queen.

Now and then, looking for perfect values we may go too far.

Example 2

♠ 6 3 2	N W E S	♠ A J 8 7 4
♥ 4 2		♥ K Q 6
♦ A K 10 9 4 3		♦ Q 8
♣ A 6		♣ Q J 8

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2NT
3♠	3NT
pass	

3♠ – 3-2-6-2 shape;

3NT – a sensible decision considering our values.

Further sequence if 3♣ and 3♦ bids carry double meaning:

After a 3♣ response:

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2NT
3♣	3♦ (waiting)
?	

3♥ – 3-4-5-1 count;

3♠ – 6+ diamonds with a singleton club;

3NT – 2-4-5-2 count.

Example 1

♠ Q 10 9
♥ A K 8 2
♦ K 8 6 4 2
♣ 8



♠ A K 6 4 2
♥ Q 10 3
♦ Q 5
♣ K 10 9

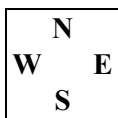
W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2NT
3♣	3♦
3♥	4♠
pass	

3♣ - 6+ diamonds with a club singleton or 5+ diamonds and 4 hearts without a singleton spade

3♥ - 3-4-5-1 shape

Example 2

♠ A 5 4
♥ 10 9 3
♦ A K 10 5 4 2
♣ 3



♠ J 8 6 3 2
♥ Q 8 2
♦ Q 9
♣ A K Q

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2NT
3♣	3♦
3♠	3NT
pass	

3♠ - 6+ diamonds with a singleton club.

Example 3

♠ K 2	N W E S	♠ A Q 8 7
♥ K Q J 6		♥ A 10 9
♦ K 10 6 3 2		♦ A 4
♣ 5 3		♣ K J 7 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 NT
3 ♣	3 ♦
3 NT	pass

3NT – 2-4-5-2 shape.

We may possibly bid invitational 4NT, which partner cannot accept.

After a 3♦ response:

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 NT
3 ♦	3 ♥ (waiting)
?	

3 ♠ – 6+ diamonds with a singleton spade;

3 NT – 1-4-5-3 shape.

Example 1

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ 9 8 7 4
♥ Q 10 9 4		♥ A K 3
♦ A Q 6 5 2		♦ K 4
♣ K Q 9		♣ A 10 3 2

W	E
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 NT
3 ♦	3 ♥
3 NT	?

The choice of the game contract is not easy. Four hearts will probably be the best choice. In this case, four bids are quite reasonable: 3NT, 4♥, 5♣, 5♦. Note that only the exact information about partner's hand provides the possibility for such analysis.

Example 2

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ 10 8 7 4
♥ Q 9 4		♥ A K 3
♦ A Q 10 6 5 2		♦ K 4
♣ K Q 9		♣ A 10 3 2

W	E
1♦	1♠
2♦	2NT
3♦	3♥
3♠	4♦
5♣	6♦
pass	

3♠ – information about six diamonds allows for a slam invitational bid;
 5♣ – cue bid nicely describes the hand: good diamonds and king-queen of clubs. We can do without a heart queen.

2.8. Two spaces

A disadvantage of the 1♥, ♠ openings within 11-21 HCPs power range is that occasionally, our partner will pass and we shall not reach the game. However, I do not have that many painful experiences. The take-out bidding happened on a number of occasions and sometimes we had handsome profits being in a low contract. An obvious advantage of the 1♥, ♠ openings within 11 – 21 HCPs power range at unfavourable vulnerability is information on the distribution conveyed in the first bid, which makes the auction more resistant to preemptive bids. However, I can see another serious disadvantage. It can easily be noticed after the 1♥, ♠ openings, and a semi-positive response.

1♥ – 1♠ and 1♠ – 1NT (non-forcing)

The bidding in these sequences is dubious. Yet, the problem can be easily solved if we apply the bidding scheme, which I call *Two Spaces*:

It consists in making a natural 2♣ bid as forcing for one round.

a)	b)												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">W</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">E</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1 ♥</td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1 ♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">2 ♣</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> </table>	W	E	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♣		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">W</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">E</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1 ♠</td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1 NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">2 ♣</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> </table>	W	E	1 ♠	1 NT	2 ♣	
W	E												
1 ♥	1 ♠												
2 ♣													
W	E												
1 ♠	1 NT												
2 ♣													

After having such agreement, the 2♣ bid can be expanded. This way, we have two bidding spaces:

- A) direct
- B) preceded by a 2♣ waiting bid

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
?	

- 2 NT - 17-18(19) HCPs;
- 3 ♣ - 5-5;
- 3 ♦ - 5-5;
- 3 ♥ - +6
- 3 ♠ - 5-4.

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
?	

- 2 NT - 17-18(19) HCPs;
- 3 ♣ - 5-5;
- 3 ♦ - 5-5;
- 3 ♥ - 5-5;
- 3 ♠ - +6.

Direct bidding, beginning with the 2NT bid is invitational. We inform partner about 5-5 distributions, about our own 6- carder, or partner's suit support.

Examples

1)

♠ A 7	N W E S	♠ Q J 5 2
♥ A K 9 3 2		♥ 7
♦ K Q 5		♦ 8 6 3 2
♣ Q 6 2		♣ K 9 7 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 NT	pass

2NT - 17-18 (19) HCPs

2)

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ A 10 7 2
♥ A K 9 3 2		♥ 5
♦ A K Q 6 5		♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ 10 8		♣ Q 6 5 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♦	5 ♦
pass	

3♦ - invitational, 5-5 distribution.

3)

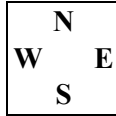
♠ A 10 9 4 2	N W E S	♠ 3
♥ A K Q 10 4		♥ J 9 3 2
♦ K 5		♦ J 10 4 2
♣ 3		♣ A 10 7 2

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
3 ♥	4 ♥
pass	

3♥ - invitational, 5-5 distribution.

4)

♠ K Q 10 4 2
♥ 3
♦ A K J 10 3
♣ A 7



♠ 8
♥ K 10 9 7 6
♦ 5 4 2
♣ Q 6 5 3

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
3 ♦	pass

3♦ – invitational, 5-5 distribution.

The second space includes the same range of bids preceded by a 2♣ waiting bid.

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦

- 2 NT – 20-21(19) HCPs;
- 3 ♣ – 5-+4;
- 3 ♦ – 5-+4;
- 3 ♥ – 6;
- 3 ♠ – 4522.

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦

- 2 NT – 20-21(19) HCPs;
- 3 ♣ – 5-5;
- 3 ♦ – 5-5;
- 3 ♥ – 5-5;
- 3 ♠ – suit oriented hand with 6♠.

The responder's 2♦ bid is a typical waiting call after waiting 2♣. The bidding at the level of three (or 2NT) preceded by a 2♣ waiting

bid shows similar distribution-related information as direct bid but is game forcing.

We have to introduce one exception. This is a "short blanket syndrome." We need a space to inform about $3\spadesuit 5\heartsuit 1\diamond 4\clubsuit$ count within the invitational range.

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
?	

$3\spadesuit$ - 3514 (14)15-16(17) HCPs;

3 NT - 4522, game forcing.

Examples:

1)

\spadesuit A 5 4	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		\spadesuit K 9 8 3 2
		N									
W			E								
		S									
\heartsuit A K 10 8 2	\heartsuit 5										
\diamond 6	\diamond A 9 7 3										
\clubsuit A J 7 3	\clubsuit K Q 2										

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
3♠	4♣
4♥	4 NT
5♣	6♠
pass	

$2\diamond$ - waiting;

$3\spadesuit$ - 3514 invitation;

$4\clubsuit, 4\heartsuit$ - cue bid;

$6\spadesuit$ - we need more to bring the grand home.

2)

♠ A K 6 4 2
♥ A K 9 7 3
♦ A 5 4
♣ —

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9
♥ Q 5
♦ K Q 10 9 3 2
♣ J 9 7 4

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	3 ♦
5 NT	6 ♥
7 ♦	pass

3♦ - natural +6♦;

5NT - asking about the number of major diamond honours.

3)

♠ A K 8 7 3
♥ A K
♦ A 6 5
♣ K 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ Q J 10 7 3

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 NT	3 ♣
4 ♣	4 ♦
6 ♣	pass

The bidding is too optimistic. In most cases, the responder will bid 3NT and not 3♣.

One can hardly expect such extreme hand (3 aces and 3 kings).

4)

♠ A 9 8 4 2
 ♥ A K Q 8 7
 ♦ A Q 9
 ♣ —

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10
 ♥ J 10 4 3 2
 ♦ K 8 2
 ♣ Q 6 4 2

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♥
4 ♣	4 ♥
5 ♣	5 ♦
5 ♠	5 NT
7 ♥	pass

2♥ - natural +5♥;

4♣ - splinter;

4♥ - negative bid;

5♣ - void;

5♦ - cue bid after earlier negative bid;

5♠ - slam invitational;

5NT - the opener is not interested in the quality of my trumps, he is concerned about spades. I have a second-class spade control but I am afraid to bid a grand myself.

I shall give him a chance - 5NT.

Return to the opening suit is not forcing but confirms that clubs were a natural bid.

a)

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥*	

* - natural 5♥ +4♣

b)

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠**	

** - natural 5♠ +4♣

Examples:

1)

♠ A Q 10 5 3
♥ A 6
♦ 4 3
♣ Q J 7 6



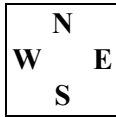
♠ J 8
♥ J 10 7 2
♦ A J 7 5 2
♣ K 5

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	pass

2♠ - 5♠+4♣ weak (12-15 HCPs)

2)

♠ Q 6
♥ A Q J 9 8
♦ 8 4
♣ A 10 9 4



♠ K 10 3 2
♥ 2
♦ J 7 5 2
♣ K 8 7 6

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♣
pass	

We are high. The risk derives from the use of the convention. In purely natural course of bidding, 2♣ would be the final contract.

3)

♠ K 8 7 3 2
♥ Q 4 3
♦ 5
♣ K Q J 9



♠ J
♥ A 9 7 6 2
♦ K 10 6 5
♣ 10 5 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♥
pas	

What is the difference between these two sequences?

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠*	

* - natural 3♠, NF,

This bid includes:

- a) all 3532, 3523 distributions, with which we do not want to play a no-trump contract from our hand;
- b) 3514 - typical, natural bidding;
- c) exceptionally 3541 count with a poor quality diamond suit.

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT (second waiting)
?	

- 3 ♣ - 3514;
- 3 ♦ - 3541;
- 3 ♥ - 3532, 3523 within the non-forcing bidding I have positive extras in power;
- 3 ♠ - nothing special.

Examples:

1)

♠ A 10 5
♥ A 10 8 3 2
♦ A 6 5
♣ 8 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

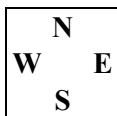
♠ K 9 3 2
♥ 3
♦ K 8 2
♣ A J 5 3 2

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	pass

Americans often bid partner's suit with a 3-card support. We are now in the same position but our partner knows we have three cards.

2)

♠ K 7 3
♥ K 9 7 3 2
♦ J
♣ A Q 5 4



♠ Q 8 6 4 2
♥ A
♦ 10 8 5 4 2
♣ J 10

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	pass

In the natural sequence

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	?

We are not in a comfortable situation. A 2♦ bid is fourth suit and a 2♠ bid is not very elegant.

3)

♠ A 6 5
♥ A K 6 5 2
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ 5



♠ K Q J 10
♥ Q
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ A K 4 2

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♦	3 ♠
4 ♥	4 NT
5 ♥	6 ♠
pass	

The opener showed the 3541 shape with the poor quality four-card diamond suit. After a 4♥ cue bid, it is easy to imagine West's hand.

4)

♠ Q 3 2
♥ A J 9 4 3
♦ A J 9
♣ 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 7 5 4
♥ K 6
♦ K 7 2
♣ A K Q 9

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♠	3 NT
pass	

3♠ - minimum, 5332 distribution;

3NT is a safe contract but 4NT invitational bid may be sometimes one trick short.

After a 1♠ opening

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥*	

* - GF, all other hands, usually with 5♠ - 4♣, ♦, ♥

Third waiting bid builds yet another bidding space.

Example

♠ A K 10 9 8
♥ A K 5 4
♦ A Q 5
♣ 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 3 2
♥ Q 3
♦ K J 10 3
♣ K 10 9 8 7

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♣
3 ♥	3 NT
pass	

- 2♥ - waiting, game forcing, usually 5♠+4 cards in another suit;
- 3♣ - natural;
- 3♥ - 5♠-4♥.

How should the responder react to another waiting - 2♥?

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	?

- 2 ♠ - negative choice of a suit;
- 2 NT - no-trump oriented hand;
- 3 ♣ - natural;
- 3 ♦ - natural.

It is time for a two-way exchange of information.

♠ A 8 6 4 2
 ♥ A K 10 9
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A Q J



♠ 9
 ♥ Q 4 2
 ♦ A 10 9 4
 ♣ K 10 8 7 5

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♣
3 ♥	3 NT
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♥	4 NT
5 ♣	6 ♣
pass	

The ♠10 makes slam a reasonable contract.

Is a 2♦ waiting bid obligatory in the following sequences?

a)	b)												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2♣</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	E	1♥	1♠	2♣		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2♣</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	E	1♠	1NT	2♣	
W	E												
1♥	1♠												
2♣													
W	E												
1♠	1NT												
2♣													

It would be in contradiction to basic rules of the modern bidding, in which we always can choose between a one-way and two-way exchange of information.

Bidding options after 2♣ waiting bids include the full range of natural bids with one exception.

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	?

2♥ – artificial invitational raise to three clubs;

2♠ – +6♠ NF;

2NT – invitational;

3♣ – 4♠ +6♣ NF;

3♦ – 4♠ +6♦ NF;

3♥ – invitational;

3♠ – invitational +6♠.

2♥ – artificial invitational raise to three clubs.

For example:

E: ♠ K 8 4 2
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ A 4 2
 ♣ K J 10 2

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	?

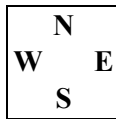
I do not have good bidding option. A 3♣ bid is not any more invitational but corrective. This is why we have to remember the meaning of the artificial 2♥ bid. What do we bid in order to make a negative choice of a suit? Waiting 2♦, and after a 2♥ response we pass.

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	pass

Examples:

1)

♠ K 8
♥ Q J 10 9 3
♦ Q 4
♣ K J 10 5

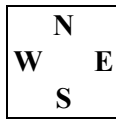


♠ A 6 5 2
♥ 8 2
♦ K 10 8 2
♣ Q 5 4

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	pass

2)

♠ —
♥ A K 10 9 3
♦ Q 10 4
♣ K J 10 8 7



♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ Q
♦ K 9 8 2
♣ A Q 5 4

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♥
3♦	4♦
5♣	pass

- 2♥ - invitational with a club fit!;
- 3♦ - fragment;
- 4♦ - cue bid, I like your shortage in spades;
- 5♣ - not enough power for a slam, we may take a chance by void indicating a 4♠ bid.

3)

♠ K 8	N W E S	♠ A 6 5 2
♥ A K J 10 9 3		♥ Q 2
♦ A Q 4		♦ K 10 8 2
♣ K J 10		♣ Q 5 4

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 NT
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 NT	5 ♦
5 ♠	6 ♣
6 NT	pass

2NT - invitation;

3♥ - +6♥ strong;

3♠, 4♦ - cue bid.

Ultimately

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	?

2 ♠ - +5♠ forcing;

2 NT - waiting, game forcing;

3 ♣ - I correct without invitational intention.

Example

♠ K 8	N W E S	♠ A Q J 5 4
♥ A 9 7 5 2		♥ J
♦ 3		♦ A K 6 5 2
♣ A 8 7 3 2		♣ K 9

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 NT
4 ♠	6 ♠
pass	

- 2♦ - natural, forcing;
- 4♠ - 2515, suit oriented hand;
- 6♠ - end of the auction.

Similar problems occur in the following sequence:

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	?

- 2♦ - waiting, practically precludes 5 hearts;
- 2♥ - +5♥;
- 2♠ - artificial, invitational raise to three clubs;
- 2BA - a no-trump oriented hand, positive extras in power;
- 3♣ - +6♣;
- 3♦ +6♦;
- 3♥ +6♥ (solid suit).

Example

♠ A 8 7 4 2
♥ A K 7 5
♦ A J 10 4
♣ —

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10
♥ Q 9 8 4 2
♦ K Q 2
♣ 10 9 7 2

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♥
4 ♣	4 ♦
5 ♣	5 ♦
6 ♥	pass

2♥ - +5♥;

4♣ - splinter;

4♦ - cue bid;

5♣ - void;

5♦ - some extras in diamonds.

I am going to introduce two difficult conventions to remember

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥ - artificial, invitational raise to three clubs

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♠ - artificial, invitational raise to three clubs

Why? Let me explain it once more.

a)

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	

b)

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	

In the sequences that confirm the natural character of the bidding, the raise to three clubs is only a correction and not invitational.

With the hands below, there is no possibility to make invitational bid.

E₁: ♠ A 8 7 3
 ♥ 7
 ♦ 10 9 5 2
 ♣ K Q 10 9

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	?

E₂: ♠ 3 2
 ♥ K 8 7 4
 ♦ 10 6 3
 ♣ A K 10 3

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	?

There is no invitational bid.

Examples:

1)

♠ 7	N W E S	♠ J 8 6 3
♥ A 10 7 5 2		♥ K 8
♦ A 5		♦ J 10 6
♣ A Q 10 8 2		♣ K J 9 4

W	E
1 ♥	2 ♦
2 ♣	2 ♥
5 ♣	pass

2♥ - artificial invitational bid with a club fit;
 5♣ - looking for a slam is written on the wind.

2)

♠ K Q 10 5 3	N	♠ 6
♥ 7 6	W	♥ K 8 3 2
♦ Q 8	E	♦ A 9 5 4
♣ A J 9 8	S	♣ K 7 4 2

W	E
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♠
3 ♣	pass

2♣- artificial invitational bid with a club fit

2.9. The sequence 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♣ when the 1♥ is limited to 16-18 HCP

In the systems in which 1♥ opening is limited to 16 or 18 HCPs, the sequence below is natural and not forcing. There is no need for two spaces:

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	

In this situation, we can use a transfer waiting:

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	?

- 2 ♦ – transfer to 2♥ or any invitational hand;
- 2 ♥ – any GF;
- 2 ♠ – natural, NF;
- 2BA – GF but I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand;
- 3 ♣ – fit-based invitational bid;
- 3 ♦ – spades, 6+ diamonds, weak;
- 3 ♥ – solid fit-based invitational bid;
- 3 ♠ – distributional invitation (for instance, 7 spades).

Example 1

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ K 10 7 6 2
♥ A Q J 4 2		♥ 8 6
♦ 5 3 2		♦ A J 8 4
♣ A 8 6 4		♣ 7 5

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	pass

2♦ - transfer to 2♥;

2♥ - I would pass in the classical sequence: 1♥-1♠-2♣-2♥.

Example 2

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ A J 9 4 2		♥ 8
♦ A 10		♦ J 8 2
♣ A 8 6 3 2		♣ K Q J 10 5

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♣
5 ♣	pass

3♣ - solid fit-based invitation.

Example 3

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ Q J 10 8 6 4 2
♥ K Q 9 4 2		♥ J 7
♦ K Q 6		♦ 3
♣ A J 8 6		♣ 10 7 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♠
pass	

How should the opener respond to a 2♦ transfer?

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
?	

- 2♥ - I will pass in the natural auction 1♥-1♠-2♣-2♥;
- 2♠ - shape 3-5-1-4, nothing special;
- 2BA - good hand to play a no-trump contract (1♥-1♠-2♣-2♥-2NT);
- 3♣ - good hand with 5+ hearts - 5 clubs (1♥-1♠-2♣-2♥-3♣);
- 3♥ - 6 hearts - 4 clubs, good hand, invitational;
- 3♠ - three spades, good hand.

In this sequence, the slam is out of question so we do not have to apply extra length transfer bid.

Example:

1)

♠ K 9 3	N W E S	♠ Q 8 6 4 2
♥ K 9 6 4 2		♥ J 7
♦ 6		♦ A J 3
♣ A J 8 6		♣ 10 7 3

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♠	pass

2)

♠ 3	N W E S	♠ A 8 6 4 2
♥ A K Q 9 4 2		♥ J 7
♦ K 10		♦ A 3
♣ A 9 8 6		♣ 10 5 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♥	4 ♥
pass	

3♥ - 6♥-4♣ good hand.

3)

♠ Q	N W E S	♠ K 7 6 4 2
♥ A Q 10 4 2		♥ K 7
♦ A Q 10		♦ J 8 2
♣ Q J 8 6		♣ 10 5 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 NT	pass

2NT - good hand oriented to a no-trump contract

After accepting a 2♦ transfer bid, the responder will pass or describe his invitational hand.

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	?

pass - I wanted to play a 2♥ contract;

2 ♠ - invitational, usually 6♠;

2 NT - invitational, like 1♥-1♠-2♣-2NT - natural bidding;

3 ♣ - power-based invitational bid;

- 3♦ - 4 spades - +6 diamonds, invitation (10-11 HCPs);
 3♥ - power-based invitational bid;
 3♠ - 6+ spades, power-based invitational bid.

Example 1

♠ 4	N W E S	♠ K J 10 7 6 2
♥ Q 9 8 4 2		♥ K 7
♦ J 5 3		♦ K 8
♣ A K Q 6		♣ 10 5 3

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♠
pass	

2♠ - invitational.

Example 2

♠ 10 7	N W E S	♠ K J 4 2
♥ K Q J 3 2		♥ 8 7
♦ J 3		♦ A K 9 8 4
♣ K Q 8 6		♣ 5 3

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	2NT
pass	

Example 3

♠ K 3	N W E S	♠ A Q J 9 8 2
♥ Q 9 8 4 2		♥ 7
♦ Q 4		♦ J 10 8 3
♣ A K J 5		♣ 6 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♠	pass

3♠ – light invitational bid based on 6-4 distribution.

Example 4

♠ 6 3	N W E S	♠ A Q J 9 8 2
♥ A 10 9 4 2		♥ J
♦ A 2		♦ K J 9
♣ K Q 8 6		♣ 10 5 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
4 ♠	pass

3♠ – power-based invitational bid.

After 2♥ game forcing bid

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
?	

- 2 ♠ – no other bidding option;
- 2 NT – natural;
- 3 ♣ – 5+ hearts - 5 clubs;

- 3 ♦ - 6+ hearts - 4 clubs, good hand;
- 3 ♥ - transfer with three spades, 3-5-1-4 shape;
- 3 ♠ - good hand, 1-5-3-4 distribution without a diamond control;
- 3 NT - low honours.

While forcing to game, extra length transfer bid is specifically important since there is a fat chance for a slam. The comfort of entering the slam zone is worth the effort.

A 2♠ bid requires some explanations. This is a method for creating "two spaces" in this sequence. Beginning with 2NT, we have the whole range of natural bids, although in some cases we would use transfers. Various types of hands that are not suitable for 2NT or 3NT call can be included into a 2♠ bid designated to these types of hands. Below follow the examples of such hands:

- A) 2-5-2-4 distribution without a diamond stopper with 12 to 17 HCPs
- B) 1-5-3-4 distribution without a diamond stopper with 12 to 14 HCPs (within 15-17 HCPs power range we bid 3♠)
- C) 3-5-1-4 distribution, poor hand. With a good hand, we shall bid 3♥ - transfer to spades
- D) 6 hearts - 4 clubs distribution, poor hand.

We have to sort out various types of hands, to which a 2♠ bid has been designated.

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	2 NT*
?	

* - waiting, but I can play a no-trump contract from my hand

- 3 ♣ - 2-5-2-4 distribution, good hand without a diamond stopper (I precluded 5♣);
- 3 ♦ - transfer, 6 hearts - 4 clubs, weak;
- 3 ♥ - transfer to spades, 3-5-1-4 shape, weak hand;

3 ♠ - 1-5-3-4 distribution, weak hand without a diamond stopper;

3 NT - 2-5-2-4 distribution, weak hand.

Example 1

♠ 10 3	N W E S	♠ A K J 8 2
♥ A K Q 10 2		♥ 9 7
♦ 5 2		♦ A K Q 8
♣ A K J 8		♣ 6 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♣	4 NT
6 NT	pass

2♥ - GF;

2♠ - a designated bid;

3♣ - 2-5-2-4 shape, good hand;

4NT - invitational.

Example 2

♠ -	N W E S	♠ Q 10 9 8 2
♥ A Q J 9 4 2		♥ K 10 7
♦ 9 8 6		♦ A K Q
♣ A 8 7 2		♣ K 3

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♦	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♠	4 NT
5 ♠	7 ♥
pass	

3♦ - 6 hearts - 4 clubs;

- 3♥ - how about playing a heart slam?
 3♠ - shortage (3NT- singleton in diamonds, 4♣ both shortages, 4♦-void in diamonds);
 4♠ - void;
 5♠ - 2 aces + heart queen;
 7♥ - jack of hearts is very useful, indeed.

Note that we have still another, game forcing, waiting bid.

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♣	2NT*
?	

* - waiting but I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand.

- 3♣ - +5♥-5♣;
 3♦ - transfer 6♥-4♣;
 3♥ - transfer 3♠5♥1♦4♣;
 3♠ - transfer 1♠5♥3♦4♣;
 3NT - 2524;
 4NT - 2524, maximum.

Here comes yet another sequence, in which an opener shows a six-carder.

W	E
1♥	1♠
2♥	2NT*
?	

* - waiting

- 3♣ - singleton or void in clubs;
 3♦ - singleton or void in diamonds;
 3♥ - singleton or void in spades;
 3♠ - 3-6-2-2 shape;
 3NT - 2-6-2-3 or 2-6-3-2 distribution.

How can we invite partner to a game contract? Occasionally, we may need a 2NT invitational bid. However, nobody can deny that a waiting scheme provides a considerable bidding comfort.

Examples:

1)

♠ 5	N W E S	♠ J 10 9 8
♥ A K 9 7 3 2		♥ Q 10 8
♦ K 7 6		♦ A Q 4 3
♣ K 3 2		♣ A 5

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 NT
3 ♥	4 ♣
4 ♦	?

3♥ - 1-6-3-3 distribution (sometimes it may be seven hearts)

The Blackwood convention does not solve our problems. Without the king of clubs, a slam does not have much sense. We need to put some effort to get necessary information from partner.

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 NT (waiting)
3 ♥	4 ♣
4 ♦	4 ♠
5 ♣	5 ♦
6 ♥	pass

4♠ - we are trying to obtain information about a club cue bid;

5♦ - monotonous repeating of cue bids shows concern about the trumps.

After a four-spade bid, more straightforward partner will ask about the aces and announce a slam. His hand justifies such clear-cut action.

2)

♠ 9 8 6	N W E S	♠ K 7 4 3 2
♥ A K J 7 3 2		♥ Q
♦ K J 10		♦ Q 7 5 3
♣ 5		♣ A K J

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 NT (waiting)
3 ♣	3 NT
pass	

The final contract is not that obvious for the responder. In this case, we find an excellent heart suit and a poor spade fit. It is important that having complete information about partner's hand we can choose the game contract.

3)

♠ J 10 5	N W E S	♠ K Q 6 3 2
♥ K J 10 7 3 2		♥ 6 5
♦ Q 2		♦ K J 10
♣ A 5		♣ K Q 9

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 NT
3 ♠	3 NT
pass	

3♠ - 3-6-2-2 distribution.

A similar situation is in the hand below. A decision is not obvious but possible, knowing that partner has no shortage.

4)

♠ K Q J	N W E S	♠ A 5 3 2
♥ A Q 10 4 3 2		♥ K J 9
♦ 8		♦ K 10 9 2
♣ J 9 4		♣ A 7

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 NT
3 ♦	3 ♥
3 ♠	3 NT
4 ♥	pass

3♥ - the shortage does not suit us, still we may try to drive towards a slam;

3NT - the classical operational bid adjusting the tempo of cue bids; it is sort of cue bid manipulation;

4♥ - lack of a club cue bid will end the auction.

2.10. A waiting bid after the 1NT opener's rebid

Let us discuss waiting bids in the following sequences:

W	E
1 X	1 Y
1 NT	?

The considerations will cover five cases:

a)		b)	
1 ♣	1 ♥/♠	1 ♦	1 ♥/♠
1 NT	?	1 NT	?

c)	
1 ♥	1 ♠
1 NT	?

Many bridge authors have presented the “two way check back.” I shall only mention in this place basic assumptions.

W	E
1 any suit	1 any suit
1 NT	?

2♣ – invitational waiting or weak with 4 in any suit + 5 diamonds;

2♦ – game forcing waiting bid.

Further bidding after a 2♣ waiting bid:

W	E
1 any suit	1 any suit
1 NT	2 ♣
?	

2♦ – automatic

Further bidding is obvious:

W	E
1 any suit	1 any suit
1 NT	2 ♣
2♦	?

pass – weak, 4 any - 5+ diamonds;

other bids – are natural, invitational.

Further sequence after a 2♦ waiting bid:

W	E
1 any	1 any
1 NT	2♦
?	

2 any – minimum with a support in partner’s suit;

- 2 another – maximum with a support in partner's suit;
major suit
- 2 NT – no 3 card-support;
- 3 NT – minimum, a no-trump oriented hand, no 3 card-support.

In case of an invitational waiting (2♣), the opener waits bidding 2♦ and the responder describes his hand. A 2♦ game forcing waiting bid compels the exchange of information by the opener. Note, that there are free bids at the level of three. I know pairs, which attribute specific meaning to these bids.

We may, for instance, bid in the following way:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 NT	2 ♦
?	

- 3 ♣ – 3-2-3-5 shape with a solid club suit;
- 3 ♦ – solid 5-card club suit and 3 hearts.

It may be important in slam sequences. In most cases, however, we shall stop in the game contract. Information about a solid five-carder, which will be displayed in the dummy, may encourage defenders to active lead. This will be contrary to our plan consisting in drawing trumps and discarding losers on a club suit. Premature precise bidding is in contradiction with an idea of a camouflage. If the responder is interested in a slam, we shall be more than willing to accept his plans based on a solid five-card suit.

Chapter 3

THE 2♦ WAITING BID IN THE POLISH CLUB SYSTEM

3.1. The idea of the 2♦ waiting bid

Polish bidding systems raise a lot of interest in the bridge world. The most popular, among them, are the Polish Club and Our System, usually called *Strefa*, which translates as *Zone*. The Polish Club is commonly referred to as *Common Language*. A 1♣ opening distinguishes *Common Language* from many bidding systems in the world.

It includes the following hands:

1. Balanced hands 12-14 HCPs and 18 -22 HCPs range.
2. Club suit + 12 HCPs or +16 HCPs (if 2♣ is Precision).
3. Outstanding hands 18-21 HCPs range.
4. All game forcing hands (if 2♣ is Precision).

A typical Polish idea after a 1♣ opening and one in the major response is a 2♦ waiting bid with certain types of hands (usually balanced hands) with 18+ points. In the following sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
?	

2♦ - waiting, game forcing

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
?	

2♦ - waiting, game forcing

3.2. Waiting bid after a 1♥ response

The construction of the classical waiting bid called in the Polish Club “odwrotka” (a 2♦ game forcing waiting bid showing at least a 3-card support) is slightly outdated.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	?

- 2♥ – weak hand with four hearts;
- 2♠ – weak hand with five hearts;
- 2NT – strong hand with four hearts;
- 3♣ – strong hand with 4 hearts + 5 clubs;
- 3♦ – strong hand with 4 hearts + 5 diamonds;
- 3♥ – strong hand with five hearts;
- 3♠ – strong hand with six hearts.

This convention is in contradiction with the basic bidding postulates. Calls that may include many hands describing different shapes should be economically positioned, that is, at the lowest possible level. Not promising hands do not require bidding space. The modern construction of the waiting bid should comply with the following postulates:

- Carry out the idea of camouflage.
- Be able to check the shortage, if there is any.
- Show accurately the power.
- Allow for smooth transition from waiting mechanisms to the two-way exchange of information.
- Make clear intention between partners.
- Provide the possibility of comfortable entering the slam zone.

Waiting 2♦ after a 1♥ response

My suggestion of responses after a 2♦ waiting bid is as follows:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	?

- 2♥ – (A) – four hearts, unbalanced hand;
- 2♠ – (B) – five cards;
- 2NT – (C) – strong hand with four hearts, balanced shape;
- 3♣ – (D) – 4-4-4-1 shape with any singleton;
- 3♦ – (E) – transfer to 6 hearts;
- 3♥ – (F) – poor hand with five hearts, balanced hand;
- 3♠ – (G) – poor hand with four cards, balanced hand, an intention to assign a no-trump to a strong hand;
- 3NT – (H) – poor hand with four hearts, balanced hand, an intention to play a no-trump contract from a weak hand.

Example of East hands (A) – (E):

(A) – 2♥

1)	2)
♠ 5	♠ A 7 5
♥ A 8 7 3	♥ K 9 4 2
♦ K Q 10 9 6	♦ 5
♣ J 4 3	♣ K J 8 7 2
3)	4)
♠ Q 6 4	♠ 8 5
♥ Q J 9 8	♥ A Q 7 6
♦ A Q 8 7 4	♦ 7 5
♣ 3	♣ K 10 9 7 5

(B) - 2♠

1)	2)
♠ A 8 4	♠ 5
♥ K Q 8 7 3	♥ Q 10 6 5 4
♦ 3	♦ K 9 6 3 2
♣ Q 10 5 3	♣ K 8
3)	4)
♠ 4 2	♠ Q J 4 2
♥ A J 10 7 5	♥ K 8 7 5 3
♦ 6 3	♦ A 8
♣ A 8 6 2	♣ J 5

(C) - 2NT

1)	2)
♠ A J 5 2	♠ J 8 7
♥ Q 8 6 3	♥ A 10 8 6
♦ J 10 8	♦ Q 10 6
♣ K 10	♣ A J 4
3)	4)
♠ Q 4 2	♠ K 6
♥ K J 3 2	♥ Q J 8 7
♦ K 8	♦ 10 8 6 5
♣ Q J 9 7	♣ A Q 10

D) - 3♣

1)	2)
♠ K J 10 6	♠ 6
♥ Q 10 4 3	♥ J 10 9 7
♦ 4	♦ A J 8 6
♣ Q 5 3 2	♣ Q 10 4 3
3)	4)
♠ Q 10 9 6	♠ A 8 3 2
♥ K J 3 2	♥ A 7 3 2
♦ Q J 9 4	♦ 10 9 7 3
♣ 6	♣ 3

(E) - 3♦

1) ♠ 6 ♥ A 10 7 4 3 2 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ 10 4 3	2) ♠ A 8 7 ♥ K 10 8 6 4 3 ♦ Q J ♣ 4 3
3) ♠ 5 4 3 ♥ A J 10 7 5 3 ♦ 4 ♣ K 10	4) ♠ J 10 6 ♥ K Q 10 5 4 2 ♦ 4 ♣ K 3 2

W

E

1 ♣

1 ♥

2 ♦

2 ♥

?

- 2 ♠ - waiting with a four-card fit;
- 2 NT - waiting, but hearts are not agreed;
- 3 ♣ - natural, transition to a two-way exchange of information;
- 3 ♦ - natural provided that a 1♣□ opening may include 5 diamonds;
- 3 ♥ - four hearts, abandoning the leading role of the bidder at the helm shows poor hand (18-19 HCPs) and **does not encourage bidding a slam. However, it is still possible to play 3NT!**

Two types of waiting calls are very useful.

Example

♠ A K
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ A 4 3 2
♣ A Q 10

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 7
♥ K Q J 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K J 9 5 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♦	3 NT
4 ♣	5 ♣
6 NT	pass

2♠ - waiting with 4 hearts;

3♣ - 5+ clubs;

3♦ - waiting;

3NT - 2-4-2-5 shape (3♥ - short in diamonds, 3♠ - short in spades);

5♣ - good hand without a side cue bid;

6NT - pairs, 12 tricks are there. In a match 6♥ is a better contract, clubs can be established with a ruff (we have no information on the club jack).

You may ask: - How to agree a spade suit? With four spades you may proceed to a two-way exchange of information:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	?

We are at a lower level and have more bidding space.

Example 1

♠ A K 7 2
♥ A 6 5
♦ K 6
♣ A K 6 5



♠ J 8
♥ Q 10 9 3 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ Q 10 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♦*	2 ♥
3 ♥	3 NT
pass	

* - game forcing waiting bid

Example 2

With a hand we want to play a no-trump contract from our hand, we may bid 2NT and not 1♠ or 2♦:

♠ A Q 7 5
♥ J 9 4
♦ A Q 9
♣ A Q 2



♠ K J 6 2
♥ A 7 6 5
♦ 10 6
♣ J 4 3

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 NT	3 NT
pass	

However, we should have a mechanism that will allow to find out about four spades with the opener. A simple scheme follows below:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 NT	?

- 3 ♣ - waiting;
- 3 ♥ - 5 hearts and 4 spades;
- 3 ♠ - 4 hearts and 4 spades.

Let us go back to the sequence:

W	E
1♣	1♥
2♦	2♥ (four cards balanced hand)
?	

See below how the 2NT waiting bid operates

♠ A K	N	♠ 8 7 2
♥ A 10 9	W E	♥ K Q 6 3
♦ A 4 3	S	♦ 9
♣ A Q 10 6		♣ K J 9 5 3

W	E
1♣	1♥
2♦	2♥
2NT	3♣
3♦	3♥
4♣	4♥
4NT	5♦
5♠	6♥
7♣	pass

2♥ - four cards, balanced hand;

2NT - waiting, without 4 hearts;

3♣ - 5+ clubs (with 3-4-2-4 or 2-4-3-4 and 7-9 HCPs we bid 3♣ or 3NT, while with 10+ HCPs, we bid 2NT instead 2♥);

3♦ - waiting;

3♥ - short in diamonds (3♠ - short in spades, 3NT - 2-4-2-5, 4♣ - 2-4-2-5, good hand);

4♥ - cue bid (we have shown a shortage in diamonds, bidding 4♦ would show the void);

5♠ - general invitation (5♥ - asking for ♠Q, 5NT - asking for kings);

6♥ - heart queen (5NT - spade queen).

After showing five hearts by the responder, we can use only one waiting bid - 2NT.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♠ (five hearts)
?	

2 NT - waiting;

3 ♣ - natural;

3 ♦ - natural;

3 ♥ - agreeing hearts, not encouraging to bid a slam.

Example

♠ A 6
♥ A Q 5 2
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ A K Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 2
♥ K J 10 9 7
♦ K 6 5
♣ J 10 8 7

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♣
3 ♦	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♥	pass

3♦ - waiting;

3♠ - shortage (3♥ - short in diamonds, 3NT - 2-5-2-4, 4♣ - both shortages, 4♦ - void in diamonds).

In this case, a spade shortage is very discouraging. Why?

We need two honours in diamonds and a king of hearts.

Shall we persuade partner to bid anything else with the hand below?

♠ 2
♥ K 10 9 8 6
♦ K Q 5
♣ 5 4 3 2

This is a very delicate moment. Maybe we should bypass the game zone by bidding 4♠. The risk of going down in 5♥ is smaller than failing to bid a slam. After four spades, partner with the hand above will sign off with 5♥ (I have nothing to add). With the king and queen of diamonds, he will bid 5♦.

After agreeing a suit, which is not slam invitational, we can apply a typical mechanism:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♠
3 ♥	?

3 ♠ - shortage in spades;

3 NT - no shortage, some extras in power;

4 ♣ - club shortage;

4 ♦ - diamond shortage;

4 ♥ - I do not want to play a slam.

Example

♠ K 6 5
♥ A J 7 3
♦ A K Q
♣ Q 9 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 3 2
♥ K Q 10 4 2
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ -

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♠
3 ♥	4 ♣
4 ♦	5 ♣
5 ♦	5 ♠
7 ♥	pass

4♣ - shortage;

5♣ - void;

5♠ - grand invitational;

7♥ - 17 HCPs not counting the clubs and four trumps is more than partner can expect.

Further sequences:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♦ (6 hearts)
3 ♥	?

- 3 ♠ – spade shortage;
 3 NT – no shortage;
 3 ♣ – club shortage;
 3 ♦ – diamond shortage.

A pseudo transfer concept provides easy way to enter the slam zone enabling to make a distinction between shortages from honour cue bids.

Example

♠ K Q 5	N W E S	♠ 8
♥ A 10 5		♥ K Q J 9 8 2
♦ A 7 6		♦ 5 4 2
♣ A Q 6 2		♣ K 10 9

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♥	pass

- 3♥ - what about a heart slam?
 3♠ - shortage.

Further sequences

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♥ (poor hand with five cards, balanced)
?	

Both hands are balanced. All cue bids will indicate honours. The opener's hand with more than 22 HCPs makes a slam feasible. The exchange of cue bids may be helpful in obtaining information from the responder how he evaluates his cards in 0 - 10 power range.

Example

♠ A K 3	N W E S	♠ 10 9
♥ A Q 10		♥ K 9 8 4 2
♦ A 5		♦ 10 7 3
♣ A 10 8 4 2		♣ K Q 7

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♦	5 ♣
7 NT	pass

With the 7-9 points, the hand is very good. Location of honours in clubs, partner's potential suit, is very encouraging. The opener should ask about the aces by bidding 5NT, just for the formality, but it is hard to imagine partner's enthusiasm without holding a major honour in hearts.

How can we solve the problem when after a 2♦ waiting bid, partner will jump to 3♠, showing poor hand with four hearts and inviting us to 3NT?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♠ (poor hand with four cards,
?	intention to assign a no-trump contract to partner)

Example

♠ A K	N W E S	♠ 9 8 6 5
♥ A K Q 5		♥ J 10 3 2
♦ A Q 10 8		♦ K J 2
♣ Q 10 3		♣ K 5

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♠*
4 ♦	5 ♣**
6 ♥	pass

* - 7-9 HCPs, balanced hand, four hearts, I do not want to play a no-trump contract from my hand

** - cue bid, practically obligatory. Partner, knowing about our poor hand, invites us to a slam without a club control.

A similar bidding will take place in the following sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 NT (poor hand with four cards, an intention to play a no-trump contract from the weaker hand)

♠ A 5 4	N W E S	♠ Q 9 2
♥ A K 6 3		♥ J 9 5 2
♦ A 6 2		♦ K J
♣ A 7 2		♣ Q 10 8 6

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 NT
pass	

In spite of agreeing a heart suit, information on a no-trump oriented hand persuades West to pass.

3.3. Waiting after a 1♠ response

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	?

This waiting position is slightly less complicated since there can only be one three-suiter hand – with a heart singleton.

The scheme is similar:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	?

- 2 ♥ – four cards;
- 2 ♠ – five cards without indicating the power;
- 2 NT – strong hand with four cards, balanced hand;
- 3 ♣ – 4 spades + 5 clubs, good hand;
- 3 ♦ – 4 spades + 5 diamonds, good hand;
- 3 ♥ – pseudo transfer, 6+ spades;
- 3 ♠ – poor hand with four cards, balanced hand, intention to assign a no-trump contract to partner;
- 3 NT – poor hand with four cards, I want to play a no-trump contract.

Example

♠ K 7 6 5
 ♥ A 7 3
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ A K J 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q J 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K J 10 4 3
 ♣ 8 7 5

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	3 ♦
3 ♠	4 ♥
4 NT	5 ♦
5 ♥	6 ♣
6 ♦	6 ♠
pass	

4♥ - shortage;

5♥ - asking for a spade queen;

6♣ - spade queen + 1 king;

6♦ - grand invitational.

Further sequences after a 2♥ response

After a 2♥ response, we have two waiting bids and natural calls:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥ (four spades)
?	

2 ♣ - waiting with four spades;

2 NT - waiting bid not agreeing a spade suit;

3 ♣ - natural, coming back to a two-way exchange of information;

3 ♦ - natural;

3 ♠ - without slam aspiration.

Example

♠ A K 3 2
 ♥ 10 8 5 3
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ A K Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 9 8
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K Q 9 8 6
 ♣ 10 9 7

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 NT	5 ♣
5 ♦	5 ♠
6 ♠	pass

3♦ - 4 spades + 5 diamonds;

3♥ - waiting;

3♠ - heart shortage (3NT - 4-2-5-2, 4♣ - short in clubs);

4♦ - cue bid (precludes a heart void);

5♦ - asking for a spade queen;

5♠ - spade queen, our cue bid indicated the diamond king.

Further sequences after a 2♠ response.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠*
2 NT	?

* - five cards without indicating the power.

3 ♣ - natural;

3 ♦ - natural;

3 ♥ - natural;

3 ♠ - balanced hand with aspirations +10 HCPs;

3 NT - 3NT - 5-3-3-2 distribution, 7-9 HCPs.

Example

♠ K Q 6	N W E S	♠ A J 10 8 7 2
♥ A J		♥ K 8 7 5 3
♦ A 6 5 3		♦ 8
♣ A 10 3 2		♣ J

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥*
?	

* - 2 shortages (3NT - 5-4-2-2; 4♣ - short in clubs; 4♦ - short in diamonds).

We are ready to put partner in control of the bidding. It is easy to show our hand. Hearts may be ruffed with trump honours. Grand depends on the quality of the responder's spade suit. You may ask why after 3♠ East did not use the Blackwood convention. The answer is quite simple.

We may have the following hand:

♠ K Q 6
♥ A 6 4
♦ K Q
♣ A 9 7 5 3

Blackwood will not solve the problems.
Here comes another bidding proposal:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥
4 NT	5 ♦
5 NT	6 ♦
?	

This sequence does not take our doubts away. A 6♥ bid will be asking about a heart queen. Alternatively, maybe the following scheme will be better here:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥
5 ♣	5 ♥
6 ♣	6 ♦
6 ♥	?

This is a very difficult intellectual bidding that requires a lot of trust within the partnership.

5♣ – cue bid;

5♥ – cue bid;

6♣ – I need something more;

6♦ – I do not have a heart queen, there is still enough place for invitation;

6♥ – I do not have a heart loser, try to guess what I need.

The jack of spades, possibly with the ten! The responder's bidding promises three aces, including the ace of hearts doubleton and king and queen of spades.

How do we bid after showing a two-suited hand?

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♣/♦/♥*

* – 4+ clubs/diamonds/hearts.

To simplify the situation, after each of the above bids, the opener may bid 3♠, which creates the classical bidding model:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♣
3 ♠	?

- 3 NT - 5-2-2-4 shape;
 4 ♣ - two shortages;
 4 ♦ - diamond shortage;
 4 ♥ - heart shortage;

Example 1

♠ A J 6 5
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ A 3 2
 ♣ A J 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 10 9 3
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ Q 9 8 2

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠
2 NT	3 ♣
3 ♠	3 NT
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♥	4 ♠
pass	

3NT - 5-2-2-4 distribution, not a minimum hand, (with the minimum hand the responder will bid 4♠);

4♠ - I have shown everything I have.

Example 2

♠ A J 6 5
♥ K Q J
♦ A 3 2
♣ A K 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 10 9 3
♥ 10 8 7
♦ 5
♣ Q 9 8 2

W	E
1♣	1♠
2♦	2♠
2BA	3♣
3♠	4♦
4♥	4♠
6♠	pass

4♦ – shortage;

6♠ – event a minimal hand is enough to make a slam.

Example 3

♠ A K 4
♥ A 10 6 5
♦ A K
♣ J 7 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 10 7 5
♥ K J 8
♦ Q 6 5 2
♣ 10

W	E
1♣	1♠
2♦	2♠
2NT	3♦
3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥
5♦	6♠
pass	

4♣ – shortage.

Blackwood will not solve the heart suit problem. A proper way is invitational bid at the level of five - cooperation with partner. A spade sequence allows to ruff a diamond safely. Jack of hearts is extremely important. A heart lead may clarify the situation.

After other responses, the bidding will be similar as in the following sequence:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	?

3.4. A 2♦ waiting (check back) for lazy players

The bidding scheme after a 2♦ waiting bid I recommend may seem a bit complicated. Below follows a simplified version after a 1♥ response:

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	?

- 2 ♥ – I have 5+ hearts;
- 2 ♠ – I do not want to show anything;
- 2 NT – I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand;
- 3 ♣ – I have 4 hearts and 5+ clubs;
- 3 ♦ – I have 4 hearts and 5+ diamonds.

Example:

♠ Q J 6	N	♠ K 9 3
♥ A Q J 5	W E	♥ 10 9 7 4 3
♦ A 10 4	S	♦ Q 6 5
♣ K Q 7		♣ A J

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	2 NT
3 ♥	3 NT
pass	

- 2♥ – I have five hearts;

- 2♠ - waiting (or 2NT);
 2NT - I want to play a no-trump contract;
 3♥ - how about a heart slam?
 3NT - not really.

A similar bidding will follow after a 1♠ response.

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	?

- 2♥ - I do not want to show anything;
 2♠ - I have 5+ spades;
 2NT - I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand;
 3♣ - I have 4 spades and 5+ clubs;
 3♦ - I have 4 spades and 5+ diamonds.

Further bidding is natural.

Example:

♠ A K 6	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 8 7 3 2
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A Q 10 7	♥ J 5										
♦ Q J	♦ K 10 3										
♣ A 10 7 3	♣ K J 8										

W	E
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥
2 NT	3 NT
pass	

- 2♥ - I do not want to show anything;
 3NT - I insist on 3NT.