

# Modified Fantunes – Version 1.10

## 1 Introduction

This article describes a version of the Fantunes system as being played by Gerben Dirksen (Gerben42) and Han Peters (Hannie). It is largely based on the system by Italian superstars Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, nicknamed Fantunes. There are also some Polish Club elements included. The system is very flexible and most of all very natural.

The advantage of the Fantunes system is experienced in several ways. The extremely solid 1-bids make both competitive and uncontested auctions much easier than standard opening bids because responder can bid more with less and still control the auction. On the other hand, the 2-bids are very frequent and although they preempt the auction for us too, even more so for the opponents.

### 1.1 Opening Bid Structure

The opening bid structure is very natural:

1♣	13 <sup>+</sup> 5 <sup>+</sup> ♣ unb. / 4414 / 15 <sup>+</sup> bal.*
1♦	13 <sup>+</sup> 4 <sup>+</sup> ♦ unbal. (4♦5♣ poss.)
1♥	13 <sup>+</sup> 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥
1♠	13 <sup>+</sup> 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠
1NT	12 – 14 (semi)bal., 5422, 5M poss.
2♣	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♣
2♦	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♦
2♥	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥
2♠	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠
2NT	21 – 22 balanced

\* May include a 5-card major if 15 – 17 balanced.

The most interesting feature of this system is that the 1-level opening bids are forcing and unlimited. The minimum required strength is best described by the Rule of 22, i.e. the length of the two longest suit added to the HCP is at least 22. If you prefer Zar evaluation, the minimum opening strength is about half a level more than a standard minimum opening bid, i.e. at least 29 Zar. Opposite

a 1-level opening bid a balanced 11-count or an unbalanced 10-count is usually enough to force to game.

Opening a 1-bid you will categorize your hand in one of the following strength classes: A normal hand which is worth about 13 – 17 points, a strong hand, worth about 18 – 20 points, a semi game forcing hand or a game force.

Opening on the 2-level can be approximated by the rule of 18. Since these bids are located around the average strength of a bridge hand they are extremely frequent and yet the range is very small so that partner will usually have an idea about the potential of the hand.

### 1.2 Passed hand bidding

If partner is a passed hand the minimum 1-level opening strength is increased by one point. even a passed hand might be strong enough to force to game, the response structure is not changed after the 1-level opening bids. In 3<sup>rd</sup> seat the 2-level bids can be very wide ranging, in principle 0 – 13. In 4<sup>th</sup> seat these bids show approximately 10 – 13 HCP.

## 2 1♣ opening bid

The opening bid 1♣ shows either a balanced hand with at least 15 HCP which may include even up to 5 Diamonds, or 5 cards in a major if 15 – 17 HCP, or an unbalanced hand with 4 or more Clubs. 4441-hands with a short major should be opened 1♦. 1♣ is unlimited and forcing.

## 2.1 Responses to 1♣

1♦	0 – 5 any distribution up to 7 without 4-card major 14+ balanced GF 5 – 5 not both minors
1♥	6+ 4+♠, longer minor possible
1♠	6+ 4+♥, longer minor possible
1NT	8 – 10 bal., no 4-card major
2♣	GF, 5+♣
2♦	GF, 5+♦
2♥	5♥ + 4♠, 5 – 8
2♠	Invitational, 5+4+ minors
2NT	GF, 5♥/♠332 or 5+♣ 5+♦
3♣	Invitational, 6+♣
3♦	Invitational, 6+♦
3♥♠	11 – 13 bal. no stopper in other M
3NT	11 – 13 bal. stopper in ♥ + ♠

## 2.2 After 1♣ – 1♦

The 1♦ response is Polish style as are the responses. With a minimum balanced hand one should rebid the longer major, which can be 3 cards. Also note the 2♥-rebid, which is a Multi Reverse.

1♣ – 1♦ – ?

1♥/♠	Can be 3 or 5 cards if 15 – 17 bal. May be passed only with 0 – 3
1NT	18 – 20 balanced
2♣	13 – 17, 6+(5)♣
2♦	23+ bal. / GF
2♥	SGF, not 1-suiter or 6 – 4
2♠	18 – 20 5+♣ 4♦
2NT	Semiforcing 1-suiter
3♣	18 – 20, 6+♣
3x	Semiforcing, 6 – 4

After the 1NT rebid the same system as after opening 1NT is used with the certainty that a strong 2-suiter shown by responder is 10+ and at least 5 – 5. This is the only exception to responder having a 4-card major other than with 0 – 5 HCP.

After the 2♦ rebid, 2♥ is the relay bid, then: 2♠: GF 3-suited, 2NT = 23 – 25 NT (see the 2NT opening bid for further bidding), higher = natural and GF.

After the 2♥ rebid responder can relay with 2♠, after which opener describes naturally.

### 2.2.1 Responder's rebid

With a GF balanced hand rebid 2NT. With the 2-suiters rebid on the 3-level:

3♣	♣ + ♥/♠
3♦	♦ + ♥
3♥	♥ + ♠
3♠	♠ + ♦

The lower rebids are natural and weak.

### 2.3 After 1♣ – 1♥/♠

The 1♥/♠-response inverts the major suit responses after the opening bid of 1♣/♦. The two main advantages of this approach are

- The stronger hand, opener, will play more often. This is especially true for 1♦ where 1♥/♠ may be bid on 0 HCP, but also for 1♣ which may include a very strong balanced hand.
- If you bid 1♠ to show ♥ the opponents have one less bid available to show ♠, on the other hand after 1♥ showing ♠ they have one extra bid, but in this case we have the master suit.

After the response of 1♥, 1♠ shows 4 cards in ♥, completing the inversion. A 2♦-rebid shows a GF hand with at least 3-card support (Odwrotka), otherwise bid naturally:

1♣ – 1♥(♠) – ?

1♠	13+, 4♥ unbalanced, F1R
1NT	15 – 18 <sup>-</sup> balanced, no 4♠(♥)
2♣	13 – 17, 6(5)+ ♣
2♦	GF, 3+card support
2♥(♠)	GF unbal. no 3-card support
2♠(♥)	minimum, 3/4-card support
2NT	18+ – 20 / 23+ bal. no 4♠(♥)
3♣	Invite, 6♣ + 3-card support
3♦	GF, 6+♣ + 4♦
3♥(♠)	GF, 6+♣ + 4♥(♠)
3♠(♥)	Invite, 4-card support
3NT	Solid ♣ with stoppers
4♣	GF, 5♣ 4♠(♥) 2 2

### 2.3.1 After 1NT rebid

2♦ is to play, 2♣ is Checkback, after which opener shows his strength and support:

2♦	minimum, no 3-card support
2M	minimum, 3-card support
2oM	maximum, 3-card support
2NT	maximum, no 3-card support

### 2.3.2 Responder has a 6-card major

With a 6-card major in response to 1♣ and opener's unbalanced rebid, with 6 – 9 HCP or so make a simple rebid after making a reverse major bid. A jump to the shown major is GF (for example 1♣ – 1♥ – 2♣ – 3♠).

### 2.3.3 Bubrotka

In the sequence 1♣ – 1♥/♠ – 2♦, opener shows a GF hand and at least 3-card support of partner's major. Partner will now bid like this:

2♥	6 – 9, 4 cards
2♠	10 <sup>+</sup> , 4 cards
2NT	10 <sup>+</sup> , 5 <sup>+</sup> cards
3♣♦	8 – 11, 5 <sup>+</sup> card + 4M
3♥	6 – 9, 5♥ unbal.
3♠	6 – 9, 5♥332
3NT	6 – 9, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♥
4♣♦	Splinter

After the response to the relay, opener continues naturally. This is especially useful to find a 4 – 4 fit in the other major.

### 2.4 1♣ – 1M – 2M

This shows an unbalanced GF hand with less than 3 cards in partner's major. It also denies a 6 – 4 distribution or solid ♣. After this responder will describe his hand without much extra strength, or ask opener to do so with a 2NT relay, which shows slam interest.

### 2.5 After 1♣ – 1NT

After the 1NT rebid opener can bid naturally, or ask what responder has with the 2♦ Relay. Responses to the relay:

2♥	5♣
2♠	5♦
2NT	4333
3♣	4 – 4 minors

### 2.6 After 1♣ – 2NT

Opener will usually relay with 3♣ after which responder transfers to his major, or bids 3♠ with both minors. Other rebids by opener are natural and show extreme shapes.

## 3 1♦ opening bid

The opening bid 1♦ shows an unbalanced hand with at least 4 cards in Diamonds. It includes 4441-hands with any shortness except ♦, and may include hands with 4♦ 5♣ if the ♣ suit is bad. 1♦ is unlimited and forcing.

### 3.1 Responses to 1♦

In contrast to the responses to the other opening bids, the responses 2♣/♦ are not forcing to game but since fewer possible final contracts have to be considered this is not a problem. Notice the Bergen-style 3♣-response that covers the gap between the preemptive 3♦ and the inverted 2♦.

1♥	0 <sup>+</sup> 4 <sup>+</sup> ♠, longer minor possible
1♠	0 <sup>+</sup> 4 <sup>+</sup> ♥, longer minor possible
1NT	0 – 8, no 4-card major
2♣	Inv <sup>+</sup> , 5(4) <sup>+</sup> ♣
2♦	Inv <sup>+</sup> , 4 <sup>+</sup> ♦
2♥	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♥
2♠	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♠
2NT	9 – 10, bal.
3♣	6 – 8, 4 <sup>+</sup> ♦
3♦	0 – 5, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♦
3NT	11 – 13 bal.

### 3.2 After 1♦ – 1♥/♠

There is a difference here to the responses to 1♣ in that there is no lower limit to the 1♥/♠ responses. Also, if you have a less than invitational hand with 5♥ and 4♠ you should respond 1♥. However, the 1NT rebid has become free because opener denies a balanced hand. 1NT now shows any hand worth 18+ that cannot be bid in any other way.

1♦ – 1♥(♠) – ?

1♠	13 – 20, 4♥
1NT	18+ any distribution
2♣	13 – 17, 5+4+ minors
2♦	13 – 17, 6(5)+♦
2♥(♠)	18 – 20, 6+♦ 4♥(♠)
2♠(♥)	13 – 17, 4(3)-card support
2NT	18 – 20, semisolid ♦
3♣	15 – 17, 5 – 5
3♦	18 – 20, 6♦ and 3-card support
3♠(♥)	18 – 20, 4-card support
3NT	Solid ♣ with stoppers

After the 1NT rebid a weak responder can either bid 2♦ which just confirms 0 – 5 HCP but says nothing about ♦, or rebid his major naturally. The third option is to rebid 2♥ after showing ♠ with 1♥, this shows 5♥ 4♠. Over a weak response opener can force to game by bidding 2NT.

With enough values to force to game responder can bid a Checkback-like 2♣ or naturally higher than 2 of his major.

#### 3.2.1 Responder has a 6-card major

With a 6-card major in response to 1♦ and opener's rebid, with 0 – 6 HCP make a simple rebid after making a reverse major bid. This will be a signoff as partner did not rebid 1NT. A jump to the 3-level is GF. The inbetween hand would have jumped to 2♥/♠ right away.

### 3.3 After 1♦ – 1NT

1NT shows 0 – 8 without a 4-card major or a suitable hand to raise directly. It may

be passed, which will normally show a near-minimum hand without 6♦ or 4♣. With 13 – 20 opener will either rebid 2♣ or 2♦. With SemiGF hands opener can choose between 4 natural bids: 2♥, 2♠, 3♣ and 3♦. 2NT is a general GF hand, 3♥/♠ shows both minors and a splinter in the bid major.

### 3.4 After 1♦ – 2♣

This sequence is invitational or better, opener will describe if he is minimum or not. The 2♥-rebid is another Multi Reverse.

1♦ – 2♣ – ?

2♦	Possibly minimum, 5+♦
2♥	a) GF ♣-support b) GF 3-suited short ♣ c) GF 5+♦ + 4♥
2♠	GF 5+♦ + 4♠
2NT	Minimum short ♣
3♣	Minimum ♣ support
3♦	GF, decent 6+♦

After the 2♦ rebid responder can invite with either 3♣ or 3♦, anything else forces to game. After the Multi-Reverse 2♥, 2♠ is an optional relay after which opener describes his hand naturally. Instead responder can bid naturally if he thinks describing is better than asking.

### 3.5 After higher responses

1♦ – 2♦ shows an invitational hand or better with ♦-support. To show a minimum, opener bids 3♦.

After the invitational jump shifts in a major, the cheapest response is a relay asking for a shortness, 1♦ – 2♥ – 2NT shows 4-card ♠. Raising the major shows a fit and slam interest.

## 4 1♥/♠ opening bids

The opening bids 1♥ and 1♠ show at least 5 cards in the bid suit and are unlimited and forcing. A 2/1 GF structure with Kaplan inversion is used and in this case the forcing character of the opening bid is largely ignored.

A Bergen type raise structure is used but any other structure may be inserted to the preference of the user.

### 4.1 Responses to 1♥

- 1♠ a) 0 – 10, <5♠, F1R, 3♥ possible  
b) 14 – 16 balanced
- 1NT 0<sup>+</sup>, 5<sup>+</sup>♠, forcing
- 2♣ GF, 5<sup>+</sup>♣
- 2♦ GF, 5<sup>+</sup>♦
- 2♥ 6 – 8, 3<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♠ 11 – 13 / 17<sup>+</sup> balanced
- 2NT 12<sup>+</sup>, 4<sup>+</sup>♥
- 3♣ 9 – 11, 4<sup>+</sup>♥
- 3♦ 6 – 8, 4<sup>+</sup>♥
- 3♥ 0 – 5, 4<sup>+</sup>♥
- 3♠ Slam try, any void
- 3NT Slam try, singleton ♠
- 4♣♦ Slam try, singleton
- 4♥ Preemptive

### 4.2 Responses to 1♠

- 1NT a) 0 – 10, F1R, 3♠ possible  
b) 14 – 16 balanced
- 2♣ GF, 5<sup>+</sup>♣
- 2♦ GF, 5<sup>+</sup>♦
- 2♥ GF, 5<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♠ 6 – 8, 3<sup>+</sup>♠
- 2NT 11 – 13 / 17<sup>+</sup> balanced
- 3♣ 12<sup>+</sup>, 4<sup>+</sup>♠
- 3♦ 9 – 11, 4<sup>+</sup>♠
- 3♥ 6 – 8, 4<sup>+</sup>♠
- 3♠ 0 – 5, 4<sup>+</sup>♠
- 3NT Slam try, any void
- 4♣♦♥ Slam try, singleton
- 4♠ Preemptive

## 4.3 Forcing 1NT/1♠

The cheapest response to the 1♥/♠-opening is the forcing NT. After 1♥ Kaplan inversion is in place so 1♠ is the forcing NT which can have 4 cards in ♠. In both cases the bid can be 0 HCP and includes bad and invitational hands with 3-card support. After 1♥ – 1♠ and 1♠ – 1NT, Gazilli is used to sort out the different hand types.

1♥ – 1♠ – ?

- 1NT 13 – 17, 5♥ 4♠
- 2♣ 18<sup>+</sup> or 13 – 17, 5♥ 4<sup>+</sup>♣
- 2♦ 13 – 17, 5♥ 4<sup>+</sup>♦
- 2♥ 13 – 17, 6<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♠ 18 – 20, 6<sup>+</sup>♥ 4<sup>+</sup>♠

1♠ – 1NT – ?

- 2♣ 18<sup>+</sup> or 13 – 17, 5♠ 4<sup>+</sup>♣
- 2♦ 13 – 17, 5♠ 4<sup>+</sup>♦
- 2♥ 13 – 17, 5♠ 4<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♠ 13 – 17, 6<sup>+</sup>♠

#### 4.3.1 Higher rebids

- 2NT 18<sup>+</sup>, 6 – 4 or 5 – 5 with minor
- 3♣♦(♥) 15 – 17, 5 – 5
- 3M 18 – 20, semisolid suit

## 4.4 Kaplan Inversion

The sequence 1♥ – 1NT shows 5<sup>+</sup>♠ and is forcing for 1 round. After this Gazilli is in use also:

1♥ – 1NT – ?

- 2♣ 18<sup>+</sup> or 13 – 17, 5♥ 4<sup>+</sup>♣
- 2♦ 13 – 17, 5♥ 4<sup>+</sup>♦
- 2♥ 13 – 17, 6<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♠ 13 – 17, 3<sup>+</sup>♠
- 2NT 18<sup>+</sup>, 6 – 4 or 5 – 5 with minor
- 3♣♦ 15 – 17, 5 – 5
- 3♥ 18 – 20, semisolid suit

## 4.5 Gazilli

Gazilli is used in the three different auctions where opener opens a major and responder bids on the 1-level. Opener's 2♣ rebid now shows either a 13 – 17 HCP hand with 4<sup>+</sup>♣ or any 18<sup>+</sup> hand that can not be bid any other way.

Responder's 2♦ rebid now shows 6<sup>+</sup> HCP without fit and forces to game opposite the strong variation. Other rebids except for 3M show 0 – 5 HCP:

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – ?

2♥ 0 – 5, 2<sup>+</sup>♥  
2♠ 0 – 5, 3-suited short ♥  
2NT 0 – 5, 5<sup>+</sup>♣ 5<sup>+</sup>♦  
3♣♦ 0 – 5, 6<sup>+</sup>card  
3♥ Invite, 3♥

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – ?

2♥ 0 – 5, 2<sup>+</sup>♥  
2♠ 0 – 5, 6<sup>+</sup>♠  
2NT 0 – 5, 3-suited short ♥  
3♣♦ 0 – 5, 5♠ 5<sup>+</sup>card  
3♥ Invite, 3♥

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – ?

2♥ 0 – 5, 5<sup>+</sup>♥  
2♠ 0 – 5, 2<sup>+</sup>♠  
2NT 0 – 5, 3-suited short ♠  
3♣♦ 0 – 5, 6<sup>+</sup>card  
3♠ Invite, 3♠

After the 2♦ relay, rebidding the major shows the weak variation with 4<sup>+</sup>♣, the other rebids are natural and GF. A Jump to 3♥ after opening 1♠ shows a 5 – 5 hand. A rebid of 3NT shows 21 – 23 HCP and a balanced hand, creating a non-continuous range for the 2NT rebid.

## 4.6 2-suited 2NT rebid

After the sequences 1♥ – 1♠ and 1♥/♠ – 1NT the 2NT rebid shows a 2-suited hand with major and minor, either 5 – 5 or 6 – 4.

Partner can bid a forcing but not GF relay, 3♣ then:

3♦ 6M + 4♦  
3♥ 6M + 4♣  
3♠ 5M + 5♦  
3NT 5M + 5♣  
4♣♦ 6M + 4m GF

## 4.7 2 over 1 GF

The scheme for 2 over 1 GF hands is taken from Fred Gitelman's "Improving 2/1 GF". A new suit on the two-level shows a real suit and is game forcing. Different bids are available with balanced hands or hands with 4-card support. After a two over one, 2 of the opened major is the waiting bid and may be made on a minimum without a biddable suit.

## 4.8 Higher responses

2M+1 shows a balanced GF hand, 2M+2 is Jacoby, the other two suit jumpshifts are Bergen style. 3 of the opened major is a preempt, there are splinters in 3 suits, showing a singleton. With a void bid 3M+1, then partner can ask for the void.

### 4.8.1 Jacoby 2NT

Here we use step responses for the first 4 steps:

Step 1 Any minimum (see also 4M)  
Step 2 Balanced, 18<sup>+</sup>  
Step 3 5-card M, extra's  
Step 4 6-card M, no shortness, extra's  
4M 6-card major, no shortness, min.

The other three bids shows at least 6 trumps, extra's and a shortness in the bid suit, where 1♥ – 2NT – 3NT shows a ♠ shortness.

After the cheapest bid showing any minimum, the cheapest response from responder is an asking bid, asking partner to describe. Then partner bids the same as his direct bid, except that he shows a minimum, for example 4♦ would show 6<sup>+</sup> trumps and a ♦ shortness.

## 5 1NT opening bid

Opening 1NT shows 12 – 14 HCP and approximately balanced. It may include a 5-card major, even 5M422 hands.

An overview of the responses to 1NT:

- 2♣ NF Stayman
- 2♦ Asks for 2-card major
- 2♥♠ To play
- 2NT Weak both minors or slam try 1/2 minors
- 3♣♦ To play
- 3♥ 3♥ + Short ♠, GF
- 3♠ 3♠ + Short ♥, GF
- 3NT To play
- 4♣ Slam interest in ♥
- 4♦ Slam interest in ♠
- 4♥♠ To play
- 4NT Quantitative

### 5.1 NF Stayman

Stayman is bid on invitational hands or better, with or without a 4-card major, or with weak hands that plan to sign off on the 2-level. Also invitational hands with a long minor go over Stayman. The responses are normal:

- 2♦ No 4-card major
- 2♥ 4<sup>+</sup>♥, can have 4♠
- 2♠ 4<sup>+</sup>♠, no 4♥

After 2♦:

- 2♥ Pass or bid 2♠
- 2♠ Invite 5♠ 4♥
- 2NT Invite to 3NT
- 3♣♦ Invite long suit
- 3♦ 5 – 5 majors invite
- 3♥♠ GF 5<sup>+</sup>card + 4-card other major

After 2♥:

- 2♠ Invite for 3NT or GF with ♥
- 2NT Invite for 3NT with 4♠
- 3♣♦ Invite long suit
- 3♥ Invite for 4♥
- 3♠ Slam try with 4♠
- 4♣♦ Splinter
- 4♥♠ To play

After 2♠:

- 2NT Invite for 3NT
- 3♣♦ Invite long suit
- 3♥ GF with ♠
- 3♠ Invite for 4♠
- 4♣♦ Splinter
- 4♥♠ To play

### 5.2 Doubleton Major Relay

This relay is used to find 5 – 3 fits in a major. It is especially useful since if no fit is found, it is possible to stop on the 2-level, an advantage not available with transfers. The relay promises game interest if a fit is found. The responses are:

- 2♥ Doubleton ♥
- 2♠ Doubleton ♠
- 2NT Minimum, 3<sup>+</sup>♥ 3<sup>+</sup>♠
- 3♣♦ Max., 3<sup>+</sup>♥ 3<sup>+</sup>♠, 4<sup>+</sup>card
- 3♥♠ Max., 5 – 3 in majors
- 3NT Maximum, 4333

After 2♥/♠, responder can bid a new minor naturally and GF, invite to either major by bidding 3♥/♠, or invite without a fit with 2NT. The sequence 1NT – 2♦ – 2♥ – 2♠ shows 4♠ + 5♥ and an invitational hand. 4♣/♦ is a splinter confirming the 5<sup>+</sup> 3<sup>+</sup> fit.

After 2NT, 3♣ confirms ♥ as trumps, 3♦ confirms ♠, 3♥/♠ is to play. If partner shows a maximum and a fit by bidding 3♣/♦, 3♥/♠ is a slam try and shows the fit.

### 5.3 Higher responses

After 1NT – 2NT, opener bids his better minor. After this, 4♣/♦ is a slam try in that suit. 3♥/♠ shows both minors and a shortness in the bid suit. The suit picked by opener is set as trumps.

After 1NT – 4♣/♦ opener confirms slam interest by bidding the intermediate bid or can start a Kickback ace asking sequence himself if his hand is suitable.

## 6 2-level opening bids

The 2-level opening bids are the cornerstone of the system. These show approximately 9 – 12 HCP and at least a 5-card suit which need not be of good quality. Unbalanced hands in this range are usually always opened with a 2-bid. This makes them very frequent and although quite imprecise it puts even more pressure on the opponents.

The cheapest bid is always a relay, asking for minimum or maximum and distribution. The other responses may not be natural in some cases to save space.

### 6.1 Responses to 2♣

2♦	Relay, invite <sup>+</sup>
2♥	NF, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥
2♠	NF, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠
2NT	Inv. 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠ 4 <sup>+</sup> ♥
3♣	Preemptive
3♦♥♠	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> card

### 6.2 Responses to 2♦

2♥	Relay, invite <sup>+</sup>
2♠	F1R, 4 <sup>+</sup> ♠
2NT	Inv <sup>+</sup> ♣ or (GF 1 or 2 5crd M)
3♣	Inv. 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠ 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥
3♦	Preemptive
3♥♠	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> card

After 2NT, 3♣ is negative and 3♦ is positive for ♣. One major is shown by bidding it, both majors is shown by rebidding 3NT.

### 6.3 Responses to 2♥

2♠	Relay, invite <sup>+</sup>
2NT	Invite <sup>+</sup> , 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠
3♣♦	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> card
3♥	Preemptive
3♠	GF, 6 <sup>+</sup> card

### 6.4 Responses to 2♠

2NT	Relay, invite <sup>+</sup>
3♣	5 <sup>+</sup> ♥, invite <sup>+</sup>
3♦	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> card
3♥	GF, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♣
3♠	Preemptive

### 6.5 After the relay

Responses to the relay can be kept simple:

- After 2♣ – 2♦: bid the better major, can be 3 cards if ♣ can not be rebid, 3♣ shows minimum with 6 cards and 2NT maximum with 6 cards.
- After 2♦ – 2♥: 2♠ shows a minimum with 4 cards in either major. With a maximum, bid 3 of the major. 3♦ again is a minimum with 6 cards.
- After 2♥ – 2♠: 3♥ again is a 6-card minimum, bid a 4-card minor if you have one, 2NT may or may not include 4♠.
- After 2♠ – 2NT: a new suit is natural but may be 3 cards if maximum.

### 6.6 Passed hand bidding

In third seat the opening bids are very wide-ranged, in principle 0 – 13 but vulnerable some values will always be present. The relay is now 2NT and is only bid on hands that have a fit for partner. Other bids are in principle fit showing and are either natural or lead directing.

In fourth seat the opening bids are more sound than in other seats, about 10 – 13 HCP. After these bids the original system is on again.



## 7 2NT opening bid

This is a very strong 2NT opening bid and should only be used on real balanced hands, all other bids are handled by the 1-level opening bids. It denies a 5-card major.

- 3♣ Strong Stayman
- 3♦♥ Transfer
- 3♠ To play 3NT or RKCB minors  
After 3NT: 4♣/♦ = RKCB
- 3NT 5♠ + 4♥ NF

In Strong Stayman, the 3NT rebid by opener shows 4 – 4 in the majors.

## 8 After interference

After an overcall or double we no longer have the obligation to respond but we can do so with quite weak hands, using the fact that opener must have at least a Queen over a standard minimum opening bid (even a King more if responder is a passed hand).

### 8.1 2<sup>nd</sup> seat doubles

After a double of 1 of a suit transfers are on:

1♣ (Dbl) ?

- 1♦ 4+♥
- 1♥ 4+♠
- 1♠ Balanced
- 1NT Both minors
- 2♣ NF 5+♣
- 2♦♥♠ Weak jump

1♦ (Dbl) ?

- 1♥ 4+♠ (as without interference)
- 1♠ 4+♥ (as without interference)
- 2♣ NF 5+♣

After 1♥/♠ the transfers are on from 1NT upwards:

1♥ (Dbl) ?

- 1NT 5+♣
- 2♣ 5+♦
- 2♦ Good ♥ raise
- 2♥ Bad ♥ raise

## 8.2 Overcalls after 1♣

In principle assume that 1♣ shows a balanced hand and not a real suit, as this will be the case most of the time. Unlike after the other opening bids, there are no fit showing jumps or fit showing cuebids.

### 8.2.1 1♦ overcall

Double shows at least 4 cards in both majors. 1♥/♠ are reversed as without interference. 2♦ shows at least 5 cards in both majors, either weak or strong. Jump bids are weak.

### 8.2.2 1♥ overcall

After an overcall of 1♥ the bids double and 1♠ are reversed. Dbl shows 4+♠ and 1♠ shows less than 4 cards and no good bid. 2♥ shows a 2-suiter with ♠ and a minor, 2NT shows both minors.

### 8.2.3 1♠ overcall

2♠ shows a 2-suiter with ♥ and a minor, 2NT shows both minors.

### 8.2.4 1NT overcall

Here we defend as if RHO had opened a weak notrump opening bid.

### 8.2.5 Two-level overcalls

Double is negative. A new suit without jump is forcing, a new suit with jump is preemptive. If the overcall was 2♦ or higher, 2NT is no longer natural but Lebensohl.

## 8.3 Overcalls after 1♦♥♠

The general strategy after these natural opening bids is to show a fit with many possible bids, Robson - Segal style.

### 8.3.1 Natural overcalls without jump

- 2NT shows an invitational hand with fit
- A bid in opponent's suit shows a GF hand with fit
- A new suit without jump is forcing
- $1\heartsuit$  ( $1\heartsuit$ )  $2\spadesuit$  is a weak jump
- Fit jumps on the 3-level and higher
- Lebensohl is on after jump overcalls on the 2-level

After an  $1\heartsuit$ -overcall after  $1\heartsuit$  the bids Double and  $1\spadesuit$  are reversed as after  $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit$ .

### 8.3.2 1NT overcall

Double is for penalty, a bid on the 2-level is natural and NF.

### 8.3.3 Jump overcalls on the 2-level

2NT is Lebensohl, a cuebid in opponent's suit is GF with fit.

## 9 Defensive bidding

If opponents open, the following methods are played:

### 9.1 Against natural 1-bids

- Overcalling a new suit without a jump is natural. On the 1-level can be quite light, on the 2-level it must be a good hand or a good suit.
- Double is for take out. This may also include hands that are too strong to overcall, but a maximum overcall can be quite strong.

- 2-suiters: A simple cue bid in their suit shows a two-suiter with the highest unbid suit and another unbid suit, 2NT shows the two lowest unbid suits. These bids are either preemptive or strong, the exact strength depends on the vulnerability; at unfavorable vulnerability there is no gap between the two types.
- An 1NT overcall shows exactly four cards in an/the unbid major, and at least 5 cards in an/the unbid minor, and the strength of a normal overcall.

### 9.1.1 After we overcall

After we overcall and third seat passes or doubles, we play transfer advances: Bids between the cuebid and the simple raise in our suit are transfers, where the transfer to our suit shows a fit, too strong for a simple raise.

If we overcall 1 of a major and third seat doubles, the transfers start at 1NT, with the transfer to opener's suit being the forcing raise, the transfer to our suit the normal raise, and a simple raise very weak.

News suits that can not be shown with a transfer are forcing for one round, except when we bid at the 2-level and third seat did not pass. A jump in a new suit is a fit jump.

An example situation:

$(1\heartsuit) 1\spadesuit$ (Pass) ?

1NT	Natural
$2\clubsuit$	$5+\clubsuit$ , forcing
$2\heartsuit$	Transfer to $\heartsuit$
$2\heartsuit$	Forcing $\spadesuit$ raise
$2\spadesuit$	Simple $\spadesuit$ raise

$(1\heartsuit) 1\spadesuit$ (Pass) ?

1NT	$5+\clubsuit$
$2\clubsuit$	Forcing $\spadesuit$ raise
$2\heartsuit$	Transfer to $\heartsuit$
$2\heartsuit$	Simple $\spadesuit$ raise
$2\spadesuit$	Bad $\spadesuit$ raise

### 9.1.2 Raptor 1NT

This shows a 4-card major and a 5-card major and about 8 – 14 points. With too much playing strength overcall your minor and then reverse into your major. In response, 2NT shows a forcing raise in the known suit and the cuebid asks partner for the unknown suit. Bidding an unknown minor is pass or correct, but bidding an unknown major is natural. In a table the response scheme looks like this:

(1♦) 1NT (Pass) ?

2♣	To play
2♦	Asks for major
2♥♠	Natural NF
2NT	Forcing, ♣ Fit
3♣	Preemptive

(1♠) 1NT (Pass) ?

2+♣♦	Pass or correct
2♥	Asks for minor
2♠	To play
2NT	Forcing, ♥ Fit

If opener's suit is a minor and 1NT is doubled, Pass asks partner to show his unknown major. Partner will redouble with ♥ and bid his known minor with ♠. Redoubling 1NT asks to play there.

### 9.1.3 Balancing

Actions could be a King short of the same action in direct seat. Doubler's partner should take this into account when responding. An 1NT overcall in balancing position is about 11 — 14 HCP over 1♣/♦, and the system after opening 1NT is on. Over 1♥/♠ it may show up to 16 HCP. System is off and the cue bid asks for 4 cards in the other major and strength.

## 9.2 Against 1NT

Against 1NT we play the Lionel defence, which applies against both weak and strong

NT, in direct and in balancing seat. In a sort table this is the defence:

(1NT) ?

Double	a) 2-suited with ♠
	b) Very strong
2♣	♣ + ♥
2♦	♦ + ♥
2♥♠	Natural

After the double, partner can sign off in 2♠ or scramble for the second suit with 2♣/♦. 2♥ is natural. A response of 2♠ or higher to 2♣ or of 2NT or higher to 2♦ shows the strong variation.

### 9.2.1 Weak and Strong NT

After a weak NT, the Lionel bids are constructive, showing desire to find a making contract or to explore game. Overcalling 2NT shows a strong balanced hand with about 19 – 21 HCP.

After a strong NT, the Lionel bids are destructive. Partner is not expected to explore game. A 2NT overcall shows both minors.

## 9.3 Against natural preempts

- Overcalls below 3NT in a suit or NT are natural
- Double is for take out, even after a 4♠-opening
- After Double of 2♦♥♠, Lebensohl applies
- Leaping Michael's applies with or without jump. A 3♣-opening is a special case: 4♣ shows ♦ + ♥/♠, 4♦ shows both majors.

## 9.4 Against strong openings

The general defence against opening bids that can only be strong and do not promise 4 cards in a known suit is Psycho Suction. All bids are preemptive and show one of two hand types:

$x\clubsuit$	$\clubsuit$ or $\diamond + \heartsuit$
$x\diamond$	$\diamond$ or $\heartsuit + \spadesuit$
$x\heartsuit$	$\heartsuit$ or $\spadesuit + \clubsuit$
$x\spadesuit$	$\spadesuit$ or $\clubsuit + \diamond$
$xNT$	$\clubsuit + \heartsuit$ or $\diamond + \spadesuit$

This defence applies against Benjamin 2-bids, strong 2NT, and against a strong  $1\clubsuit/\diamond$  for bids of 1NT and higher.

### 9.4.1 Doubles and 1-bids

A Double of a suit bid shows the doubled suit only. Doubling a strong 2NT shows the two two-suiters as a bid of 2NT would have shown. Bids on the 1-level after a strong  $1\clubsuit/\diamond$  are natural and mainly lead-directing.

### 9.4.2 Strong $1\clubsuit/\diamond$

After the negative response, the same defence applies. In 6<sup>th</sup> seat a bid shows a strong hand. These hands could not bid directly as direct bids show a weak hand. After a natural positive response, bid as if that was the opening bid.

## 9.5 Against artificial $1\clubsuit$

This includes all  $1\clubsuit$  opening bids that do not promise 3 cards in  $\clubsuit$  that are forcing or almost forcing, for example Dutch Doubleton, Polish Club and Swedish Club. It does not include standard systems where  $1\clubsuit$  might be just 2 cards but where  $1\diamond$  is not a negative response and  $1\clubsuit$  will possibly be passed.

In principle the same is played as after a strong  $1\clubsuit$  except that Double is take out for the majors and the 1-level bids are natural. 1NT and up is as before Psycho Suction.

## 9.6 Natural 2NT overcalls

In responding to a natural 2NT overcall, we play an improved Puppet Stayman with reversed  $3\heartsuit$  and 3NT responses. If the opponents have already bid a major, for example  $2\heartsuit/\spadesuit$ -opening, a transfer to their major shows slam-interest and is minor-oriented.

The responses to the improved Puppet Stayman:

$3\diamond$	4-card major no 5-card
$3\heartsuit$	No 4-card major
$3\spadesuit$	$5\spadesuit$
3NT	$5\heartsuit$

After  $3\diamond$ , responder bids the major he does not have, or  $4\clubsuit$  with both and slam interest,  $4\diamond$  with both without slam interest. Other responses to 2NT: The 3NT response to 2NT shows  $5\spadesuit + 4\heartsuit$  unless the opponents have shown a 5<sup>+</sup>card major.  $3\spadesuit$  is a transfer to 3NT for a minor suit slam try.

## 10 Ace Asking

When asking for Aces we use Roman Key Card Blackwood, but the bid that asks for aces depends on the set trump suit. If a minor is set as trumps, 4 of the agreed minor asks for key cards. If  $\spadesuit$  are set as trumps, 4NT asks for Key Cards. If  $\heartsuit$  are set as trumps,  $4\spadesuit$  asks for Key Cards (Kickback) unless  $\spadesuit$  are in the picture, in which case 4NT is still the Ace Asking bid. Some trouble sequences:

$1\spadesuit 2\heartsuit 2\spadesuit 4\heartsuit 4\spadesuit$ : RKC for  $\heartsuit$ ,  $4\heartsuit$  set trumps.

$1\spadesuit 2\heartsuit 3\heartsuit 4\spadesuit$ : Picture jump, not RKC.

The responses to Key Card ask are:

Step 1	1 or 4
Step 2	0 or 3
Step 3	2 (or 5), no trump Q
Step 4	2 (or 5), trump Q

If the trump Queen is not known, Step 1 asks for the Trump Queen. If the Queen is already known, this step is cancelled. The first non-Queen asking step asks for specific Kings.

## 10.1 Queen ask and specific Kings

The cheapest bid in the trump suit denies the trump Queen. Otherwise, the cheapest King is shown, where NT possibly replaces the King in the relay suit. The first impossible bid shows the trump Queen and no outside Kings. If only specific Kings are asked, the cheapest bid that is either trumps or impossible shows no outside Kings.

## 11 Special double situations

### 11.1 General agreements

Doubles are for take out unless defined otherwise. Some doubles may be 2-way when it is clear that they do not have a fit, for example:

(1♥) Pass (1NT) Pass (Pass) Dbl = Either TO with ♥ shortness or penalty with long ♥.

### 11.2 Reverse major interference

After we open 1♣/♦ and partner responds in a major (showing the other major), special situations arise. First after they double:

1♣/♦ (Pass) 1♥ (Dbl) ?

Pass: No ♥ stopper, no bid

Rdbl: 4-card ♥

1♠: 3-card ♠

Rest: As without interference

1♣/♦ (Pass) 1♠ (Dbl) ?

Pass: No 3-card ♥

Rdbl: 3-card ♥

Rest: As without interference

If they overcall below 2 of the shown major, Double is support for the shown major or a very strong hand without fit.

## 11.3 Game try doubles

If we have a fit and opponents bid in the suit directly below ours on the 3-level, Double is a game try, for example: 1♠(2♥) 2♠(3♥) Dbl

## 11.4 New in version 1.05

Fixed ranges of 2-level openings in FD file.

Opening 2NT shows 21 – 22 balanced.

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ is strong with ♥, not a weak 5431. A jump to 3♥ shows 5 – 5 GF.

After Gazilli and a 2♦ positive response, a 3NT rebid from opener shows 21 – 23 balanced.

After 1♣ – 1♦, 2♥ is a general SGF hand that not a 1-suiter or 6 – 4. 2♠ shows 5♣ + 4♦ and 18 – 20. A jump to a new suit on the 3-level shows a SGF and 6 – 4 distribution.

## 11.5 New in version 1.10

Added "Improving 2/1 GF".

Bubrotka after 1♣ – 1♥/♠ – 2♦.

New responses to 1NT.

Added Splinters after 1♥/♠.

Added Ace Asking.

Added Special double situations.