

OPENER'S SUIT REBIDS 'ABOVE THE BARRIER'

OPENER REBIDS A NEW SUIT - POINT RANGE 12-15 OR 16-19*?

* This is intentionally simplified for beginners. For a fuller description see the handout [Opener's Rebid in a Third Suit](#).

In general, opener's jump rebids show 16-19 points.

ALSO any **new suit** rebid that is *higher than opener's first suit at the next level up* shows 16-19 points.

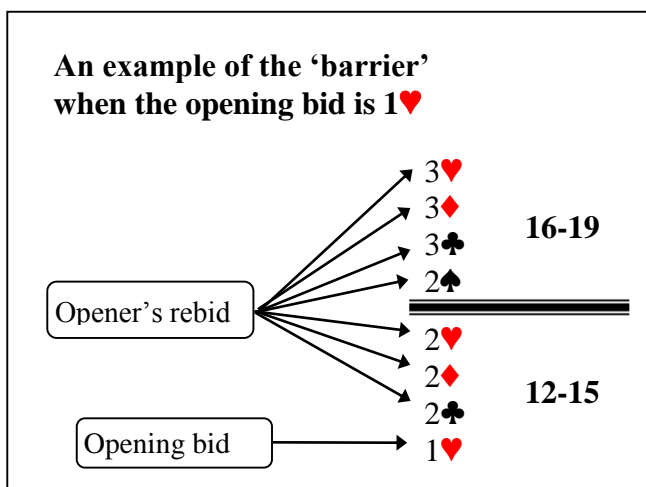
1♥ 2♣ shows 12-15 points

2♦

but

1♥ 2♣ shows 16-19 points

2♠



Imagine a 'barrier' just above your first suit at the next level up. Any **new** suit rebid above the barrier shows 16-19 points. In the example above the opening is 1♥ so the barrier is between the 2♥ and 2♠ rebids.

Any opener's rebid of a new suit above the barrier is **forcing**. All other opener's rebids are not forcing.

Why does the opener need extra values to bid above the barrier? Consider the following hands:

West		East
♠ 7		♠ A Q 6 3
♥ K 8 6 5	12	♥ 10 4
♦ Q J 10 4 2		♦ 9 7 5
♣ A Q 5		♣ 8 4 3 2

West has a 2 suited hand and is hoping to be able to show both his suits.

✗	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>→ 2♥</td> <td>pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South	1♦	pass	1♠	pass	→ 2♥	pass	3♦		<p>If West rebids 2♥ after East's 1♠ response then East will have to go to the 3 level to show preference for West's first suit, diamonds.</p> <p>With only 18 points between the two hands the level is now too high and we won't make 9 tricks.</p>
West	North	East	South											
1♦	pass	1♠	pass											
→ 2♥	pass	3♦												
✓	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>→ 2♦</td> <td>pass</td> <td>pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South	1♦	pass	1♠	pass	→ 2♦	pass	pass		<p>With only 12 points West must not bid his second suit "above the barrier". He should simply rebid his first suit.</p>
West	North	East	South											
1♦	pass	1♠	pass											
→ 2♦	pass	pass												

Here are some examples showing opener's expected point range.

Remember that opener only shows as stronger than minimum hand if he **jumps** (in any suit) or bids a **new suit** above the barrier.

1♥ 2♥	1♠	Opener has 12-15 points. After the 1♠ responding bid the 2♥ rebid is not a jump and not a new suit.
1♥ 2♠	1♠	Opener has 12-15 points. Not a jump and not a new suit (same suit as responder bid).
1♥ 3♣	2♣	Even though the bidding has reached the 3 level, opener still has only 12-15 points. Not a jump and not a new suit (same suit as responder bid).
1♠ 2♥	2♦	Opener has 12-15 points. It is a new suit but it is not 'Above the Barrier'. (After a 1♠ opening the 'Barrier' level is 2♠.)
1♥ 2♦	2♣	Opener has 12-15 points. It is a new suit but it is not 'Above the Barrier' (After a 1♥ opening the 'Barrier' level is 2♥.)
1♥ 2♠	2♣	Opener has 16+ points. It is not a jump BUT a) Opener has bid a new suit that neither side has bid and b) It is 'Above the Barrier' (After a 1♥ opening the 'Barrier' level is 2♥)
1♥ 3♣	2♦	Opener has 16+ points. It is not a jump BUT a) Opener has bid a new suit that neither side has bid and b) It is 'Above the Barrier' (After a 1♥ opening the 'Barrier' level is 2♥)

In the last two examples, if opener had only 12-15 points he simply rebids his first suit and is unable to show the 2nd suit.