

OPENING BID OF 1NT

A 1NT opening bid shows **12-14** points and a **balanced** hand.

Note: With 12-14, a balanced hand and a **5 card major suit** open one of the major. With 12-14, a balanced hand and a **5 card minor** open 1NT.

RESPONDING TO AN OPENING BID OF 1NT

The most important thing is to decide whether or not you have enough points to make a game in a No Trumps (i.e. 3NT). Don't forget you get a bonus of 300 for bidding and making game. But if you don't have at least 25 points between you and your partner, then you want to keep the bidding as low as possible.

Responding to 1NT with a balanced hand

Points	Bid	Category	Comments
0-10	Pass	Sign Off	You know your partnership has less than 25 points.
11-12	2NT	Limit/Invitational	Asks partner to rebid 3NT with 14 points, otherwise to pass.
13-18	3NT	Sign Off	You know your partnership has enough for game but not enough for slam (33+)

Responding To 1NT With An Unbalanced Hand (Or Balanced With A Five Card Suit)

When your longest suit is a major suit:

Points	Length of Suit	Bid	Category	Comments
0-10	5+	2♥ or 2♠	Sign Off	After opener's 1NT, with a weak hand and a 5+ card suit it is better to play in a suit contract.
11-18	5	3♥ or 3♠	Forcing	Asks partner to rebid 3NT with 2 cards in the same suit, or 4♥/♠ with 3 or 4 cards. Partner must not pass.
11-18	6+	4♥ or 4♠	Sign Off	You are guaranteed an 8 card fit so can bid game directly. You know your partnership has enough for game but not enough for slam (33+).

When your longest suit is a minor suit:

Points	Bid	Category	Comments
0-10	2♦	Sign Off	After opener's 1NT, with a weak hand and a 5+ card suit it is better to play in trumps. However 2♣ is a conventional bid (Stayman), so if you have a weak hand with 5+ clubs you must pass.
11-12	2NT	Limit/ Invitational	Asks partner to rebid 3NT with 14 points, otherwise to pass. With a minor suit and a good hand it is better to play in NT.
13-18	3NT	Sign Off	You have enough for game but not enough for slam (33+). With a minor suit and a good hand it is better to play in NT.

OPENER'S REBID AFTER YOU HAVE OPENED 1NT

If you open 1NT (12-14 balanced), your next bid is easy... it is normally 'PASS'. Notice that almost all of the responses to 1NT are **Sign Off** bids. That means **DO NOT BID AGAIN**.

Here are the exceptions:

Opener's Rebid After Invitational Or Forcing Response		
1NT ?	2NT	Rebid 3NT with 14 points otherwise pass
1NT ?	3♥ or 3♠	Rebid 3NT with only two of partner's suit Rebid 4♥ or 4♠ with three+ in partner's suit

FOOTNOTE

Responding 3♥ or 3♠ after a 1NT opening.

Since this bid is forcing to game it maybe best to only use it with 13+ points. The problem is that there is no bid in between 2♥ and 3♥ (or spades) to show an invitational hand (11-12) with 5 of the major!

When you learn Transfers you will find that the invitational hand (11-12) with 5 of the major can be precisely described, but until then and for the sake of simplicity I have shown the 3♥ and 3♠ responses to 1NT under the 11+ range in all the No Fear Bridge resources.

Alternatively, by partnership agreement, you can use Stayman to show this kind of hand. If partner has your major there is no problem. If partner denies your major, bid your suit at the three level. This shows you have exactly 5 cards and 11-12 points. Partner chooses the best bid or can pass.