

Photo by willbot studios from Pexels

ULTIMATE FORCING (BRIDGE) OPENINGS

1 • Opening = forcing, totally artificial, 17-up hcp

1 ♦ Response = 0-11 hcp [higher responses = 12-up hcp, natural]

1 Major Rebid = 17-22 hcp, 4-card or longer suit

1NT Rebid = 18-20 hcp balanced*

2 minor Rebid = 17-20 hcp, 5-card or longer suit

2 Major Rebid = 23-up hcp, 4-card or longer suit, forcing

2NT Rebid = 23-24 hcp balanced*

 $3 - \sqrt{3}$ Rebid = 21/23-up hcp, 6-card or longer suit

3NT Rebid = $8^{-1/2}$ to 10 running tricks, all suits stopped

♠ K2
 ♠ J10983
 ♠ AK
 ♠ Q106
 ♠ AK95

♣ AKQJ83 ♣ 72

1 • 1 •

3NT 4 ♦ cue bid

4♥ cue bid 5♦ cue bid

Opening = forcing, promising 4 or more Diamonds or a balanced hand*

1 Response = 0-11 hcp [higher responses = 12-up hcp, natural]

1♠ Rebid = 12-16 hcp, 3 Spades, both minors

1NT Rebid = 15-17 hcp balanced*

2 minor Rebid = 12-16 hcp, natural

2 Major Rebid = 21-up hcp, 3 card suit, both minors

2NT Rebid = 21-22 hcp balanced*

3 minor Rebid = 21-22 hcp, natural

 $3 \heartsuit$, $3 \spadesuit$ and 3NT = Splinters – both minors, 11 tricks

1♠ Response = 12-up hcp, 4-card or longer Spade suit

1NT Response = 12-up hcp, balanced

2 - 12 Response = 12-up hcp, 5-card/4-card minor suit

2 ♥ Response = 12-up hcp, 5-card or longer Heart suit

1 Major Opening = 11-16 hcp, 4-card or longer suit

1NT Response forcing (game forcing if Responder rebids a new suit)
2NT "Raise" of Forcing NT = 15-16 hcp, 4 cards in other Major

2 over 1 Nonforcing = 8-11 hcp (or 12-13 if 2♠ over 1♥)

2NT/higher jump shifts= transfers, 12-13 hcp (transfer raise game forcing)

1 **♠** 1NT [8-up hcp]

 $2 \spadesuit$ or $3 \spadesuit = 14$ -up hcp, game forcing

 $2 - \sqrt{3} = 8 - 11/12 - 13$, 3-card support

$$2NT = 12-13 \text{ hcp}$$

 $3 = 10-11$

Direct Raises of Opener's 1 of a Major opening = 4-card support

Single Raise = 6-9 points

Jump Raise = 10-11 points limit raise

Jump shift transfer = game-forcing raise

Indirect Raises promise 3-card support

1 ♥ 1 ♠; 1NT Rebid by Opener shows 3 Spades

1NT Opening = 12-14 hcp balanced*

2 ♣ Opening = 12-16 hcp, 6 or more Clubs

2 ♦ Opening = 6-10 hcp Multi (Weak 2 in a Major, can be 5-5 Major/minor; can be 6-6 in the Majors with a 4 ♥ rebid)

2 ♥ Opening = 6-10 hcp, 5-5 in Majors

2 • Opening = some Vanity Suit (AKQxxxx)

2NT relay Response

3NT Rebid = ACOL: Vanity Suit + outside Ace

2NT Opening = 25-up hcp balanced*

* No Trumps can be 5-3-3-2 with 5-card Major.

♠ Rebid = 5 Spades

NT (or 3♥ jump) Rebid = 5 Hearts

♥ Rebid = no 4-card or 5-card Major

[use Jacoby with 4 Spades and 5 Hearts]

3 of a suit Opening, to your personal taste 3NT Opening = 11 tricks missing 2 Aces or an Ace and a key King 4 Response = 0 or 2 Aces4-level Rebid asks for King of that suit (4NT for Clubs) 5-level Rebid = to play, unless Responder has 2 Aces: 5NT shows 2 Non-Touching Aces (♠&♦; ♥ &♠) Raise shows 2 Aces of the same Rank Cue bid of long side suit shows 2 Aces of the same Color ♠ AKQJ10765432 **98 9**5 **A**43 Q109853 **A**10 **9** 9 3NT 4 5NT (2 non-touching Aces) 5 7 4 Response = 1 minor suit Ace 4♠ or 4♥ Rebid asks for King of suit bid a raise shows the King 4NT shows • A 5 shows Ace 5-level Rebid = to play (or raise with trump King or ♦ King) 4NT Rebid (used for all sign-offs) asks: 5 = no Ace or King $5 \bullet = Ace$

4 of a suit Opening, to your personal taste

DEADWOOD

Like Minorwood, you or partner go directly – dead on – into showing Keycards without the need of a Keycard Blackwood or Kickback initiator. For example:

1 🖈		1NT forcing
2 💠		2 y game forcing
3 💙	= 3-card support	4 ♦ = slam try in Hearts
4 🏚	shows o or 3 Keycards	
4NT	shows 1 or 4 Keycards	
5 🕏	shows 2 Keycards without Trump Queen	
5 🔷	shows 2 Keycards with Trump Queen, Last Train	
5♥ are missing	shows 2 Keycards with Trump Queen, forcing unless 2 Keycards	

NO TRUMP OVERCALL (OPTIONAL)

Double shows either a NT hand, a 3-suited hand, or an extra strong 1-suiter NT Response nonforcing

Club "rebid" over NT Response shows 3-suiter

Cue bid over NT Response shows a stronger 3-suiter

A No Trump Overcall shows a Major-minor 2-suiter

A cue bid shows 2 suits of the same rank

Jump NT Overcall shows an even stronger or more distributional 2 suits of the same rank

Jerold London, September, 2021