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Bridge Bidding Made Simple · Acol edition



CHAPTER 6

Opener's Rebids

Showing your strength and shape: no-trumps, rebids, second suits and reverses

Mike Smith

bridgescorer.com

1. What your rebid has to say

Your opening bid told partner very little: "12 to 19 points, and this is my longest suit." Your **rebid** fills in the picture. It answers two questions at once: **how strong** is your hand, and **what shape** is it?

Your points	Strength
12–15	minimum
16–18	medium (good)
19 or more	strong

The golden rule of rebids: with a minimum hand, keep the bidding low. Jumps and bids that push partner higher show extra strength.

2. Balanced hands: rebid in no-trumps

With 12–14 balanced you opened 1NT, so a suit opening followed by a no-trump rebid shows the stronger balanced hands (Chapter 2):

Points	After a one-level response	After a two-level response
15–16	1NT	2NT
17–18	2NT	3NT
19	3NT	3NT

♠ Q 4 ♥ K J 3 ♦ A Q 7 5 ♣ K 10 6 2	You opened **1♣** (two four-card suits: the lower) and partner responded 1♠. 15 balanced: rebid **1NT**.

3. Rebidding your own suit

Bid your first suit again to show a **six-card** suit (sometimes a very good five). The level shows the strength:

Points	Rebid	After 1♥ – 1♠
12–15	repeat it at the lowest level	2♥
16–18	jump one level	3♥
19 or more	jump to game (in a major)	4♥

♠ K 5 ♥ A Q J 9 7 4 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ 7 2	1♥ – 1♠ – ? 13 points and six hearts: **2♥**.

♠ K 5 ♥ A K Q 9 7 4 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ 7 2	1♥ – 1♠ – ? 17 points and six good hearts: jump to **3♥**.

4. Showing a second suit

With an unbalanced hand and a second suit of **four or more** cards, show it. How strong you must be depends on where it takes the bidding:

Second suit	Example	Strength
New suit at the **one level**	1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠	12–18
Lower-ranking suit at the two level	1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣	12–18, not forcing
Higher-ranking suit at the two level (a "reverse")	1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥	16+, forcing for one round
A **jump** in a new suit	1♦ – 1♥ – 2♠	19+, forcing to game

♠ K Q 8 4
♥ 5
♦ A J 9 6 3
♣ K 7 2

1♦ – 1♥ – ? Show your spades at the one level: **1♠**.

♠ 7
♥ A Q 10 6 3
♦ K 5
♣ K J 8 4 2

1♥ – 1♠ – ? 13 points and five clubs. Bid **2♣**: partner can go back to 2♥ cheaply.

♠ 7 ♥ A K J 4 ♦ A Q 10 6 3 ♣ K 8 2	1♦ – 1♠ – ? 17 points. Bid **2♥**, a reverse: partner may have to go back to 3♦, so you need extra strength for this.

♠ A K J 5 ♥ 6 ♦ A K Q 8 4 ♣ K 7 3	1♦ – 1♥ – ? 20 points. Jump to **2♠**: game is certain.

Why does a reverse need 16+? After 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥, if partner prefers diamonds they must bid 3♦. You have pushed the bidding up a level, so you must have something extra to make it safe. A reverse is forcing for **one round**: partner must bid again, but with a weak hand they can stop in a part-score.

5. Raising partner

With four cards in partner's suit, raise it, as in Chapter 5: to 2 with 12–15, 3 with 16–18 and 4 with 19 or more.

6. Summary

Your hand	Rebid
Balanced 15–16 / 17–18 / 19	1NT / 2NT / 3NT (after a one-level response)
Six-card suit, 12–15 / 16–18 / 19+	Repeat it / jump / jump to game
Second suit at the one level	Bid it (12–18)
Lower second suit at the two level	Bid it (12–18)
Higher second suit at the two level	Reverse: 16+ only
Very strong with a second suit	Jump in it: 19+
Four-card support for partner	Raise (2 / 3 / 4)

7. Test yourself

What is your rebid?

1. ♠ K 3
♥ A J 5
♦ K Q 8 4
♣ Q 10 7 3

2. ♠ A K J 10 6 4
♥ K 5
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 7 2

3. ♠ 5
♥ K Q 10 7 4
♦ A Q 6 3
♣ K 8 2

4. ♠ A Q 7 5
♥ 6
♦ K 4
♣ A J 9 8 5 3

5. ♠ 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K 7
♣ A Q 10 8 4 2

6. ♠ A K 6
♥ K 4
♦ A Q J 7 5
♣ Q 9 3

1. You opened 1♣, partner 1♥. 2. You opened 1♠, partner 1NT. 3. You opened 1♥, partner 1♠. 4. You opened 1♣, partner 1♥. 5. You opened 1♣, partner 1♠. 6. You opened 1♦, partner 1♥.

Answers

1. 1NT. 15 points, balanced.

2. 2♠. 13 points and six spades: a minimum rebid of your suit.

3. 2♦. 14 points: show your lower-ranking second suit.

4. 1♠. Show your four spades at the one level.

5. 2♥. 18 points: strong enough to reverse.

6. 3NT. 19 points, balanced.

> Next: Chapter 7, Responder's Rebids. Free lessons and challenge hands to play: **bridgescorer.com/learn**

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