

Minor Openings – Gain a Competitive Advantage

No more Secrets !

- **Bidding is a language – 7 alphabets**
- **You be able to say a lot more and fluently**
- **You can start with a few words and build on it**
- **You can even pick, choose and modify to your taste**
- **All the principals that you learnt remains**
- **Applies to over 60% of all openings – measurable advantage**

Are you ready?

What percentage of hand do we open at 1 level?

- **Around 20% if we open with 13+ points**
- **Around 25% if we open with 12+ points**
- **Around 30% if we open with 11+ points**

1 Level suit openings in Standard American System

- We open 5 card Major (**38%** of 1 level suit openings)
 - Emphasis on major
 - To quickly establish if there is a 5-3 or better fit
 - Strong hand become declarer
- We open minor in other **62%** of 1 level suit openings
 - Either better minor or 2 clubs/4 diamonds
 - We bid up the line to investigate a major fit
 - We open minor 1.62 times more than major

Your partner opens minor – Common issues:

a) ♠ J x x ♥ K Q x x ♦ x x ♣ x x x x

You bid 1H and partner raises to 2H

b) ♠ J x ♥ K Q x x x ♦ x x ♣ x x x x

You bid 1H and partner having 3 hearts, bids 1NT, or partner bids 1S and you end up playing 1NT!!

c) ♠ J x x ♥ K Q x ♦ x x x ♣ x x x x

You bid 1NT and become declarer

To overcome the problem, we open all minors (or 2+ cards in C) as 1C and use **transfer responses** as follows:

a) ♠ J x x ♥ K Q x x ♦ x x ♣ x x x x

1D bid by us shows **Hearts** (to be alerted)

Partner with 4 hearts bids **2H**, we find fit and partner is declarer

- What if opener has a weak hand with fit !?

b) ♠ J x ♥ K Q x x x ♦ x x ♣ x x x x

1D bid by us shows **Hearts**

Partner with 3 hearts bids **1H** (we find our fit and partner is declarer)

Similarly **1H** bid by us shows **Spades**

Note: We have not used 1S bid !!

We now can use 1S bid to solve the 3rd problem:

c) ♠ J x x ♥ K Q x ♦ x x x ♣ x x x x

We bid 1S in a hand like this, when we don't have a 4 card major, asking partner to bid 1NT. Partner becomes declarer.

What other options partner has?

- With a long minor and preference to play in that suit, bids the minor
- With 18-19 points bids 2NT to show exactly such hand inviting

Note: We have not used 1NT

After 1C – 1S – 1NT sequence:

In a hand like the one that we just saw, we will pass 1NT bid but we now have the opportunity to bid the following hands:

a) ♠ J x ♥ K x x ♦ x x ♣ J x x x x x

After 1NT we bid 2C to be passed

b) ♠ J x ♥ K x x ♦ J x x x x x ♣ x x

After 1NT we bid 2D to be passed

Here you may ask: Can we do the same with weak H or S?

- **Note after 1C opening, we have not used 1NT, 2C or 2D bids yet!!**

What about NT bid after 1C opening?

All showing **no 4 card major** with various point range

1S transfer to 1NT (5-7 points)

1NT shows 8-10 points

2NT shows 11-13 points

3NT shows 14+ points

We have not covered: long major & long suits and stronger hands

**Please note: After 1C opening by partner, we still have not used
(2C, 2D, 2H, 2S, and any 3 level bids)?**

We can use 3 level bids to show game force hands with **very strong** su

After 1C opening:

3C/3D/3H/3S are natural, game force with strong suit

What should we do with a long major?

What about long suit and invitational values?

Note: We have not used 2C, 2D, 2H, 2S bids

After 1C – 1S – 1NT sequence:

a) ♠ x x ♥ x x ♦ A K x x ♣ K Q x x x

This hand has no 4 card major, invitational values and good minor suits.

After 1NT we bid **2NT** to show exactly such hand

b) ♠ x x x ♥ Q x ♦ A K x x ♣ A K J x

This hand has no 4 card major, enough values for game and good minor suits.

After 1NT we bid **3NT** to show exactly such hand

c) ♠ J x x ♥ Q x ♦ A Q J x x x ♣ J x

This hand has no 4 card major, invitational values and good diamond suit.

After 1NT we bid **3D** to show exactly such hand (same with Clubs)

Note: We have not used 2C, 2D, 2H, 2S bids yet

What do we do with a long Major?

a) ♠ x x ♥ K J x x x x ♦ x x ♣ x x x

After 1C opening: **2C** bid transfers to Hearts. We pass 2H bid by open

b) ♠ K J x x x x ♥ K x ♦ A x ♣ x x x

After 1C opening: **2D** bid transfer to Spades. After 2S bid by partner, in a hand like this with invitational values we bid 2NT to show such hand

1C-2C transfer to H

1C-2D transfer to S

What if you have 7 cards in a major?

Note: We have not used 2H and 2S bids yet!!

What if I have a 4-6 shape with values in Majors?

a) ♠ K J x x x x ♥ K J x x ♦ x x ♣ x

After 1C opening: **2H** bid shows a 4-6 shape in H-S

b) ♠ K J x x ♥ K J x x x x ♦ x x ♣ x

After 1C opening: **2S** bid shows a 4-6 shape in S-H

1C-2H shows a 4-6 shape in Hearts-Spades

1C-2S shows a 4-6 shape in Spades-Hearts

Our 7 Alphabets – After 1 C opening-

1D Partner I have 4+ Hearts

1H Partner I have 4+ Spades

1S Partner bid 1NT please, I may have lots to say after

2C partner I have 6+ hearts please bid 2 Hearts

2D partner I have 6+ spades please bid 2 Spades

2H partner I have 4-6 shape in Hearts and Spades with values

2S partner I have 4-6 shape in Spades and Hearts with values

Summary - after 1C opening

1D shows hearts, opener bids 1H with 3 and 2H with 4

1H shows spades, openers bids 1S with 3 and 2S with 4

1S shows no 4 card major transfer to 1NT (usually 5-7 points)

1NT no 4 card major 8-10 points

2NT no 4 card major 11-13 points

3NT no 4 card major 14+ points

3C/3D/3H/3S natural very strong

2C transfer to 2H usually 6+ Hearts

2D transfer to 2S usually 6+ Spades

2H 4-6 shape in Hearts and Spades

2S 4-6 shape in Spades and Hearts

Summary - after 1C opening

1S shows no 4 card major, transfer to 1NT (usually 5-7 points)

Options after 1C-1S-1NT:

- **Pass with 5-7 points**
- **2C weak Clubs to be passed**
- **2D weak Diamonds to be passed**
- **2NT both minors invitational**
- **3NT both minors game force**
- **3C or 3D natural 10+ points invitational**

Interference -

What if there is interference?

If interference is **X or **1D** or **1H** System is on (**X** is stolen bid)**

If interference is **1S or at **2 level**, system is off**

Defense

What if opponents using this system?

Say they bid 1D indicating Hearts

X = this is my suit (D)

1H = take out of the other 3 suits (bidding their suit)

1S = natural

1NT = 15-18 with stopper

2H = Michaels (5 cards in Spades and 5 in a minor)

Secret is out

Bidding language with **7** alphabet

- Say a lot more
- Start with a few words and built on it
- Pick, choose and modify to your taste

Time to play some hands

1C Opening

North

♠ Q 8 4
♥ K Q 9 4 2
♦ T 4
♣ T 7 5

♠ K 7 5 3
♥ A T 7
♦ Q 9 7 6 5
♣ J

♠ A 6 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ A K J
♣ 8 4 3 2

Hand 1

Dealer South, Vul: N-S
Tue 30/9

1C Opening

East

♠ void
♥ A 9 5 4
♦ A Q 5
♣ K Q T 5 4 3

♠ Q 9 7 5 4 3
♥ K 3
♦ K J 7
♣ 9 6

♠ A K J 2
♥ J 7 6
♦ T 8 6
♣ A J 8

Hand 2

Dealer West, Vul: None
Tue 30/9

♠ T 8 6
♥ Q T 8 2
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ 7 2

1C Opening

South

♠ K T 6 5 4 3

♥ A 9 6

♦ A

♣ T 8 3

♠ J

♥ 8 5 3 2

♦ T 9 6 2

♣ 9 6 5 2

♠ Q 8

♥ K 4

♦ K J 8 5 3

♣ K J 7 4

Hand 3

Dealer North, Vul: All

Thursday 2/10

♠ A 9 7 2

♥ Q J T 7

♦ Q 7 4

♣ A Q

1C Opening

West

♠ 4
♥ A 9 7 6 5 2
♦ 9 4 2
♣ 6 3 2

♠ A Q 8 6
♥ J 8
♦ 6 5
♣ A K T 7 5

♠ 9 7 2
♥ K T
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ J 9 4

Hand 4

Dealer East, Vul: All
Thursday 2/10

1C Opening

North

♠ Q J 7 5

♥ A Q T 8 7 6

♦ K 2

♣ T

♠ K 8 6 4 3

♥ J

♦ Q J 6 4 3

♣ J 3

♠ 9 2

♥ 9 2

♦ A 9 8

♣ A K Q 5 4 2

Hand 5

Dealer South, Vul: E-W

Thursday 29/9

1C Opening

East

♠ A K 5 3

♥ A Q T 8 7 6

♦ 8 5

♣ 6

♠ Q 4 2

♥ J 9 4

♦ Q T 4 3 2

♣ 8 4

♠ T 8 6

♥ K 8 2

♦ A J 7 6

♣ K 9 5

Hand 6

Dealer West, Vul: E-W

Thursday 29/9

♠ J 9 7

♥ 3

♦ K 9

♣ A Q J T 7 3 2