

Major Openings

When your game is on and

You want to investigate possible SLAM

- 1M 3M invitational,
 - opener very strong
- 1M 3D Bergen = invitational and 4 card support
 - opener very strong
- 1M 3NT Bergen 13-15hcp 3 card support
- 1M 4x splinter good support and shortage in the suit bid
- 1M 2NT Jacoby 2NT, 4 card support and 13+hcp

Jacoby 2NT

Partner opens major; 1H or 1S

We bid Jacoby 2NT, telling partner that:

- We have 4 card support**
- We have 13+ high card points**
- We definitely have game**
- Inviting partner to cooperate, investigating slam**

Jacoby 2NT

Traditional opener responses to Jacoby 2NT

- Bid a new suit at 3 level → shows singleton or void in that suit
- Jump to 4 level in a new suit → 2nd good 5 cards suit
- Bid agreed suit at 3 level → No shortage, Good hand
(16+ total points)
- Bid game at agreed suit → No shortage and a minimum opening
hand 13-15 TP

Jacoby 2NT – Tools to use

Cue Bidding to:

- Check for controls
- Identify which controls we have between us

To ensure we are not missing two controls in any suits

Use Key Card Blackwood to:

- How many Key cards we have
 - 4 Aces and King of trump (5 Key Cards)
 - Do we have queen of trump or not?

Combing both methods to decide if we bid slam or not?

Jacoby 2NT – Cue Bidding

American Approach:

- Showing 1st Round Control up the line:
aces or void

Italian Method:

- Showing 1st or 2nd Round Controls up the line:
aces or void, King or singleton

Slam Bidding – 1430 RKCB

In a Major suit contract, King of trump, same as aces, is a Key Card. So we have 5 Key Cards (4 aces and king of trump).

Also Queen of Trump is an important card

4NT after a Major fit is established asks for Key Cards.

Responses:

- 5C = 1 or 4 Key Cards
- 5D = 0 or 3 Key Cards
- 5H = 2 Key Cards and no Queen of trumps
- 5S = 2 Key Cards plus queen of trump

Slam Bidding – 1430 RKCB

After 5C or 5D, next suit up asks for queen of trump. Responses:

- Return to trump suit = No queen of trump
- 5NT (or bidding slam) yes I have the Queen but no other King to show you
- Any other suit = Yes I have the Queen & this particular king

In response to 5NT we either show kings or bid grand slam with a source of tricks

Bidding a suit at 6 level says: If you have **Queen** of this particular suit, **bid 7**

Jacoby 2NT

Traditional opener responses to Jacoby 2NT

- Bid a new suit at 3 level → shows singleton or void in that suit
- Jump to 4 level in a new suit → 2nd good 5 cards suit
- Bid agreed suit at 3 level → No shortage, Good hand
- Bid game at agreed suit → No shortage minimum opening hand

If partners are interested in slam, they will:

- Cue Bid to identify controls
- Use Key Card Blackwood to identify key cards

Based on identified information they decide to bid slam or not?

Jacoby 2NT

Alternative approach

Partners immediately start Cue Bidding (Italian approach) up the line:

- Showing 1st or 2nd round control up the line (below game)
- If we missing control of any suit, we sign off at game

Once we can't show controls any more, we can use Key Card Blackwood to identify how many key cards we have in order to:

decide to bid slam or sign off at 5 level ?

Jacoby NT - Continuation

You

♠ A Q 9 7 2

♥ A T

♦ J 9 6 4

♣ Q 8

Partner

♠ J T 5 4

♥ K 8 3

♦ A Q T 2

♣ K 3

Bidding:

You

1S

3H

Partner

2NT

4S

4 card support & opening hand
we show H Control.

Partner knows we have no C and D control so ace of C and no King of D.
No point in going on and signs off.

Jacoby NT - Continuation

You

♠ A 9 3

♥ A J T 5 3

♦ 5

♣ A 8 6 2

Partner

♠ K Q

♥ K Q 7 6

♦ 7 4 2

♣ K Q J 3

Bidding:

You

1H

3C

4D

5D

Partner

2NT

3S

4NT

6H

4 card support & opening hand

C and S Controls

D control, partner Key Card asking

3/0 Key cards

Partner is happy to hear D control, asks for key card and response is 3.
He has one so only one key card is missing bids slam.

Jacoby NT - Continuation

You

♠ 8 5

♥ A Q J T 7 5

♦ 9 3 2

♣ A K

Partner

♠ A K 7 2

♥ K 9 6 2

♦ K 8 4

♣ T 8

Bidding:

You

1H

3C

4C

5S

Partner

2NT

3D

4NT

6H

4 card support & opening hand

C and D Controls

C control, partner Key Card asking

2 Key cards and Queen

Partner has no choice but to bid slam (one key card is missing). Partner knows ace of D is missing and hopes for it to be with the right hand opponent.

Jacoby NT - Continuation

You

♠ K Q J T 5

♥ 3

♦ K 3

♣ A Q T 6 5

Partner

♠ A 9 3 2

♥ Q 4

♦ A T 4 2

♣ K J 3

Bidding:

You

1S

3C

3H

4NT

6S

Partner

2NT

3D

4C

5H

pass

4 card support & opening hand

C and D Controls

H and C control

2 Key cards no Queen

One key card is missing and with partner showing C control, we have long clubs; slam looks very promising.

Jacoby 2NT

North (Dealer)

Hand 1 Joan Butts

♠ A Q 9 7 2

♥ A T

♦ J 9 6 4

♣ Q 8

♠ 6 3

♥ Q J 7

♦ K 7 5 3

♣ A J T 2

♠ K 8

♥ 9 6 5 4 2

♦ 8

♣ 9 7 6 5 4

♠ J T 5 4

♥ K 8 3

♦ A Q T 2

♣ K 3

South

You (Dealer)

Hand 1 Joan Butts

♠ A Q 9 7 2

♥ A T

♦ J 9 6 4

♣ Q 8

♠ 6 3

♥ Q J 7

♦ K 7 5 3

♣ A J T 2

♠ K 8

♥ 9 6 5 4 2

♦ 8

♣ 9 7 6 5 4

♠ J T 5 4

♥ K 8 3

♦ A Q T 2

♣ K 3

Partner

You

1S

Partner

2NT

4+ support, opening hand

3H

4S

I have H control

Partner knows ace of C and King of D are missing and signs off

Jacoby 2NT

West

♠ K Q
♥ K Q 7 6
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K Q J 3

Hand 2 Joan Butts

Dealer: East

♠ T 7 5 4 2
♥ 8 2
♦ K Q J 6
♣ 7 4

♠ J 8 6
♥ 9 4
♦ A T 9 8 3
♣ T 9 5

♠ A 9 3
♥ A J T 5 3
♦ 5
♣ A 8 6 2

East

Partner

♠ K Q
♥ K Q 7 6
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K Q J 3

Hand 2 Joan Butts

Dealer: East

♠ T 7 5 4 2
♥ 8 2
♦ K Q J 6
♣ 7 4

♠ J 8 6
♥ 9 4
♦ A T 9 8 3
♣ T 9 5

♠ A 9 3
♥ A J T 5 3
♦ 5
♣ A 8 6 2

You

<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>	
1H	2NT	4+ support, opening hand
3C !	3S	C and S control
4D	4NT	D control, partner asks
5D	6H	3/0 key card

Only one key card is missing. Partner knows it can be either ace of D or ace of H, enough to bid slam

Jacoby 2NT

South

♠ K Q J T 5

♥ 3

♦ K 3

♣ A Q T 6 5

Hand 3 Joan Butts

Dealer: South

♠ 7 6

♥ A K 9 8 7 2

♦ 9 6 5

♣ 9 7

♠ 8 6

♥ J T 6 5

♦ Q J 8 7

♣ 8 4 2

♠ A 9 3 2

♥ Q 4

♦ A T 4 2

♣ K J 3

North

Hand 3 Joan Butts
Dealer: South

You

♠ K Q J T 5
 ♥ 3
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ A Q T 6 5

♠ 7 6
 ♥ A K 9 8 7 2
 ♦ 9 6 5
 ♣ 9 7

♠ 8 6
 ♥ J T 6 5
 ♦ Q J 8 7
 ♣ 8 4 2

♠ A 9 3 2
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ A T 4 2
 ♣ K J 3

Partner

<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>	
1S	2NT	4+ support, opening hand
3C	3D	C and D control
3H	4C	H and C control
4NT	5H	asking, 2 key cards but no queen
6S	pass	

Only one key card is missing. Partner has the queen and bids slam

Jacoby NT

West

Hand 4 Fri 19/9/2025

Dealer: West

♠ J 9 3
♥ A Q 7 6 5
♦ A T 7 5 4
♣ void

♠ Q T 5 2
♥ J T 4
♦ K Q 9
♣ Q 9 7

♠ 8 7 4
♥ 3
♦ J 6 3
♣ K J T 6 4 3

♠ A K 6
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ 8 2
♣ A 8 5 2

East

You

♠ J 9 3
♥ A Q 7 6 5
♦ A T 7 5 4
♣ void

Hand 4 Fri 19/9/2025

Dealer: West

♠ Q T 5 2
♥ J T 4
♦ K Q 9
♣ Q 9 7

♠ 8 7 4
♥ 3
♦ J 6 3
♣ K J T 6 4 3

♠ A K 6
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ 8 2
♣ A 8 5 2

Partner

You

1H

3C

4D

5S

Pass

Partner

2NT

3S

4NT

6H

4+ support, opening hand

C and S control

D control, partner asking

2 key cards and queen of H

Only one key card is missing. Partner bids slam

Jacoby NT

West

♠ 6 2

♥ T 8 6

♦ K 8 6 3

♣ K J 7 4

Hand 5

Dealer: North

♠ A J 9 7

♥ A Q 9 3 2

♦ 9 7

♣ Q 3

♠ K Q T 8 3

♥ K 5

♦ A 4

♣ A 9 6 5

♠ 5 4

♥ J 7 4

♦ Q J T 5 2

♣ T 8 2

East

Hand 5
Dealer: You, North

West
♠ 6 2
♥ T 8 6
♦ K 8 6 3
♣ K J 7 4

Partner
♠ A J 9 7
♥ A Q 9 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ Q 3

You
♠ K Q T 8 3
♥ K 5
♦ A 4
♣ A 9 6 5

♠ 5 4
♥ J 7 4
♦ Q J T 5 2
♣ T 8 2

East

<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>	
1S	2NT	4+ support, opening hand
3C	3H	C and H control
4D	4S	D control, 4S no more control to show
Pass		

We decide to sign off as two controls in minors are missing

Jacoby NT

North

♠ Q T 2
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ J 9 8 6
♣ T 8

Hand 6

Dealer: East

♠ A 8 6 5 3
♥ K 9 4 2
♦ Q 7 2
♣ A

♠ K 7
♥ A Q T 8 5
♦ 3
♣ K Q 5 4 3

♠ J 9 4
♥ void
♦ A K T 5 4
♣ J 9 7 6 2

South

North

♠ Q T 2
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ J 9 8 6
♣ T 8

Hand 6

Dealer: You, East

Partner

♠ A 8 6 5 3
♥ K 9 4 2
♦ Q 7 2
♣ A

You

♠ K 7
♥ A Q T 8 5
♦ 3
♣ K Q 5 4 3

♠ J 9 4
♥ void
♦ A K T 5 4
♣ J 9 7 6 2

South

You

1H

Partner

2NT

4+ support, opening hand

3C

3S

C and S control

4D

4NT

D control, 4NT asking

5C

5D

5C=1 key card, 5D=do you have the queen of H?

5S

6H

5S=yes I have the queen as well as king of spades

Partner knowing one key card is missing, bids slam

Jacoby NT

South

Hand 7 6/10/2025

Dealer: South

♠ K J
♥ Q T 8 7 3
♦ Q 5 4 2
♣ A 5

♠ T 6 3 2
♥ J 5
♦ 9 7 3
♣ T 4 3 2

♠ Q 7 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ J T 8
♣ Q J 8 6

♠ A 9 8 4
♥ A 9 2
♦ A K 6
♣ K 9 7

North

You

♠ K J
♥ Q T 8 7 3
♦ Q 5 4 2
♣ A 5

Hand 7 6/10/2025

Dealer: You

♠ T 6 3 2
♥ J 5
♦ 9 7 3
♣ T 4 3 2

♠ Q 7 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ J T 8
♣ Q J 8 6

♠ A 9 8 4
♥ A 9 2
♦ A K 6
♣ K 9 7

Partner

You

Partner

1H	2NT	4+ support, opening hand (partner only has 3 cards !?)
3C	3D	C and D control
3S	4NT	3 control, 4NT asking
5C	5D	5C=1 key card, 5D=do you have the queen of H?
5S	6H	5S=yes I have the queen as well as king of spades

Partner knowing one key card is missing, bids slam

Jacoby NT

East

Hand 8 6/8/2025

Dealer: West

♠ A 4
♥ 8 7 6 3
♦ A K J 7 5
♣ A 7

♠ K J 7 3 2
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 9 8 6
♣ T 4

♠ Q 8 6
♥ J T
♦ 4 3
♣ J 9 6 5 3 2

♠ T 9 5
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ T 2
♣ K Q 8

West

Partner

♠ A 4
♥ 8 7 6 3
♦ A K J 7 5
♣ A 7

Hand 8 6/8/2025

Dealer: West

♠ K J 7 3 2
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 9 8 6
♣ T 4

♠ Q 8 6
♥ J T
♦ 4 3
♣ J 9 6 5 3 2

♠ T 9 5
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ T 2
♣ K Q 8

You

<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>	
1H	2NT	4+ support, opening hand
3C	3D	C and D control
3H	4NT	no more to show, 4NT asking
5S	6H	5S=2 key cards and queen of H
pass		

Partner knows we have all the key cards but king of spades is missing, bids slam

Jacoby NT

West

♠ T 8
♥ A T 6 5 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ Q 6 3

Hand 9 6/8/2025

Dealer: North

♠ K J 7 3
♥ J
♦ A T 8
♣ A J T 7 2

♠ A 9 6 5 4
♥ K Q 3
♦ Q J 7 5
♣ 5

♠ Q 2
♥ 9 8 7 4
♦ 6 4 2
♣ K 9 8 4

East

Hand 9 6/8/2025
Dealer: North

West

♠ T 8
♥ A T 6 5 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ Q 6 3

Partner

♠ K J 7 3
♥ J
♦ A T 8
♣ A J T 7 2

You

♠ A 9 6 5 4
♥ K Q 3
♦ Q J 7 5
♣ 5

♠ Q 2
♥ 9 8 7 4
♦ 6 4 2
♣ K 9 8 4

East

You

1S
3C
3H
4NT
5H
Pass

Partner

2NT
3D
4C
5D
5S

4+ support, opening hand

C and D control

H and C control

4NT asking, 5D=3 key cards

5H=do you have the queen?, 5S=no

One key card and queen of spades is missing, we sign off

Jacoby NT

North

Hand 10 2/10/2025

Dealer: East

♠ T 4 2
♥ Q T 9 8 7 3
♦ T 6 4
♣ 6

♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ void
♦ A K 9 3
♣ A Q J T 2

♠ A K J 7 5
♥ J 6 2
♦ 7 2
♣ K 4 3

♠ 6
♥ A K 5 4
♦ Q J 8 5
♣ 9 8 7 5

South

Hand 10 2/10/2025

Dealer: You, East

North

♠ T 4 2
♥ Q T 9 8 7 3
♦ T 6 4
♣ 6

Partner

♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ void
♦ A K 9 3
♣ A Q J T 2

You

♠ A K J 7 5
♥ J 6 2
♦ 7 2
♣ K 4 3

♠ 6
♥ A K 5 4
♦ Q J 8 5
♣ 9 8 7 5

South

<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>	
1S	2NT	4+ support, opening hand
3C	3D	C and D control
3S	4NT	S control, partner asking
5H	7S	5H=2 Key cards but no queen

Partner knows that we don't have ace of H so controls shown are ace and king of trumps. With long clubs, he bids the elusive Grand Slam