

# 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**

## 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

## What percentage of hand do we open?

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

## 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 bids 1NT

c) ♠ J x x                      ♥ K Q x              ♦ x x x                      ♣ x x x x

We bid 1NT and become declarer

To overcome the problem, we open all minors 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

But what about 1S bid, what a waste !!

We now can use **1S** bid to solve the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**What about 1NT bid are you wasting it !?**

## 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?
- What if our hand is stronger?
- What about 1C – 1NT bid?

# What about NT bid after 1C opening? All showing no 4 card major points distributed

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

1NT shows 8-10 points

2NT shows 11-13 points

3NT shows 14+ points

**I still want to know what we should do with a long major?**

**What about long suit and stronger hand?**

**What about other bids after 1C (2C, 2D, 2H, 2S, 3 level bids)?**

All good questions

OK we can use 3 level bids to show game force hands with very strong suit

After 1C opening:

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

You still beating around the bush and not answering my questions:

What we should do with a long major?

What about long suit and invitational values?

It looks you wasted 2C, 2D, 2H, 2S bids

All good questions





# 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 opener

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?

I am not happy, you expect me to remember 2C is transfer to Hearts and 2D is transfer to Spades!?

What about 2H and 2S bids?

## 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

Ok you win, I am exhausted. Can we put it all together?

## 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, opener 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

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 & Defence.

### What if there is interference?

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

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

### 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)

## Your partner opens 1C – What do you want to say and how to bid it?

a) ♠ J x                      ♥ K Q x x x                      ♦ x x                      ♣ x x x x

Partner I have a minimum hand and 5 cards in Hearts. If you have 3 hearts we have a fit and you be declarer

Note: if you were stronger, no need for Check-back

b) ♠ K J x                      ♥ Q J x x                      ♦ x x                      ♣ x x x x

Partner I have a minimum hand and tolerance for both majors. If you have 3 or 4 hearts, I be happy for you to play in hearts. If you don't have 3 or 4 hearts but you have 4 spades, then spades is ok and you play. If you don't have 3 hearts or 4 spades, then play in NT or your long minor.

## Your partner opens 1C – What do you want to say and how to bid it?

In all examples you want to tell your partner that you have no 4 card major and:

a) ♠ K J x                      ♥ Q x x                      ♦ x x x                      ♣ x x x x

I have 6 points, you play in 1NT or your long minor

b) ♠ K Q x                      ♥ K x                      ♦ Q x x x                      ♣ x x x x

Partner I have ten points

c) ♠ K J x                      ♥ K x                      ♦ K x x x                      ♣ Q x x x

Partner I have 12 points



# Your partner opens 1C – you have a very weak hand but long suit wanting to bid and sign off in that suit

a) ♠ x x                      ♥ K J x x x x                      ♦ x x                      ♣ x x x  
Partner you play in 2H contract

b) ♠ K J x x x x                      ♥ x x                      ♦ x x                      ♣ J x x  
Partner you play in 2S contract

c) ♠ J x                      ♥ K x x                      ♦ x x                      ♣ J x x x x x  
Partner Clubs is the only suit that my hand can deliver some values. So let's play in 2C contract

d) ♠ J x                      ♥ K x x                      ♦ J x x x x x                      ♣ x x  
Partner let's play in 2D

Your partner opens 1C – you want to tell your partner you have 6 or 7 cards in a major with some values

a) ♠ K J x x x x                      ♥ K x                      ♦ A x                      ♣ x x x

Partner I have 6 cards in spades and enough value to try for game. You decide and if you want to play in Spades you be the declarer

b) ♠ K J x x x x x                      ♥ K x                      ♦ A x                      ♣ x x

Partner I actually have 7 spades

Your partner opens 1C – You are strong enough for game and have a strong suit

a) ♠ A K J x x x x      ♥ K x      ♦ x x      ♣ K x

b) ♠ K x      ♥ K Q x      ♦ K Q J x x x      ♣ x x

Your partner opens 1C – You have no 4 card major but a good minor suit with invitational values

How do you tell your partner?

a) ♠ J x x                  ♥ Q x                  ♦ A K J x x x                  ♣ x x

b) ♠ J x x                  ♥ Q x                  ♦ x x                  ♣ A K J x x x

## Your partner opens 1C – You have no 4 card major but good minor suits

a) ♠ x x                      ♥ x x                      ♦ A K x x                      ♣ K Q x x x

Partner I have invitational values

b) ♠ Q x x                      ♥ J x                      ♦ A K x x                      ♣ A Q J x

Partner I have enough strength for game

## Your partner opens 1C – You have a good 4-6 shape in majors

a) ♠ K J x x      ♥ K Q x x x x      ♦ x x      ♣ x

Partner I have 4 spades and 6 hearts

b) ♠ A T x x x x      ♥ K Q x x      ♦ x      ♣ x x

Partner I have 4 hearts and 6 spades

# 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

## Good Luck

Further Questions