

## BIDDING 20 NEW MINOR FORCING

As responder, one of the difficult things in basic bidding is finding whether opener has 3 card support for your 5 card major. As a beginner, you learnt that if you repeat your suit as a responder, you should have 6. No doubt you wondered how you were supposed to show a 5 card suit. The answer is you need a couple of gadgets which were deemed too hard to teach you in basic classes.

Fourth suit forcing handles some game forcing hands but isn't always available. Where opener rebids 1NT, we can use a gadget called **NEW MINOR FORCING**. It deals with invite or game going hands with a 5 card major.

♠ J109	♠ AK432
♥ A10	♥ 54
♦ KQ542	♦ J76
♣ K32	♣ AQ4

1D	1S
1NT	?

The second hand knows we should be in game, but which one – 4S or 3NT? If they try 2S, this is 6+ spades and 6-10. If they try 3S, this is 6+ spades and 11-12. The answer is to bid the **OPPOSITE** minor (clubs). This is a completely artificial bid which asks about opener's major holdings. So, on the above hand we can bid:

1D	1S
1NT	2C (new minor forcing)
2S (I have 3 spades)	4S

♠ 109	♠ AK432
♥ AJ10	♥ 54
♦ KQ542	♦ J76
♣ K32	♣ AQ4

On this hand, bidding will go:

1D	1S
1NT	2C (new minor forcing)
2D or 2NT (denies 3 spades or 4 hearts)	3NT

You can also make invite bids:

♠ 987	♠ A10432
♥ A103	♥ 54
♦ KQ54	♦ J76
♣ K32	♣ AQ4
1D	1S
1NT	2C (new minor forcing)
2S	3S (invite to 4S on a max)
P	

♠ Q98	♠ A10432
♥ A103	♥ 54
♦ K32	♦ AQ4
♣ KQ54	♣ J76
1C	1S
1NT	2D (new minor forcing)
2S	3S (invite to 4S on a max)
4S	P

The first order of business is always to bid hearts first if you have the required holdings:

♠ Q9	♠ AK432
♥ K1043	♥ AQ54
♦ K32	♦ 4
♣ KQ54	♣ J76
1C	1S
1NT	2D (new minor forcing)
2H	4H

♠ Q98	♠ A10432
♥ K1043	♥ AQ5
♦ K3	♦ Q76
♣ KQ54	♣ J4
1C	1S
1NT	2D (new minor forcing)
2H	3NT
4S	

The fact responder inquired about opener's major holdings on this hand instead of bidding 3NT directly and then didn't like hearts means that responder must have 5 spades and opener can safely bid 4S.

One final helpful aspect to new minor forcing – if all responder’s major oriented invite and game hands go through new minor forcing, the following sequence can be non-forcing/to play:

♠ Q9	♠ A10432
♥ AK82	♥ Q7654
♦ 1032	♦ 4
♣ K1054	♣ 76

1C	1S
1NT	2H
P	

In basic bridge, a change of suit by responder is usually forcing for a round and an invite hand or better. Here, responder wants to play in 2 of a major rather than 1NT which appears to be going down with 5 diamond losers, CA and a spade.

You can also use the same principles when opener rebids their minor:

1C	1H
2C	2D (new minor forcing)
1D	1S
2D	3C (new minor forcing)