Summary of Major Suit Responses to NT

Thursday mini-lesson – 19 November, 2026

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Major Suit Responses to NT

- I assume everybody here is familiar with Stayman convention (showing one or more 4 card majors)
- And Transfer bids showing 5+ cards in a major
- Today we will discuss how to respond to a NT opening by partner with *various* combinations of major suit holdings – either just one major or both majors
- All tables assume the following opening NT point ranges:
- 1NT opening = 15 - 17 p
- 2NT opening = 20 – 21 p

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Major Responses to 1NT

	Weak	Invitational	Strong
Number of cards in Major	**0 – 7 points**	**8 – 9 points**	**10 – 15 points**
6 or more	Transfer & pass	Transfer & raise major to 3M	Transfer & raise major to 4M
5	Transfer & pass	Transfer & bid 2NT	Transfer & bid 3NT

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Major Responses to 1NT cont.

	Weak	Invitational	Strong
Number of cards in Major	**0 – 7 points**	**8 – 9 points**	**10 – 15 points**
4	Pass	2C (Stayman), then raise 2H/2S to 3, or bid 2NT over no fit	2C (Stayman), then raise 2H/2S to 4, or bid 3NT over no fit
3 or fewer	Pass	2NT	3NT

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Both Majors after 1NT

	Weak	Invitational	Strong
Major card holdings	**0 – 7 points**	**8 – 9 points**	**10 – 15 points**
4 – 4 (same as one major)	Pass	2C, then raise 2H/2S to 3, or bid 2NT over 2D	2C, then raise 2H/2S to 4, or bid 3NT over 2D
4 – 5	Transfer to long M & pass	2C, then raise 2H/2S to 3, or bid 2 other major over 2D	2C, then raise 2H/2S to 4, or bid other major over 2D

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Both Majors after 1NT cont.

	Weak	Invitational	Strong
Major card holdings	**0 – 7 points**	**8 – 9 points**	**10 – 15 points**
4 – 6+	Transfer to long M & pass	2C, then raise 2H/2S to 3, or bid other major over 2D	2C, then raise 2H/2S to 4, or bid other major over 2D
5 – 5	Transfer to either M & pass	Transfer to H, then bid 2S	Transfer to S, then bid 4H

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Major Responses to 2NT

	Weak	Strong
Major cards	**0 – 4 points**	**5 – 11 points**
6 or more	Transfer & pass	Transfer & raise major to 4M
5	Transfer & pass	Transfer & bid 3NT

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Major Responses to 2NT cont.

	Weak	Strong
Major cards	**0 – 4 points**	**5 – 11 points**
4	Pass	3C (Stayman), then raise 3H/3S to 4, or bid 3NT over no fit
3 or fewer	Pass	3NT

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Both Majors after 2NT

	Weak	Strong
Major card holdings	**0 – 4 points**	**5 – 11 points**
4 - 4	Pass	3C, then raise 3H/3S to 4, or bid 3NT over 3D
4 – 5	Transfer to long M & pass	3C, then raise 3H/3S to 4, or bid 3 other major over 3D

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Both Majors after 2NT

	Weak	Strong
Major card holdings	**0 – 4 points**	**5 – 11 points**
4 – 6+	Transfer to long M & pass	3C, then raise 3H/3S to 4, or bid 4 other major over 3D
5 – 5	Transfer to either M & pass	Transfer to S, then bid 4H

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