

12) Response to 1 major opening with 3 cards support and competitive, inviting or G.F. hand

When partner opens 1 in a major (5+ cards), and we have a 3 cards support with 5-11 HCP, it is absolutely necessary to diversify our response depending on our hand strength. In order to do so it is necessary to :

- Split the ample HCP range into two segments 5-8 and 9-11.
- In case we have a limit point range of 9-11, we ought to give partner, in case his hand has a 12-13 point range, the possibility to make a further check in order to decide whether to stop at 3 level or to conclude at 4 in the major.

Over partner 1♥ opening bid, we shall respond 2♦ with 5-8 HCP and 3 cards support or 6♦ and 6-11 HCP. Opener with 11-15 HCP, would bid 2♥ over which we shall pass. Opener with a reverse hand (16-18) will bid 3♥ over which we will decide final contract

With 3 cards support and 9-11 HCP we will instead bid 2♥, over which opener will go to 4♥ with adequate HCP and/or shape, or will make additional enquiry with a limit hand of 12-13 HCP.

With a limit hand (12-13 HCP) opener over 2♥, will bid 3♣, 3♦, 2NT to show a singleton / void (S/V) respectively in ♣, ♦ or ♠: if the S/V would turn out to be useful to responder, for instance in front of a bare doubleton, the latter will conclude at 4♥. If instead the North S/V would be useless to responder, the latter will conclude at 3♥.

When opener over 2♥, bids 2♠, this bid forces responder to bid a 2NT relay over which opener will bid 3♣, 3♦, 3♥ showing a 4 carder, respectively ♣, ♦ and ♠ where he needs some honours from responder in order to eliminate losers.

Responder with a couple of honours in the required suit will conclude at 4♥ while without honours will settle for 3♥.

In this way we try to make a viable decision when opener has 12-13 HCP, responder got 10-11 and an 8 trumps fit, where to stop at 3 or to bid game can really make a difference.

Let us see 3 examples :

W	N	E	S
p	1♥	p	2♦ = 5-8 HCP with 3 cards fit or 6+♦ and 6-11HCP.
p	2♥	p	p = 3 cards fit with 5-8 HCP 3♦ = 6+♦ with 6-11 HCP

W	N	E	S
p	1♥	p	2♥ = 9-11 HCP and 3 cards fit
p	2NT		= I have S/V in ♠ does it suits you to go to 4♥ ?
	3♣		= I have S/V in ♣ does it suits you to go to 4♥ ?
	3♦		= I have S/V in ♦ does it suits you to go to 4♥ ?

W	N	E	S
p	1♥	p	2♥ = 9-11 HCP with 3 cards fit.
p	2♠	p	2NT= forced relay
p	3♣		= if you have a couple of honours in ♣ go to 4♥ .
p	3♦		= if you have a couple of honours in ♦ go to 4♥ .
	3♥		= if you have a couple of honours in ♠ go to 4♥ .

The above bidding sequence is certainly useful in deciding the bidding level for all of those limit hands where it is easy to over or under-bid.

In case responder would have a 3 cards support and a G.F. hand , response will simply be 2♣ = G.F. hand with or without ♣ over which opener has got only the following 3 re-bids :

N	S
1♥	2♣
2♥ = I have 6♥ .	
2NT= 5♥ with 332	
2♠ , 3♣ , 2♦ = 5♥ with 4+ ♠ , ♣ or ♦ on the side .	

Opener, in his re-bids over 2♣ response, does not make any difference between 11-15 and 16-18 HCP.

NB : All bidding sequences seen over 1♥ opening, are perfectly similar to those over 1♠ opening. .