

## 1 Introduction

This article describes a version of the Fantunes system designed by Gerben Dirksen after playing the almost classical version in live and online tournaments. It is largely based on the system by Italian superstars Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, nicknamed Fantunes. There are also some Polish Club elements included. The system is very flexible and most of all very natural.

The advantage of the Fantunes system is experienced in several ways. The extremely solid 1-bids make both competitive and uncontested auctions much easier than standard opening bids because responder can bid more with less and still control the auction. On the other hand, the 2-bids are very frequent and although they preempt the auction for us too, even more so for the opponents.

### 1.1 Opening Bid Structure

The opening bid structure is very natural:

1♣	13 <sup>+</sup> 5 <sup>+</sup> ♣ unbal. / 4414 / 15 <sup>+</sup> bal.*
1♦	13 <sup>+</sup> 4 <sup>+</sup> ♦ unbal. (4♦5♣ poss.)
1♥	13 <sup>+</sup> 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥
1♠	13 <sup>+</sup> 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠
1NT	12 – 14 (semi)bal., 5422, 5M poss.
2♣	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♣
2♦	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♦
2♥	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥
2♠	9 – 12, 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠
2NT	20 – 21 balanced

The most interesting feature of this system is that the 1-level opening bids are forcing and unlimited. The minimum required strength is best described by the Rule of 22, i.e. the length of the two longest suit added to the HCP is at least 22. If you prefer Zar evaluation, the minimum opening strength is about half a level more than a standard minimum opening bid, i.e. at least 29 Zar. Opposite a 1-level opening bid a balanced 11-count or

an unbalanced 10-count is usually enough to force to game.

Opening a 1-bid you will categorize your hand in one of the following strength classes: A normal hand which is worth about 13 – 17 points, a strong hand, worth about 18 – 20 points, a semi game forcing hand or a game force.

Opening on the 2-level can be approximated by the rule of 18. Since these bids are located around the average strength of a bridge hand they are extremely frequent and yet the range is very small so that partner will usually have an idea about the potential of the hand.

### 1.2 Passed hand bidding

Because of the light openings responder's hand is limited if it didn't open. Therefore there are some different responses to 1 of a major with a passed hand.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> seat the 2-level bids can be very wide ranging, in principle 6 – 12 HCP. In 4<sup>th</sup> seat these bids show approximately 11 – 13 HCP but this situation will be rather rare.

## 2 1♣ opening bid

The opening bid 1♣ shows either a balanced hand with at least 15 HCP which may include even up to 5 Diamonds, or 5 cards in a major if 15 – 17 HCP, or an unbalanced hand with 4 or more Clubs. 4441-hands with a short major should be opened 1♦. 1♣ is unlimited and forcing.

## 2.1 Responses to 1♣

1♦	0 – 5 any distribution invitational without 4-card major 14+ balanced GF 5 – 5 not both minors
1♥	6+ 4+♠, longer minor possible
1♠	6+ 4+♥, longer minor possible
1NT	6 – 8 bal., no 4-card major
2♣	GF, 5+♣
2♦	GF, 5+♦
2♥	5♥ + 4♠, 5 – 8
2♠	6 – 8, 5+4+ minors
2NT	GF, 5♥/♠332 or 5+♣ 5+♦
3♣	6 – 8, 6+♣
3♦	6 – 8, 6+♦
3♥♠	11 – 13 bal. no stopper in other M
3NT	11 – 13 bal. stopper in ♥ + ♠

## 2.2 After 1♣ – 1♦

The 1♦ response is Polish style as are the responses. With a minimum balanced hand one should rebid the longer major, which can be 3 cards. Also note the 2♥-rebid, which is a Multi Reverse.

1♣ – 1♦ – ?

1♥/♠	4+ card, less than SGF
1NT	15 – 19 balanced
2♣	13 – 17, 6+(5)♣
2♦	24+ bal. / GF
2♥	SGF, not 6 – 4
2♠	18 – 20 5+♣ 4♦
2NT	22 – 23 balanced
3♣	18 – 20, 6+♣
3x	Semiforcing, 6 – 4

After the strong 1NT rebid we use a different system as after opening a weak 1NT. This time opener should be declarer most of the time. In addition there is a large limitation on the possible hands partner might have.

1♣ – 1♦ – 1NT – ?

2♣	Stayman, 0 – 5 or 10+ 5+♥ 5+♠
2♦♥	Transfer, 0 – 5 or 10+ 5 – 5
2♠	Balanced invite / minor signoff
2NT	Both minors weak
3♣♦	Invitational
3♥♠	GF, 3-card, singleton other major

The only tricky sequence is after responder's 2♠ rebid: Opener bids 2NT with a minimum and 3♣ with a maximum.

After opener's 2♦ rebid over 1♦, 2♥ is the relay bid, then: 2♠: GF 3-suited, 2NT = 24 – 26 NT (see the 2NT opening bid for further bidding), higher = natural and GF.

After the 2♥ rebid responder can relay with 2♠, after which opener describes his hand naturally.

### 2.2.1 Responder's rebid

With a GF balanced hand rebid 2NT. With the 2-suiters rebid on the 3-level:

3♣	♣ + ♥/♠
3♦	♦ + ♥
3♥	♥ + ♠
3♠	♠ + ♦

The lower rebids are natural and weak.

## 2.3 After 1♣ – 1♥/♠

The 1♥/♠-response inverts the major suit responses after the opening bid of 1♣/♦. The two main advantages of this approach are

- The stronger hand, opener, will play more often. This is especially true for 1♦ where 1♥/♠ may be bid on 0 HCP, but also for 1♣ which may include a very strong balanced hand.
- If you bid 1♠ to show ♥ the opponents have one less bid available to show ♠, on the other hand after 1♥ showing ♠ they have one extra bid, but in this case we have the master suit.

After the response of 1♥, 1♠ shows 4 cards in ♥, completing the inversion. A 2♦-rebid shows a GF hand with at least 3-card support (Odwrotka), otherwise bid naturally:

1♣ – 1♥(♠) – ?

1♠	4 <sup>+</sup> ♥, 15 – 17 if balanced, F1R
1NT	15 – 17 balanced, no 4♠(♥)
2♣	13 – 17, 6(5) <sup>+</sup> ♣
2♦	GF, 3 <sup>+</sup> card support
2♥(♠)	GF unbal. no 3-card support
2♠(♥)	minimum, 3/4-card support
2NT	18 – 19 / 22 <sup>+</sup> bal. no 3♠(♥)
3♣	Invite, 6♣ + 3-card support
3♦	GF, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♣ + 4♦
3♥(♠)	GF, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♣ + 4♥(♠)
3♠(♥)	Invite, 4-card support
3NT	Solid ♣ with stoppers
4♣	GF, 5♣ 4♠(♥) 2 2

### 2.3.1 Checkback Stayman

After the 1NT rebid, 2♦ is to play, 2♣ is Checkback, after which opener shows his strength and support:

2♦	minimum, no 3-card support
2M	minimum, 3-card support
2oM	maximum, 3-card support
2NT	maximum, no 3-card support

2 in the other major is game forcing and shows at least 5 – 4 distribution.

After 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ 2♣ is invite or better. Since balanced hands have extra strength those are GF. Opener describes his hand as follows:

2♦	minimum unbal., 0 – 2♠
2♥	balanced, 3♠
2♠	minimum unbal., 3♠
2NT	balanced, 2♠
3♣	unbalanced, GF, 0 – 2♠
3♦	unbalanced, GF, 3♠

### 2.3.2 Responder has a 6-card major

With a 6-card major in response to 1♣ and opener's unbalanced rebid, with 6 – 9 HCP or so make a simple rebid after making a reverse major bid. A jump to the shown major is GF (for example 1♣ – 1♥ – 2♣ – 3♠).

### 2.3.3 Bubrotka

In the sequence 1♣ – 1♥/♠ – 2♦, opener shows a GF hand and at least 3-card support of partner's major. Partner will now bid like this:

2♥	6 – 9, 4 cards
2♠	10 <sup>+</sup> , 4 cards
2NT	10 <sup>+</sup> , 5 <sup>+</sup> cards
3♣♦	8 – 11, 5 <sup>+</sup> card + 4M
3♥	6 – 9, 5♥ unbal.
3♠	6 – 9, 5♥332
3NT	6 – 9, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♥
4♣♦	Splinter

After the response to the relay, opener continues naturally. This is especially useful to find a 4 – 4 fit in the other major.

### 2.3.4 1♣ – 1M – 2M

This shows an unbalanced GF hand with less than 3 cards in partner's major. It also denies a 6 – 4 distribution or solid ♣. After this responder will describe his hand without much extra strength, or ask opener to do so with a 2NT relay, which shows slam interest.

### 2.3.5 2NT rebid

This shows a GF balanced hand without 3-card support. Responder can now bid 3♣ to ask about opener's distribution. Other bids below the known suit are natural, 3 of responder's suit showing ♣. A new suit above 3 of a major is an autosplinter. The responses to the 3♣ asking bid are natural.

## 2.4 After 1♣ – 1NT

After the 1NT rebid opener can bid naturally, or ask what responder has with the 2♦ Relay. Responses to the relay is similar to the relay after a weak NT:

2♥ 2♥ 3♠  
 2♠ 2♠ 3♥  
 2NT 3♥ 3♠  
 3♣ 5♣ 4♦ 2 2  
 3♦ 5♦ 4♣ 2 2  
 3♥ 2236 bad ♣  
 3♠ 2263 bad ♦

After 2♥, 2♠ asks again, then:

2NT 4♣4♦  
 3♣ 5♣  
 3♦ 5♦  
 3♥ 3226 bad ♣  
 3♠ 3262 bad ♦

After 2♠, 2NT asks again, then:

3♣ 5♣  
 3♦ 5♦  
 3♥ 4♣4♦  
 3♠ 2326 bad ♣  
 3NT 2362 bad ♦

After 2NT, 3♣ asks again, then:

3♦ 4♣  
 3♥ 4♦  
 3♠ 5♣  
 3NT 5♦

## 2.5 After 1♣ – 2NT

Opener will usually relay with 3♣ after which responder transfers to his major, or bids 3♠ with both minors. Other rebids by opener are natural and show extreme shapes.

## 2.6 Different responses with a passed hand

With a passed hand you cannot have a GF 1-suited hand anymore, so the responses 2♣ and 2♦ show a weak two type hand with a 6-card suit, about 5 – 8 HCP. The 1NT response shows 7 – 9 balanced, 2NT shows 10 – 11 balanced. A direct 3♣ or 3♦ bid shows 10 – 11 and 5♥332 and 5♠332 respectively and asks partner to choose between 3NT and 4 major.

## 3 1♦ opening bid

The opening bid 1♦ shows an unbalanced hand with at least 4 cards in Diamonds. It includes 4441-hands with any shortness except ♦, and may include hands with 4♦ 5♣ if the ♣ suit is bad. 1♦ is unlimited and forcing.

### 3.1 Responses to 1♦

In contrast to the responses to the other opening bids, the responses 2♣/♦ are not forcing to game but since fewer possible final contracts have to be considered this is not a problem. Notice the Bergen-style 3♣-response that covers the gap between the preemptive 3♦ and the inverted 2♦.

1♥ 0+ 4+♠, longer minor possible  
 1♠ 0+ 4+♥, longer minor possible  
 1NT 0 – 8, no 4-card major  
 2♣ Inv+, 5(4)+♣  
 2♦ Inv+, 4+♦  
 2♥ Invitational, 6+♥  
 2♠ Invitational, 6+♠  
 2NT 14+ bal.  
 3♣ 6 – 8, 4+♦  
 3♦ 0 – 5, 5+♦  
 3NT 11 – 13 bal.

### 3.2 After 1♦ – 1♥/♠

There is a difference here to the responses to 1♣ in that there is no lower limit to the 1♥/♠ responses. Also, if you have a less than invitational hand with 5♥ and 4♠ you should respond 1♥. However, the 1NT rebid has become free because opener denies a balanced hand. 1NT now shows any hand worth 18+ that cannot be bid in any other way.

1♦ – 1♥(♠) – ?

1♠	13 – 20, 4♥
1NT	18+ any distribution
2♣	13 – 17, 5+4+ minors
2♦	13 – 17, 6(5)+♦
2♥(♠)	15 – 17, 6+♦ 4♥(♠)
2♠(♥)	13 – 17, 4(3)-card support
2NT	15 – 17, 6+♦ and 3-card support
3♣	15 – 17, 5 – 5
3♦	15 – 17, 7+♦
3♠(♥)	15 – 17, 6♦ and 4-card support
3NT	Solid ♦ with stoppers

### 3.2.1 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠

This is a tough situation since responder is not limited, and opener is hardly limited. Transfers are in use:

1NT	5 – 8, no fit
2♣	Transfer to ♦
2♦	Transfer to ♥
2♥	Transfer to ♠
2♠	GF, asks for ♣ stopper
2NT	Invite no fit
3♣	GF, 5 – 5

The transfers are accepted on hands in the 13 – 17 HCP range. Hands in the 18 – 20 range will not accept the transfer but instead show extras.

### 3.2.2 1♦ – 1♥/♠ – 1NT

This shows any 18+ hand that cannot be shown in another way. With a weak hand responder can go back to ♦, rebid his major, or bid 2♥ after showing ♠. 2♣ is an artificial game force after which 2♦ from opener confirms at least 3-card support and Bubrotka applies (see 1♣ – 1♥/♠ – 2♦), a new suit is natural and 2 of partner's major shows a minor 2-suiter.

### 3.2.3 Responder has a 6-card major

With a 6-card major in response to 1♦ and opener's rebid, with 0 – 6 HCP make a simple rebid after making a reverse major bid. This will be a signoff as partner did not rebid 1NT. A jump to the 3-level is GF. The inbetween hand would have jumped to 2♥/♠ right away.

## 3.3 After 1♦ – 1NT

1NT shows 0 – 8 without a 4-card major or a suitable hand to raise directly. It may be passed, which will normally show a near-minimum hand without 6♦ or 4♣. With 13 – 20 opener will either rebid 2♣ or 2♦. With SemiGF hands opener can choose between 4 natural bids: 2♥, 2♠, 3♣ and 3♦. 2NT is a general GF hand, 3♥/♠ shows both minors and a splinter in the bid major.

## 3.4 After 1♦ – 2♣

This sequence is invitational or better, opener will describe if he is minimum or not. It can include an invitational balanced hand. The 2♥-rebid is another Multi Reverse.

1♦ – 2♣ – ?

2♦	Possibly minimum, 5+♦
2♥	a) GF ♣-support b) GF 3-suited short ♣ c) GF 5+♦ + 4♥
2♠	GF 5+♦ + 4♠
2NT	Minimum short ♣
3♣	Minimum ♣ support
3♦	GF, decent 6+♦

After the 2♦ rebid responder can invite with either 3♣ or 3♦, anything else forces to game. After the Multi-Reverse 2♥, 2♠ is an optional relay after which opener describes his hand naturally. Instead responder can bid naturally if he thinks describing is better than asking.

## 3.5 After higher responses

1♦ – 2♦ shows an invitational hand or better with ♦-support. To show a minimum, opener bids 3♦.

After the invitational jump shifts in a major, the cheapest response is a relay asking for a shortness, 1♦ – 2♥ – 2NT shows 4-card ♠. Raising the major shows a fit and slam interest.

### 3.6 Different responses with a passed hand

After 1♦ the responses are the same with a passed hand as they were with an unpassed hand, however the HCP ranges are a bit shifted down. The 1NT response is now 0 – 7 HCP.

## 4 1♥/♠ opening bids

The opening bids 1♥ and 1♠ show at least 5 cards in the bid suit and are unlimited and forcing. A 2/1 GF structure with Kaplan inversion is used and in this case the forcing character of the opening bid is largely ignored.

A Bergen type raise structure is used but any other structure may be inserted to the preference of the user.

### 4.1 Responses to 1♥

1♠	a) 0 – 10, <5♠, F1R, 3♥ possible b) 14 – 16 balanced
1NT	0+, 5+♠, forcing
2♣	GF, 5+♣
2♦	GF, 5+♦
2♥	6 – 8, 3+♥
2♠	11 – 13 / 17+ balanced
2NT	12+, 4+♥
3♣	9 – 11, 4+♥
3♦	6 – 8, 4+♥
3♥	0 – 5, 4+♥
3♠	Slam try, any void
3NT	Slam try, singleton ♠
4♣♦	Slam try, singleton
4♥	Preemptive

### 4.2 Responses to 1♠

1NT	a) 0 – 10, F1R, 3♠ possible b) 14 – 16 balanced
2♣	GF, 5+♣
2♦	GF, 5+♦
2♥	GF, 5+♥
2♠	6 – 8, 3+♠
2NT	11 – 13 / 17+ balanced
3♣	12+, 4+♠
3♦	9 – 11, 4+♠
3♥	6 – 8, 4+♠
3♠	0 – 5, 4+♠
3NT	Slam try, any void
4♣♦♥	Slam try, singleton
4♠	Preemptive

### 4.3 Forcing 1NT/1♠

The cheapest response to the 1♥/♠-opening is the forcing NT. After 1♥ Kaplan inversion is in place so 1♠ is the forcing NT which can have 4 cards in ♠. In both cases the bid can be 0 HCP and includes bad and invitational hands with 3-card support. After 1♥ – 1♠ and 1♠ – 1NT, Gazilli is used to sort out the different hand types.

1♥ – 1♠ – ?

1NT	13 – 17, 5♥ 4♠
2♣	18+ any or 13 – 17, 5♥ 3+♣
2♦	13 – 17, 5♥ 3+♦
2♥	13 – 17, 6+♥
2♠	15 – 17, 6+♥ 4+♠

1♠ – 1NT – ?

2♣	18+ any or 13 – 17, 5♠ 3+♣
2♦	13 – 17, 5♠ 3+♦
2♥	13 – 17, 5♠ 4+♥
2♠	13 – 17, 6+♠

#### 4.3.1 Higher rebids

2NT	18+, 6 – 4 or 5 – 5 with minor
3♣♦(♥)	15 – 17, 5 – 5
3M	15 – 17, 7+card

## 4.4 Kaplan Inversion

The sequence  $1\heartsuit - 1NT$  shows  $5^+\spadesuit$  and is forcing for 1 round. After this Gazilli is in use also:

$1\heartsuit - 1NT - ?$

$2\clubsuit$	$18^+$ or $13 - 17$ , $5\heartsuit$ $3^+\clubsuit$
$2\diamond$	$13 - 17$ , $5\heartsuit$ $4^+\diamond$
$2\heartsuit$	$13 - 17$ , $6^+\heartsuit$
$2\spadesuit$	$13 - 17$ , $3^+\spadesuit$
$2NT$	$18^+$ , $6 - 4$ or $5 - 5$ with minor
$3\clubsuit\diamond$	$15 - 17$ , $5 - 5$
$3\heartsuit$	$18 - 20$ , semisolid suit

## 4.5 Gazilli

Gazilli is used in the three different auctions where opener opens a major and responder bids on the 1-level. Opener's  $2\clubsuit$  rebid now shows either a  $13 - 17$  HCP hand with  $4^+\clubsuit$  or any  $18^+$  hand that can not be bid any other way.

Responder's  $2\diamond$  rebid now shows  $6^+$  HCP without fit and forces to game opposite the strong variation. Other rebids except for  $3M$  show  $0 - 5$  HCP:

$1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\clubsuit - ?$

$2\heartsuit$	$0 - 5$ , $2^+\heartsuit$
$2\spadesuit$	$0 - 5$ , 3-suited short $\heartsuit$
$2NT$	$0 - 5$ , $5^+\clubsuit$ $5^+\diamond$
$3\clubsuit\diamond$	$0 - 5$ , $6^+$ card
$3\heartsuit$	Invite, $3\heartsuit$

$1\heartsuit - 1NT - 2\clubsuit - ?$

$2\heartsuit$	$0 - 5$ , $2^+\heartsuit$
$2\spadesuit$	$0 - 5$ , $6^+\spadesuit$
$2NT$	$0 - 5$ , 3-suited short $\heartsuit$
$3\clubsuit\diamond$	$0 - 5$ , $5\spadesuit$ $5^+$ card
$3\heartsuit$	Invite, $3\heartsuit$

$1\spadesuit - 1NT - 2\clubsuit - ?$

$2\heartsuit$	$0 - 5$ , $5^+\heartsuit$
$2\spadesuit$	$0 - 5$ , $2^+\spadesuit$
$2NT$	$0 - 5$ , 3-suited short $\spadesuit$
$3\clubsuit\diamond$	$0 - 5$ , $6^+$ card
$3\spadesuit$	Invite, $3\spadesuit$

After the  $2\diamond$  relay, rebidding the major shows the weak variation with  $3^+\clubsuit$ , the other rebids are natural and GF. A Jump to  $3\heartsuit$  after opening  $1\spadesuit$  shows a  $5 - 5$  hand whereas bidding  $2\heartsuit$  in this situation may be done on 3 cards to find a  $5 - 3$  fit. As the  $2NT$  opening bid creates a non-continuous range for the  $2NT$  rebid (either  $18 - 20$  or  $23^+$ ), the  $3NT$  rebid shows a solid major with side stoppers.

## 4.6 2-suited 2NT rebid

After the sequences  $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$  and  $1\heartsuit/\spadesuit - 1NT$  the  $2NT$  rebid shows a 2-suited hand with major and minor, either  $5 - 5$  or  $6 - 4$ . Partner can bid a forcing but not GF relay,  $3\clubsuit$  then:

$3\diamond$	$6M + 4\diamond$
$3\heartsuit$	$6M + 4\clubsuit$
$3\spadesuit$	$5M + 5\diamond$
$3NT$	$5M + 5\clubsuit$
$4\clubsuit\diamond$	$6M + 4m$ GF

## 4.7 2 over 1 GF

The scheme for 2 over 1 GF hands is taken from Fred Gitelman's "Improving 2/1 GF". A new suit on the two-level shows a real suit and is game forcing. Different bids are available with balanced hands or hands with 4-card support. After a two over one, 2 of the opened major is the waiting bid and may be made on a minimum without a biddable suit.

## 4.8 Higher responses

$2M+1$  shows a balanced GF hand,  $2M+2$  is Jacoby, the other two suit jumpshifts are Bergen style. 3 of the opened major is a preempt, there are splinters in 3 suits, showing a singleton. With a void bid  $3M+1$ , then partner can ask for the void.

### 4.8.1 Jacoby 2NT

Here we use step responses for the first 4 steps:

- Step 1 Any minimum (see also 4M)
- Step 2 Balanced, 18<sup>+</sup>
- Step 3 5-card M, extra's
- Step 4 6-card M, no shortness, extra's
- 4M 6-card major, no shortness, min.

The other three bids shows at least 6 trumps, extra's and a shortness in the bid suit, where 1♥ – 2NT – 3NT shows a ♠ shortness.

After the cheapest bid showing any minimum, the cheapest response from responder is an asking bid, asking partner to describe. Then partner bids the same as his direct bid, except that he shows a minimum, for example 4♦ would show 6<sup>+</sup> trumps and a ♦ shortness.

## 4.9 Different responses with a passed hand

As the 2/1 GF approach makes no more sense with a passed hand, the responses are vastly different to a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> seat 1♥/♠-opening. First of all there is no Kaplan Inversion, i.e. 1♥ – 1♠ is natural. Second there is no forcing NT. The 1NT response now shows 0 – 7 and denies 3-card support for partner and as such is non-forcing. 2♣ is a non-fit Drury, showing about 8 – 11 HCP. It replaces the forcing NT but the range of hands is limited by not opening a Fantunes 2-bid. Then transfers to partner's suit and ♥(after 1♠) are used to distinguish non-forcing from invitational hands with either major. In a scheme:

Passed hand responses to 1♥:

- 1♠ 0 – 9, 4<sup>+</sup>♠
- 1NT 0 – 8, no 4♠ or 3♥, NF
- 2♣ 8 – 11, no 4♥
- 2♦ 6 – 9, 3<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♥ 0 – 5, 3<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♠ 6 – 11, bal. 4-card support
- 2NT Minisplinter in ♠
- 3♣♦ Minisplinter

Passed hand responses to 1♠:

- 1NT 0 – 7, no 3♠, NF
- 2♣ 8 – 11, no 4♠
- 2♦ Transfer to ♥
- 2♥ 6 – 9, 3<sup>+</sup>♠
- 2♠ 0 – 5, 3<sup>+</sup>♠
- 2NT 6 – 11 bal. 4-card support
- 3♣♦♥ Minisplinter

After the 1♠ and 1NT responses Gazilli applies as before. After 1♥ – 1♠, 1NT is 14 – 17 balanced.

After the 2♣ response we use Viking Precision type rebids. 2 of our major shows a balanced minimum and is nonforcing. With minimum hands we cannot show as well as GF hands without distribution that can be shown naturally, we bid 2♦. After that the GF semibalanced hand by responder is shown with 2NT.

## 5 1NT opening bid

Opening 1NT shows 12 – 14 HCP and approximately balanced. It may include a 5-card major, even 5M422 hands.

An overview of the responses to 1NT:

- 2♣ NF Stayman
- 2♦ Asks for 2-card major
- 2♥♠ To play
- 2NT Transfer to ♣
- 3♣ Transfer to ♦
- 3♦ Asks for 5-card major
- 3♥ 3♥ + Short ♠, GF
- 3♠ 3♠ + Short ♥, GF
- 3NT To play
- 4♣ Slam interest in ♥
- 4♦ Slam interest in ♠
- 4♥♠ To play
- 4NT Quantitative

### 5.1 NF Stayman

Stayman is bid on invitational hands or better, with or without a 4-card major, or with

weak hands that plan to sign off on the 2-level. Also invitational hands with a long minor go over Stayman. The responses are normal:

- 2♦ No 4-card major
- 2♥ 4<sup>+</sup>♥, can have 4♠
- 2♠ 4<sup>+</sup>♠, no 4♥

After 2♦:

- 2♥ Pass or bid 2♠
- 2♠ Invite 5♠ 4♥
- 2NT Invite to 3NT
- 3♣♦ Invite long suit
- 3♦ 5 – 5 majors invite
- 3♥♠ GF 5<sup>+</sup>card + 4-card other major

After 2♥:

- 2♠ Invite for 3NT or GF with ♥
- 2NT Invite for 3NT with 4♠
- 3♣♦ Invite long suit
- 3♥ Invite for 4♥
- 3♠ Slam try with 4♠
- 4♣♦ Splinter
- 4♥♠ To play

After 2♠:

- 2NT Invite for 3NT
- 3♣♦ Invite long suit
- 3♥ GF with ♠
- 3♠ Invite for 4♠
- 4♣♦ Splinter
- 4♥♠ To play

## 5.2 Doubleton Major Relay

This relay is used to find 5 – 3 fits in a major. It is especially useful since if no fit is found, it is possible to stop on the 2-level, an advantage not available with transfers. The relay promises game interest if a fit is found. The responses are:

- 2♥ Doubleton ♥
- 2♠ Doubleton ♠
- 2NT Minimum, 3<sup>+</sup>♥ 3<sup>+</sup>♠
- 3♣♦ Max., 3<sup>+</sup>♥ 3<sup>+</sup>♠, 4<sup>+</sup>card
- 3♥♠ Max., 5 – 3 in majors
- 3NT Maximum, 4333

After 2♥/♠, responder can bid a new minor naturally and GF, invite to either major by bidding 3♥/♠, or invite without a fit with 2NT. The sequence 1NT – 2♦ – 2♥ – 2♠ shows 4♠ + 5♥ and an invitational hand. 4♣/♦ is a splinter confirming the 5<sup>+</sup> 3<sup>+</sup> fit.

After 2NT, 3♣ confirms ♥ as trumps, 3♦ confirms ♠, 3♥/♠ is to play. If partner shows a maximum and a fit by bidding 3♣/♦, 3♥/♠ is a slam try and shows the fit.

## 5.3 Higher responses

After minor suit transfers partner must complete it except with a great fit. Bidding on now shows a game forcing hand and is natural. The 3♦ response asks partner if he has a 5-card major.

After 1NT – 4♣/♦ opener confirms slam interest by bidding the intermediate bid or can start a Kickback ace asking sequence himself if his hand is suitable.

## 6 2-level opening bids

The 2-level opening bids are the cornerstone of the system. These show approximately 9 – 12 HCP and at least a 5-card suit which need not be of good quality. Unbalanced hands in this range are usually always opened with a 2-bid. This makes them very frequent and although quite imprecise it puts even more pressure on the opponents.

The cheapest bid is always a relay, asking for minimum or maximum and distribution. The other responses may not be natural in some cases to save space.

### 6.1 Responses to 2♣

- 2♦ Relay, invite<sup>+</sup>
- 2♥ NF, 5<sup>+</sup>♥
- 2♠ NF, 5<sup>+</sup>♠
- 2NT Inv. 5<sup>+</sup>♠ 4<sup>+</sup>♥
- 3♣ Preemptive
- 3♦♥♠ Invitational, 6<sup>+</sup>card

## 6.2 Responses to 2♦

2♥	Relay, invite <sup>+</sup>
2♠	F1R, 4 <sup>+</sup> ♠
2NT	Inv <sup>+</sup> ♣ or (GF 1 or 2 5crd M)
3♣	Inv. 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠ 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥
3♦	Preemptive
3♥♠	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> card

After 2NT, 3♣ is negative and 3♦ is positive for ♣. One major is shown by bidding it, both majors is shown by rebidding 3NT.

## 6.3 Responses to 2♥

2♠	Relay, invite <sup>+</sup>
2NT	Invite <sup>+</sup> , 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠
3♣♦	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> card
3♥	Preemptive
3♠	GF, 6 <sup>+</sup> card

## 6.4 Responses to 2♠

2NT	Relay, invite <sup>+</sup>
3♣	5 <sup>+</sup> ♥, invite <sup>+</sup>
3♦	Invitational, 6 <sup>+</sup> card
3♥	GF, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♣
3♠	Preemptive

## 6.5 After the relay

Responses to the relay can be kept simple:

- After 2♣ – 2♦: bid the better major, can be 3 cards if ♣ can not be rebid, 3♣ shows minimum with 6 cards and 2NT maximum with 6 cards.
- After 2♦ – 2♥: 2♠ shows a minimum with 4 cards in either major. With a maximum, bid 3 of the major. 3♦ again is a minimum with 6 cards.
- After 2♥ – 2♠: 3♥ again is a 6-card minimum, bid a 4-card minor if you have one, 2NT may or may not include 4♠.

- After 2♠ – 2NT: a new suit is natural but may be 3 cards if maximum.

Or a more precise version of the Relays can be played. In this version the first priority is to show 3 cards in an unbid major.

### 6.5.1 2♣ – 2♦

The first job for opener is to show a 3- or 4-card major:

2♥	3/4♥, any number of ♠
2♠	3/4♠, less than 3♥
2NT	Maximum, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♣, no 3♥/♠
3♣	Minimum, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♣, no 3♥/♠
3♦	6♣ 4♦

After the major-showing responses, the next bid is another relay. 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ – 2♠ – ?

2NT	4♥
3♣	6♣ 3♥, no 3♠
3♦	3♥ 4♦
3♥	3♥ 4♠
3♠	6 <sup>+</sup> ♣ 3♥ 3♠
3NT	2=3=2=6
4♣	7 <sup>+</sup> ♣

2♣ – 2♦ – 2♠ – 2NT – ?

3♣	6♣ 3♠, no 3♥
3♦	3♠ 4♦
3♥	4♠ 2♥
3♠	4♠ short ♥
3NT	3=2=2=6
4♣	7 <sup>+</sup> ♣

### 6.5.2 2♦ – 2♥

Here the structure is similar as after 2♣, one step higher.

2♠	3/4♠, any number of ♥
2NT	3/4♥, less than 3♠
3♣	4♣
3♦	Minimum, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♦ no 3♥/♠

As after 2♣, the next bid after the major responses is the second relay.

2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 2NT - ?

3♣	4♠
3♦	6♦ 3♠
3♥	4♥ 3♠
3♠	4♠ 3♥
3NT	3=2=6=2
4♦	7+♦

2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT - 3♣ - ?

3♦	4♥
3♥	3♥4♣
3♠	Short ♠
3NT	2=3=6=2
4♦	7+♦

### 6.5.3 2♥ - 2♠

Although there is less bidding space now, there is only one unbid major. The logical responses to the relay are therefore:

2NT: 3/4♠  
 3♣: 4♣ no 3♠  
 3♦: 4♦ no 3♠  
 3♥: Minimum, 6+♥  
 3♠: 6 - 5  
 3NT: Maximum, 6+♥

Here there are no NF bids after the relay! After the 2NT response, a second relay applies:

2♥ - 2♠ - 2NT - 3♣ - ?

3♦: 4♠
3♥: 6+♥, 3♠
3♠: 3♠ 4♣
3NT: 3♠ 4♦
4♥: 7+♥

### 6.5.4 2♠ - 2NT

Finally the most troublesome relay. This is the only situation where a slightly different approach is taken.

3♣	4♣ or 3♥
3♦	4♦
3♥	4♥
3♠	Minimum, 6+♠, No 3♥
3NT	Maximum, 6+♠, No 3♥
4♠	7+♠

2♠ - 2NT - 3♣ - 3♦ - ?

3♥	5♠ 3♥
3♠	4♣
3NT	6♠ 3♥

## 6.6 Passed hand bidding

In third seat the opening bids are very wide-ranged, in principle 7 - 13 but vulnerable some values will always be present. In fourth seat the opening bids are more sound than in other seats, about 10 - 13 HCP.

### 6.6.1 Passed hand 2♣/♦

A new suit on the 2-level is natural nonforcing, probably a Weak Two type bid. 2NT is forcing with fit, a new suit on the 3-level is a fit jump.

### 6.6.2 Passed hand 2♥/♠

The next bid shows a fit and is forcing, the other bids below 3M are minisplinters. 2♥ - 2NT is a minisplinter in ♠.

## 7 2NT opening bid

This is a strong 2NT opening bid and should only be used on real balanced hands, all other bids are handled by the 1-level opening bids. It denies a 5-card major.

3♣	Puppet Stayman
3♦♥	Transfer
3♠	To play 3NT or RKCB minors
	After 3NT: 4♣/♦ = RKCB
3NT	5♠ + 4♥ NF

## 7.1 Puppet Stayman

Here we play the Italian version of Puppet Stayman, in which the responses 3♥ and 3NT are interchanged. This leaves more space for minor-oriented hands.

2NT – 3♣ – ?

3♦ One or both 4-card majors  
3♥ No 4/5-card major  
3♠ 5♠  
3NT 5♥

After the 3♦ rebid responder bids the major he does not have. With both majors 4♣ with slam interest and 4♦ without slam interest.

## 8 After interference

After an overcall or double we no longer have the obligation to respond but we can do so with quite weak hands, using the fact that opener must have at least a Queen over a standard minimum opening bid.

### 8.1 2<sup>nd</sup> seat doubles

After a double of 1 of a suit transfers are on:

1♣ (Dbl) ?

1♦ 4+♥  
1♥ 4+♠  
1♠ Balanced  
1NT Both minors  
2♣ NF 5+♣  
2♦♥♠ Weak jump

1♦ (Dbl) ?

1♥ 4+♠ (as without interference)  
1♠ 4+♥ (as without interference)  
2♣ NF 5+♣

After 1♥/♠ the transfers are on from 1NT upwards:

1♥ (Dbl) ?

1NT 5+♣  
2♣ 5+♦  
2♦ Good ♥ raise  
2♥ Bad ♥ raise

After 1♥, a new 1-over-1 sequence arises. Gazilli applies:

1♥ (Dbl) 1♠ (Pass) ?

1NT 18+ any  
2♣ 13 – 17, 4+card or 18+ any  
2♦ 13 – 17, 4+card  
2♥ 13 – 17, 6+card  
2♠ 13 – 17, 4(3)+card

### 8.2 Overcalls after 1♣

In principle assume that 1♣ shows a balanced hand and not a real suit, as this will be the case most of the time. Unlike after the other opening bids, there are no fit showing jumps or fit showing cuebids.

#### 8.2.1 1♦ overcall

Double shows at least 4 cards in both majors. 1♥/♠ are reversed as without interference. 2♦ shows at least 5 cards in both majors, either weak or strong. Jump bids are weak.

#### 8.2.2 1♥ overcall

After an overcall of 1♥ the bids double and 1♠ are reversed. Dbl shows 4+♠ and 1♠ shows less than 4 cards and no good bid. 2♥ shows a 2-suiter with ♠ and a minor, 2NT shows both minors.

#### 8.2.3 1♠ overcall

2♠ shows a 2-suiter with ♥ and a minor, 2NT shows both minors.

## 8.2.4 1NT overcall

Here we defend as if RHO had opened a weak notrump opening bid.

## 8.2.5 Two-level overcalls

Double is negative. A new suit without jump is forcing, a new suit with jump is preemptive. If the overcall was  $2\heartsuit$  or higher, 2NT is no longer natural but Lebensohl.

## 8.3 Overcalls after $1\heartsuit$

The general strategy after these natural opening bids is to show a fit with many possible bids, Robson - Segal style.

### 8.3.1 Natural overcalls without jump

- 2NT shows an invitational hand with fit
- A bid in opponent's suit shows a GF hand with fit
- A new suit without jump is forcing
- $1\heartsuit$  ( $1\heartsuit$ )  $2\spadesuit$  is a weak jump
- Fit jumps on the 3-level and higher
- Lebensohl is on after jump overcalls on the 2-level

After an  $1\heartsuit$ -overcall after  $1\heartsuit$  the bids Double and  $1\spadesuit$  are reversed as after  $1\clubsuit$  -  $1\heartsuit$ .

### 8.3.2 1NT overcall

Double is for penalty, a bid on the 2-level is natural and NF.

### 8.3.3 Jump overcalls on the 2-level

2NT is Lebensohl, a cuebid in opponent's suit is GF with fit.

# 9 Ace Asking

When asking for Aces we use Roman Key Card Blackwood, but the bid that asks for aces depends on the set trump suit. If a minor is set as trumps, 4 of the agreed minor asks for key cards. If  $\spadesuit$  are set as trumps, 4NT asks for Key Cards. If  $\heartsuit$  are set as trumps,  $4\spadesuit$  asks for Key Cards (Kickback) unless  $\spadesuit$  are in the picture, in which case 4NT is still the Ace Asking bid. Some trouble sequences:

$1\spadesuit$   $2\heartsuit$   $2\spadesuit$   $4\heartsuit$   $4\spadesuit$ : RKC for  $\heartsuit$ ,  $4\heartsuit$  set trumps.

$1\spadesuit$   $2\heartsuit$   $3\heartsuit$   $4\spadesuit$ : Picture jump, not RKC.

The responses to Key Card ask are:

- Step 1 1 or 4
- Step 2 0 or 3
- Step 3 2 (or 5), no trump Q
- Step 4 2 (or 5), trump Q

If the trump Queen is not known, Step 1 asks for the Trump Queen. If the Queen is already known, this step is cancelled. The first non-Queen asking step asks for specific Kings.

## 9.1 Queen ask and specific Kings

The cheapest bid in the trump suit denies the trump Queen. Otherwise, the cheapest King is shown, where NT possibly replaces the King in the relay suit. The first impossible bid shows the trump Queen and no outside Kings. If only specific Kings are asked, the cheapest bid that is either trumps or impossible shows no outside Kings.

# 10 Competitive Conventions

## 10.1 Reverse major interference

After we open  $1\clubsuit/\heartsuit$  and partner responds in a major (showing the other major), special situations arise. First after they double:

1♣/♦ (Pass) 1♥ (Dbl) ?

Pass: No ♥ stopper, no bid

Rdbl: 4-card ♥

1♠: 3-card ♠

Rest: As without interference

1♣/♦ (Pass) 1♠ (Dbl) ?

Pass: No 3-card ♥

Rdbl: 3-card ♥

Rest: As without interference

If they overcall below 2 of the shown major, Double is support for the shown major or a very strong hand without fit.

## 10.2 Game try doubles

If we have a fit and opponents bid in the suit directly below ours on the 3-level, Double is a game try, for example: 1♠(2♥) 2♠(3♥) Dbl

## 10.3 Good Bad 2NT

When opener can not rebid his suit on the 2-level after a 1-level response from partner that could be based on a weak hand and an overcall from opponents, 2NT is good bad. This means that 2NT shows either a minimum hand or a very good hand, and bidding on the 3-level directly shows an intermediate hand. The strength of the good bad ranges depend on what responder has promised so far.

An example good bad sequence would be:

1♦(Pass) 1♠(2♠)

Here 2NT is either 13 – 17 and good shape or 21<sup>+</sup>, 3♣ and 3♦ are natural and show about 18 – 20.

# 11 Overview of changes

## 11.1 New in version 1.05

Fixed ranges of 2-level openings in FD file.

Opening 2NT shows 21 – 22 balanced.

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ is strong with ♥, not a weak 5431. A jump to 3♥ shows 5 – 5 GF.

After Gazilli and a 2♦ positive response, a 3NT rebid from opener shows 21 – 23 balanced.

After 1♣ – 1♦, 2♥ is a general SGF hand that not a 1-suiter or 6 – 4. 2♠ shows 5♣ + 4♦ and 18 – 20. A jump to a new suit on the 3-level shows a SGF and 6 – 4 distribution.

## 11.2 New in version 1.10

Added "Improving 2/1 GF".

Bubrotka after 1♣ – 1♥/♠ – 2♦.

New responses to 1NT.

Added Splinters after 1♥/♠.

Added Ace Asking.

Added Special double situations.

## 11.3 New in version 1.15

Moved defensive bidding to new file.

## 11.4 New in version 1.20

Transfers after 18 – 20 NT rebid.

Rebid after 1♥ (Dbl) 1♠.

Expanded relay after 1♣ – 1NT – 2♦.

Puppet Stayman after strong 2NT.

Open 1M with 14 – 17, 5332

Transfers after 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠.

## **11.5 New in version 1.25**

New responses to passed hand 1-bids.

## **11.6 New in version 1.30**

Confirmed passed hand 1-level opening bids as 13<sup>+</sup>.

Transfers to a minor after 1NT.

New responses to passed hand 2-bids.

More 15 – 17 hands shown by opener's rebid.

## **11.7 New in version 1.40**

New relays after 2-level opening bids.

Bubrotka after 1♦ opening.

## **11.8 New in version 1.45**

New NT rebids after 1♣ – 1♦.

2NT opener changed to 20 – 21.

1♦ – 2NT strong, not invitational.