Modified Fantunes – Version 1.80

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 competetive 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.

Defensive bidding is not included in this article.

1.1 Opening Bid Structure

The opening bid structure is very natural:

```
1
         13^+ 5^+ unbal. / 4=4=1=4 / 15^+ bal.
         13^+ 4^+ onbal. (4\diamond5 poss.)
1\diamondsuit
         13^{+} 5^{+} \heartsuit
1\heartsuit
         13^{+} 5^{+} \bigstar
1
1NT
         12 - 14 (semi)bal., 5422, 5M poss.
2
         9 - 12, 5^+
         9 - 12.5^+
2\diamondsuit
2\heartsuit
         9 - 12, 5^+ \heartsuit
2
         9 - 12, 5^+ \spadesuit
         20 - 21 balanced, 5M possible
2NT
```

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 - 17points, a strong hand, worth about 18 - 20points, 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 addition, hands with at least 5 - 4 in the majors and about 11/12 HCP (at least rule of 20) are also opened on the 1-level.

In 3^{rd} seat the 2-level bids can be very wide ranging, in principle 6 – 12 HCP. In this case $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ is 1-suited with a maximum. In 4^{th} seat these bids show a typical 4^{th} seat Weak Two bid with about 11 – 13 HCP.

2 1♣ opening bid

The opening bid 1. shows either a balanced hand with at least 15 HCP (possibly $5\diamondsuit$ 332 with 15 – 17 HCP), or an unbalanced hand with 4 or more Clubs. 4441-hands with a short major should be opened $1\diamondsuit$. 1. is unlimited and forcing.

2.1 Responses to $1\clubsuit$

$1\diamondsuit$	0-5 any distribution
	invitational without 4-card major
	min. GF, $5-5$, not both minors
$1\heartsuit$	$6^+ 4^+ \spadesuit$, longer minor possible
1♠	$6^+ 4^+ \heartsuit$, longer minor possible
$1\mathrm{NT}$	6-8 bal., no 4-card major
2 ♣	GF, 5+
$2\diamondsuit$	GF, 5^+
$2\heartsuit$	$5\heartsuit+4 \spadesuit,5-8$
$2 \spadesuit$	$6 - 8, 5^+4^+$ minors
	or GF 5^+5^+ minors
2NT	14^+ balanced
3♣	$6-8, 6^+$
$3\diamondsuit$	$6 - 8, 6^+$
3♡♠	11 - 13 bal. no stopper in other M
3NT	11 – 13 bal. stopper in $\heartsuit + \spadesuit$

2.2 After $1 \clubsuit - 1 \diamondsuit$

The $1\diamondsuit$ response can have several meanings but since it is weak or strong, opener can make use of a wide-range 1NT rebid. On the 2-level there are several artificial rebids to fill the gaps. Note that the $2\clubsuit$ -rebid can show 6 cards as minimum hands with $5\clubsuit$ and $4\diamondsuit$ are opened with $1\diamondsuit$.

1 - 1 > - ?

$1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$	4^+ card, less than SGF
	(15 - 17 if balanced)
$1\mathrm{NT}$	15-19 balanced
	4-card major possible if max.
2 ♣	$13 - 20, 6^+$
$2\diamondsuit$	24^+ bal. / GF
$2\heartsuit$	SGF, not $6-4$
$2 \spadesuit$	$18 - 20, 5^+$ 4
2NT	22 - 23 balanced
3♣	Semiforcing, good 6+♣
3x	$0 - 4$ losers, $6^+ - 4x$

2.2.1 $1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ rebid

This natural rebid shows an unbalanced hand with \clubsuit and the bid major. Responder can show the different hand types in $1\diamondsuit$ on different levels:

- Weak hands with 0 5 HCP bid naturally, upto $2\spadesuit$.
- Invitational hands bid 2NT, 3♣ or 3◊. Because the rebid promises at least 4 cards in ♣, 3♣ will be the most common invitational rebid.
- Strong 2-suiters are shown with higher rebids as naturally as possible: raising partner's major to the 3-level shows 5 5 with a fit in the major, a bid in the other major shows that major and ♣, confirming the minor suit fit. The final combination of the other major and ♦ rebids 3NT.

2.2.2 1NT rebid

Because of the different ranges of the possibilities in $1\diamondsuit$ a wide-range 1NT rebid is used (15 – 19 HCP). Opener may have a 4-card major, or, if he has 15 – 17, 5 cards in \diamondsuit . After the strong 1NT rebid we use a different system as after opening a weak 1NT, as opener should declare most of the time and because of the large limitation on the possible hands partner might have. The most important restriction is that responder is never invitational after this sequence as the invitational variation of $1\diamondsuit$ (approx. 9 – 10 HCP) is a minimum GF after the 1NT rebid.

$$1 \clubsuit - 1 \diamondsuit - 1 \operatorname{NT} - ?$$

2 ♣	Stayman, $0-5$ or GF $5^+ \heartsuit 5^+ \blacklozenge$
$2\diamondsuit$	$0-5, 5^+ \heartsuit$ or GF $5^+ \heartsuit - 5$, $\diamondsuit / \diamondsuit$
$2\heartsuit$	$0-5, 5^+$ for GF 5^+ for -5
$2 \spadesuit \text{NT}$	Transfer, $0-5$ or min. GF
3♣	Both minors, $0-5$
$3\diamondsuit$	Both minors, min. GF
$3\heartsuit$	Min. GF, $3\heartsuit$, $0/1 \spadesuit$
3♠	Min. GF, $3\spadesuit$, $0/1 \heartsuit$

2.2.3 After the strong rebids $2\Diamond / \heartsuit$

 $2\heartsuit$ shows a semi-GF hand, $2\diamondsuit$ shows a GF hand (possibly balanced). Opener may not have a 6 – 4 distribution. After these rebids, responder's cheapest response is a relay, asking opener to describe his hand naturally:

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

2 \bigstar 3-suited, 5 \bigstar 440 or 4=4=1=4
(2NT asks for shortness)2NTBalanced, 23 - 253 \bigstar 6+ \bigstar 3x5 \bigstar 4x3NTBalanced, 26+

After the $2\heartsuit$ -rebid and $2\clubsuit$ relay there is no balanced option and 2NT is now a 3-suited hand, but only with \diamondsuit -shortness. 4-loser hands with a major-suit shortness should rebid $1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$, not $2\heartsuit$.

2.2.4 After the strong 2^A-rebid

This specific rebid shows a reverse-type hand with both minors. After this, 2NT forces opener to bid $3\clubsuit$ and responder will sign off in a minor or bid a stopper for 3NT. A direct $3\clubsuit/\diamondsuit$ -bid by responder is natural and forcing and starts a slam investigation. $3\heartsuit$ is natural and to play and represents a 6- or 7-card suit, $3\clubsuit$ shows the strong GF hand with both majors.

2.3 Reverse Majors: $1 - 1 \heartsuit / \diamondsuit$

After $1 \clubsuit / \diamondsuit$ we invert the major suit responses. 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 $1\heartsuit$, 1 \diamondsuit shows 4 cards in \heartsuit , completing the inversion. This rebid is preferred over a NT rebid with a traditional strong NT (15 – 17), but not with stronger hands. Most other rebids are natural except for the 2-level reverse bids. 2 \diamondsuit is "Odwrotka" and a reverse in the other major has multiple meanings.

Note that the 3[•] -rebid covers a tough possibility, the "Bridge World Death Hand", an invitation with 3-card support.

 $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit(\spadesuit) - ?$

$1 \spadesuit$	4^+ , 15 – 17 if balanced, F1R
$1\mathrm{NT}$	$15-17$ balanced, no $4 \spadesuit (\heartsuit)$
2	$13 - 17, 6(5)^+$
$2\diamondsuit$	GF, 3^+ card support
$2\heartsuit(\spadesuit)$	GF unbal. no 3-card support
$2 \spadesuit (\heartsuit)$	minimum, $3/4$ -card support
2NT	$18 - 19 / 22^+$ bal. no $3 \clubsuit (\heartsuit)$
3	Invite, $6\clubsuit + 3$ -card support
$3\diamondsuit$	GF, 6^+ , $4\diamond$
$3\heartsuit(\spadesuit)$	GF, 6^+ , 6^+ , $4\heartsuit(\spadesuit)$
$3 \spadesuit (\heartsuit)$	Invite, 4-card support
3NT	Solid \clubsuit with stoppers
4 ♣	GF, 54 $4\phi(\heartsuit)$ 2 2

2.3.1 After the 1NT rebid

After the 1NT rebid, 2-way Checkback is in place. $2\clubsuit$ is weak with \diamondsuit or any invitational hand, partner must bid $2\diamondsuit$. GF hands rebid $2\diamondsuit$.

1 - 1 = -1 = -1 = -2

2 ♣	Weak \diamondsuit or any invite
-	
$2\diamondsuit$	GF ask for 3-card support
$2\heartsuit$	$5\heartsuit 4 \spadesuit, \mathrm{GF}$
2 ♠	5-card \blacklozenge , weak
2NT	Invite to 3NT with 4
3♣	To play
$3\diamondsuit\heartsuit$	Splinter for \blacklozenge
3♠	Natural slam try
3NT	To play
4 ♣	Splinter for \blacklozenge

Note that both direct bids in the other major, $1 \clubsuit - 1 \heartsuit - 1 \text{NT} - 2 \heartsuit 1 \clubsuit - 1 \bigstar - 1 \text{NT} - 2 \bigstar$ are natural (at least 5 - 4) and GF. With a 5 - 5 hand go through 2 \clubsuit first if nonforcing, nonforcing 5 - 4 would have either responded 2 \heartsuit directly (with 5 \heartsuit), or not have a 4 - 4 fit (with 5 \clubsuit).

After the forced $2\diamondsuit$ -bid, responder bids naturally:

 $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit - 1 \heartsuit - 1 \operatorname{NT} - 2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit - ?$

 $2\heartsuit \quad \text{Invite with } 5\clubsuit 5\heartsuit$

- 2♠ Unbalanced invite 2NT Invite to 3NT with
- 2NT Invite to 3NT with 5
- 3

2.3.2 After $1 \clubsuit - 1 \heartsuit - 1 \diamondsuit$

As the \clubsuit may still be artificial in this auction, 2 \clubsuit is an asking bid, mostly invitational asking for 3-card support. With a strong GF hand and worries about minor suit stoppers (both minors as opener can have 3=4=4=2 or similar), responder bids $2\diamondsuit$, stopper ask.

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

- 1NT Suggestion to play
- 2♣ Checkback Stayman
- $2\diamondsuit$ Asks for minor-suit stoppers
- $2\heartsuit$ NF, 4(3)-card support

2 Invite, 6^+

2NT Invite to 3NT

- $1\clubsuit 1\heartsuit 1\spadesuit 2\clubsuit ?$ $2\diamondsuit$ Minimum, 0-2 $2\heartsuit$ Balanced (GF), $3 \spadesuit$ 2 Minimum, 3 2NTBalanced (GF), $2\spadesuit$ GF, 6^+ 3 $3\diamondsuit$ GF, 5 \clubsuit , asks for stopper $3\heartsuit$ GF, 5 \clubsuit , 3 \diamondsuit , splinter 3NT GF, 5, stopper in \diamond $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit - 1\diamondsuit - 2\diamondsuit - ?$ $2\heartsuit$ stopper 🖡 2 \diamond stopper 2NTBoth stoppers
 - 3 \diamond 5-card suit

2.3.3 Responder has a 6-card major

With a 6-card major in response to 1.4 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 $1.4 - 1\heartsuit - 2.4 - 3.4$). This shows less slam interest than going through Third Suit Forcing or Fourth Suit Forcing.

2.3.4 Bubrotka

In the sequence $1 \clubsuit - 1 \heartsuit / \bigstar - 2 \diamondsuit$, opener shows a GF hand and at least 3-card support of partner's major. Partner will now bid like this:

 $2\heartsuit$ 6-9, 4 cards no 5m $10^+, 4 \text{ cards}$ 2 $10^+, 5^+$ cards 2NT3♣♢ $6 - 9, 5^+ \text{ card} + 4\text{M}$ $3\heartsuit$ $6-9, 5\heartsuit$ unbal. 3 $6-9, 5\heartsuit{332}$ 3NT $6-9, 6^+ \heartsuit$ 4Splinter

After the response to the relay, opener continues naturally. This is especially useful to find a 4-4 fit in the other major. The other sequence where Bubrotka is used is $1\diamondsuit -1\heartsuit/$, $-1NT - 2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit$. Here the $3\clubsuit/$ \$\lapha\$ responses are a bit different: Instead of showing a minor side suit they show a fit in \diamondsuit (see the relevant section)

2.3.5 Multi-Reverse $1 \clubsuit - 1M - 2M$

This shows an unbalanced GF hand with less than 3 cards in partner's major. It also denies a 6 - 4 distribution or solid \clubsuit . 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. Opener responds naturally to the relay:

1 - 1M - 2M - 2NT - ? $3 - 6^+$ $3 - 6^+$ $3 - 6^+$ $3 - 6^+$ $3 - 6^+$ $4 - 6^+$ 3 - 6 - 4M 3 - 6 - 4M

2.3.6 2NT rebid

This shows a GF balanced hand with exactly a doubleton in partner's major, either 18 – 19 or 22⁺. It is preferred over rebidding 1 \spadesuit after 1 \clubsuit – 1 \heartsuit . Responder bids naturally in principle, but a bid in his long suit on the 3level, for example 1 \clubsuit – 1 \spadesuit – 2NT – 3 \heartsuit , is a range asking bid. A bid above responder's suit is a cuebid setting his suit as trumps.

2.4 After $1 \clubsuit - 1 NT$

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

$2\heartsuit$	$2\heartsuit 3 \spadesuit$
$2 \spadesuit$	$2 \spadesuit 3 \heartsuit$
2NT	$3\heartsuit 3 \spadesuit$
3	$5\clubsuit 4 \diamondsuit 2 2$
$3\diamondsuit$	$5\diamondsuit 4\clubsuit 2 \ 2$
$3\heartsuit$	2236 bad \clubsuit
3♠	2263 bad \diamondsuit

After $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$, 2NT asks again about the minor suit distribution:

3♣	5 ♣
$3\diamondsuit$	$5\diamondsuit$
$3\heartsuit$	6 bad 🖨
3♠	6 bad \diamondsuit
3NT	4

After 2NT, 34 asks again, then:

$3\diamondsuit$	$4\clubsuit$
$3\heartsuit$	$4\diamondsuit$
3♠	5
3NT	$5\diamondsuit$

2.5 After $1 \clubsuit - 2NT$

Opener will usually relay with $3\clubsuit$ after which responder transfers to his major, or bids $3\clubsuit$ 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 responder cannot have a GF 1-suited hand anymore, so the responses $2\clubsuit$ and $2\diamondsuit$ 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 $3\clubsuit$ or $3\diamondsuit$ bid shows 10 – 11 and $5\heartsuit332$ and $5\spadesuit332$ respectively and asks partner to choose between 3NT and $4\heartsuit/\spadesuit$.

3 1 \Diamond opening bid

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

3.1 Responses to $1\diamondsuit$

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

$1\heartsuit$	$0^+ 4^+ \spadesuit$, longer minor possible
$1 \spadesuit$	$0^+ 4^+ \heartsuit$, longer minor possible
$1\mathrm{NT}$	0-8, no 4-card major
2 ♣	Inv ⁺ , $5(4)^+$
$2\diamondsuit$	$Inv^+, 4^+$
$2\heartsuit$	Invitational, $6^+ \heartsuit$
$2 \spadesuit$	Invitational, $6^+ \spadesuit$
2NT	14^{+} bal.
3♣	$6-8, 4^+$
$3\diamondsuit$	$0-5,5^+\diamondsuit$
3NT	11 - 13 bal.

3.2 After $1\diamondsuit - 1\heartsuit / \blacklozenge$

There is a difference here to the responses to 14 in that there is no lower limit to the $1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ responses. Also, if you have a less than invitational hand with 5 \heartsuit and 4 \clubsuit you should respond 1 \heartsuit . 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.

 $1\diamondsuit - 1\heartsuit(\spadesuit) - ?$

$1 \spadesuit$	$13-20,4\heartsuit$
$1\mathrm{NT}$	18^+ any distribution
2	$13 - 17, 5^+4^+$ minors
$2\diamondsuit$	$13 - 17, 6(5)^+ \diamondsuit$
$2\heartsuit(\spadesuit)$	$15-17,6^+\diamondsuit4\heartsuit(\spadesuit)$
$2 \spadesuit (\heartsuit)$	13 - 17, 4(3)-card support
2NT	$15 - 17, 6^+$ 3-card support
3♣	15-17,5-5
$3\diamondsuit$	$15-17,7^+\diamondsuit$
$3 \spadesuit (\heartsuit)$	$15-17, 6\diamondsuit$ and 4-card support
3NT	Solid \diamondsuit with stoppers

3.2.1 $1\diamondsuit - 1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$

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

$1\mathrm{NT}$	5-8, no fit
2 ♣	Transfer to \diamondsuit
$2\diamondsuit$	Transfer to \heartsuit
$2\heartsuit$	Transfer to \blacklozenge
2♠	GF, asks for 🌲 stopper
2NT	Invite no fit
3♣	$\mathrm{GF},5-5$

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 $1\diamondsuit - 1\heartsuit / \spadesuit - 1$ NT

This shows any 18^+ hand that cannot be shown in another way. With a weak hand responder can go back to \diamondsuit , rebid his major, or bid $2\heartsuit$ after showing \bigstar . $2\clubsuit$ is an artificial game force. Finally 2NT shows an invitational \diamondsuit -raise opposite partner's 18. After the strong $2\clubsuit$ relay opener describes his hand, principally natural but the bids showing a 1suiter in \diamondsuit and supporting partner's major are reversed:

$$1\diamondsuit - 1\heartsuit - 1 \heartsuit - 1 \operatorname{NT} - 2\clubsuit - ?$$

Bubrotka: 3⁺♠ $2\diamondsuit$ $2\heartsuit$ $4\heartsuit$ 6^+ with shortness 2 2NT 21^+ no shortness 4 3 $3\diamondsuit$ $18 - 20, 6 \diamondsuit 322$ $3\heartsuit$ $4\blacklozenge, \heartsuit$ -splinter 4♠, ♣-splinter 3 3NT 18 - 19 balanced

Unlike the responses described to Bubrotka after 1, here the 3, here the 3, here the 2-bid show a fit in \diamond :

 $3\clubsuit$ 10⁺, 4-card M, 4 \diamondsuit

 $3\diamondsuit 6-9, 4$ -card M, $4\diamondsuit$

3.2.3 Responder has a 6-card major

With a 6-card major in response to $1\diamondsuit$ 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 $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ right away.

3.3 After $1\diamondsuit - 1$ NT

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 nearminimum hand without $6\diamondsuit$ or $4\clubsuit$. With 13 -20 opener will either rebid $2\clubsuit$ or $2\diamondsuit$. With SemiGF hands opener can choose between 4 natural bids: $2\heartsuit$, $2\clubsuit$, $3\clubsuit$ and $3\diamondsuit$. 2NT is a general GF hand, $3\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ shows both minors and a splinter in the bid major.

3.4 After $1\diamondsuit - 2\clubsuit$

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

 $1\diamondsuit - 2\clubsuit - ?$

- $2\diamondsuit$ Possibly minimum, $5^+\diamondsuit$
- 2 \heartsuit a) GF ♣-support b) GF 3-suited short ♣ c) GF 5⁺ \diamondsuit + 4 \heartsuit
- $2 \bigstar \qquad \text{GF } 5^+ \diamondsuit + 4 \bigstar$
- 2NT Minimum short \clubsuit
- 3♣ Minimum ♣ support
- $3\diamondsuit$ GF, decent $6^+\diamondsuit$

After the $2\diamondsuit$ rebid responder can invite with either $3\clubsuit$ or $3\diamondsuit$, anything else forces to game. After the Multi-Reverse $2\heartsuit$, $2\clubsuit$ 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

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

After the invitational jump shifts in a major, the cheapest response is a relay asking for a shortness, $1\diamondsuit -2\heartsuit -2$ NT shows 4-card \spadesuit . Raising the major shows a fit and slam interest.

3.6 Different responses with a passed hand

After $1\diamondsuit$ 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 $1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ opening bids

The opening bids $1\heartsuit$ and $1\clubsuit$ 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 $1\heartsuit$

$1 \spadesuit$	a) 0 – 10, <5 , F1R, 3 \heartsuit possible
	b) $14 - 16$ balanced
$1\mathrm{NT}$	$0^+, 5^+ \spadesuit,$ forcing
2	GF, 5^+
$2\diamondsuit$	GF, 5^+
$2\heartsuit$	$6-8,3^+ \heartsuit$
$2 \spadesuit$	$11 - 13 / 17^+$ balanced
2NT	$12^+, 4^+ \heartsuit$
3	$9-11,4^+ \heartsuit$
$3\diamondsuit$	$6-8,4^+ \heartsuit$
$3\heartsuit$	$0-5,~4^+ \heartsuit$
3♠	Slam try, any void
3NT	Slam try, singleton \blacklozenge
4	Slam try, singleton
$4\heartsuit$	Preemptive

4.2 Responses to $1 \spadesuit$

$1\mathrm{NT}$	a) $0 - 10$, F1R, $3 \spadesuit$ possible
	b) $14 - 16$ balanced
2	$GF, 5^+$
$2\diamondsuit$	GF, 5^+
$2\diamondsuit$	GF, $5^+ \heartsuit$
$2 \spadesuit$	$6-8, 3^+ \spadesuit$
2NT	$11 - 13 / 17^+$ balanced
3	$12^+, 4^+ \clubsuit$
$3\diamondsuit$	$9 - 11, 4^+ \spadesuit$
$3\heartsuit$	$6-8, 4^+ \spadesuit$
3♠	$0-5, 4^+ \spadesuit$
3NT	Slam try, any void
4	Slam try, singleton
$4 \spadesuit$	Preemptive

4.3 Forcing 1NT/1

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

 $1\heartsuit - 1 \spadesuit - ?$

1NT $13 - 17, 5 \heartsuit 4 \spadesuit$ 18^+ any or $13 - 17, 5 \heartsuit 3^+$ 2 $13 - 17, 5 \heartsuit 3^+ \diamondsuit$ $2\diamondsuit$ $2\heartsuit$ $13 - 17, 6^+ \heartsuit$ 2 $15 - 17, 6^+ \heartsuit 4^+ \spadesuit$ 1 - 1NT - ? 18^+ any or $13 - 17, 5 \clubsuit 3^+ \clubsuit$ 24 $13 - 17, 5 \spadesuit 3^+ \diamondsuit$ $2\diamondsuit$ $13 - 17, 5 \bigstar 4^+ \heartsuit$ $2\heartsuit$ 2 $13 - 17, 6^+$

4.3.1 Higher rebids

2NT $18^+, 6-4 \text{ or } 5-5 \text{ with minor}$ $3 \diamondsuit (\heartsuit) \quad 15-17, 5-5$ 3M $15-17, 7^+ \text{card}$

4.4 Kaplan Inversion

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

 $1\heartsuit - 1NT - ?$

2. 18^+ or $13 - 17, 5\heartsuit 3^+$ 2. $13 - 17, 5\heartsuit 4^+\diamondsuit$ 2. $13 - 17, 6^+\heartsuit$ 2. $13 - 17, 3^+\spadesuit$ 2. $13 - 17, 3^+\spadesuit$ 2. $18^+, 6 - 4 \text{ or } 5 - 5 \text{ with minor}$ 3. 15 - 17, 5 - 53. 18 - 20, semisolid suit

In the troublesome sequence $1\heartsuit - 1$ NT $-2\diamondsuit$, would normally be the fourth suit but to make room for invitational sequences, transfers are used:

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

$2\heartsuit$	Preference
$2 \spadesuit$	$0 - 7, 6^+ \spadesuit$
2NT	Invitational
3♣	4^+ \$\equiv, invite or better
$3\diamondsuit$	$3\heartsuit$, invite or better
$3\heartsuit$	$6^+ \blacklozenge$, invite or better
3♠	Asks for \clubsuit -stopper

The transfers are accepted with any minimum, any other bid establishes a game force.

4.5 Gazzilli

Gazzilli 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 $2\diamondsuit$ rebid now shows 6 - 10 HCP without fit and forces to game opposite the strong variation. Most other rebids show 0 - 5 HCP. Strong variations and the invitational hand with 3-card support are shown directly. $1\heartsuit - 1 - 2\clubsuit - ?$ $0-5, 2^+ \heartsuit$ $2\heartsuit$ 2 0-5, 3-suited short \heartsuit $0-5, 5^+$, 5^+ 2NT $0 - 5, 6^+$ card 3♣♢ $3\heartsuit$ Invite, $3\heartsuit$ 3 14 – 16 NT, 5, 3-suited short \heartsuit $0-5, 5^+$, 5^+ 2NT $0-5, 6^+$ card 3♣♢ Invite, $3\heartsuit$ $3\heartsuit$ 14 – 16 NT, 4 3 3NT 14 - 16 NT $1\heartsuit - 1$ NT $- 2\clubsuit - ?$ $2\heartsuit$ $0-5, 2^+ \heartsuit$ $0-5, 6^+ \spadesuit$ 2 2NT0-5, 3-suited short \heartsuit $0-5, 5 \bigstar 5^+$ card 3♣♢ $3\heartsuit$ Invite, $3\heartsuit$ GF, good $6^+ \blacklozenge$ 3 3NT $5 \spadesuit$, suggestion to play 45-5, forcing 1 - 1NT - 2 - ? $2\heartsuit$ $0-5, 5^+ \heartsuit$ $0-5, 2^+$ 2 0-5, 3-suited short \blacklozenge 2NT3♣♢ $0-5, 6^+$ card Invite, 3 3

After the $2\diamondsuit$ 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 $1\clubsuit$ shows a 5 – 5 hand whereas bidding $2\heartsuit$ in this situation shows exactly 3 or 4 cards in \heartsuit in order to find a 5 – 3 fit. As the 2NT opening bid creates a noncontinuous range for the 2NT rebid (either 18 - 19 or 22^+), the 3NT rebid shows a solid major with side stoppers.

4.6 2-suited 2NT rebid

3NT

14 - 16 NT

After the sequences $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$ and $1\heartsuit/\spadesuit - 1$ NT 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: $\begin{array}{rrrr} 3\diamondsuit & 6M + 4\clubsuit \\ 3\heartsuit & 6M + 4\diamondsuit \\ 3\bigstar & 5M + 5\clubsuit \\ 3NT & 5M + 5\diamondsuit \\ 4\clubsuit\diamondsuit & 6M + 4m \ GF \end{array}$

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 4card 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 $(11 - 13 \text{ or } 17^+)$, 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 After responder shows a strong balanced hand

 $1\heartsuit - 2\spadesuit$ and $1\spadesuit - 2NT$ show a strong balanced hand, possibly with 3-card support. Opener bids naturally, with $1\heartsuit - 2\spadesuit - 2NT$ showing $4\spadesuit$.

4.8.2 Jacoby 2M+2

Here we use step responses for the first 4 steps:

Step 1 Any minimum (see also 4M) Step 2 Balanced, 18⁺

Step 3 5-card M, extras

Step 4 6-card M, no shortness, extras

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 $1\heartsuit - 2NT - 3NT$ shows a \bigstar 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 $4\diamondsuit$ would show 6^+ trumps and a \diamondsuit shortness.

4.9 Differences 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^{rd} or 4^{th} seat $1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ -opening.

Also one extra hand type is now included in the $1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ opening: 2-suited hands with at least rule-of-20 strength, at least 5 - 4 with both majors, at least 5 - 5 with a majorminor 2-suiter. The main reason is not to miss a good contract in the second suit opposite the limited $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ -opening.

The first difference in the responses is that there is no Kaplan Inversion, i.e. $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$ 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. $2\clubsuit$ 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 $\heartsuit(after 1\spadesuit)$ are used to distinguish non-forcing from invitational hands with either major. In a scheme:

Passed hand responses to $1\heartsuit$:

$1 \spadesuit$	$0-11,4^+ \spadesuit$
$1\mathrm{NT}$	$0-7$, no 4 \blacklozenge or 3 \heartsuit , NF
2 ♣	8 - 11, no 4♡
$2\diamondsuit$	$6-9,3^+ \heartsuit$
$2\heartsuit$	$0-5,3^+ \heartsuit$
$2 \spadesuit$	6-11, bal. 4-card support
2NT	Minisplinter in \blacklozenge
3	Minisplinter

1NT 0-7, no 3 \bigstar , NF \bigstar 8-11, no 4 \bigstar \diamondsuit Transfer to \heartsuit \heartsuit $6-9, 3^+\bigstar$ \bigstar $0-5, 3^+\bigstar$ 2NT 6-11 bal. 4-card support \bigstar \diamondsuit Minisplinter

After the 1 \spadesuit and 1NT responses Gazzilli applies as before. After $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$, 1NT is 14 – 17 balanced. To limit the simple raise $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\spadesuit$, the sequence $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 3\spadesuit$ shows 15 – 17 and $6\heartsuit 4\spadesuit$.

After the 2 \clubsuit 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 \diamondsuit . After that responder can invite with 2NT with 10 – 11 HCP without a fit and with $3\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ with fit.

With a good fit (4-card support), responder should bid 2M+1 with a hand without a shortness, and make a (mini)splinter with a shortness. After the balanced raise, the cheapest bid by opener is a range check:

$$1 \spadesuit - 2NT - 3 \clubsuit - ?$$

$3\diamondsuit(\text{Step 1})$	Maximum
$3\heartsuit(\text{Step }2)$	Medium strength
$3 \bigstar (\text{Step } 3)$	Minimum

Passed hand responses to $1 \spadesuit$:

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
$2\diamondsuit$	Asks for 2-card major
$2\heartsuit$	To play
2NT	Transfer to \clubsuit
3♣	Transfer to \diamondsuit
$3\diamondsuit$	Asks for 5-card major
$3\heartsuit$	$3\heartsuit + \text{Short} \blacklozenge, \text{GF}$
3♠	$3 \spadesuit + \text{Short } \heartsuit, \text{GF}$
3NT	To play
4 \$	Slam interest in \heartsuit
$4\diamondsuit$	Slam interest in \blacklozenge
$4\heartsuit \blacklozenge$	To play
$4\mathrm{NT}$	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 2level. Also invitational hands with a long minor go over Stayman. The responses are normal:

$2\Diamond$ I	No 4-card major
$2\heartsuit$ 4	4^+ \heartsuit , can have 4
2 🌲 🖉	4 ⁺ ♠, no 4♡
After 2	◊:
$2\heartsuit$	Pass or bid $2\spadesuit$
$2 \spadesuit$	Invite or better, $5 \spadesuit 4 \heartsuit$
2NT	Invite to 3NT
$3\clubsuit$	Invite long suit
$3\diamondsuit$	5-5 majors invite
$3\heartsuit \blacklozenge$	3-suited, 4-card, short other major
3NT	to play
After 2	♡:
2	Invite for 3NT or GF with \heartsuit
2NT	Invite for 3NT with 4
3♣♢	Invite long suit
$3\heartsuit$	Invite for $4\heartsuit$
3♠	Slam try with $4\spadesuit$
4	Splinter

 $4 \heartsuit \blacklozenge$ To play

After $2 \spadesuit$:

2NT	Invite for 3NT
3	Invite long suit
$3\heartsuit$	GF with \blacklozenge
3♠	Invite for $4\spadesuit$
4	Splinter

 $4\heartsuit \blacklozenge$ To play

5.2 Condensed Transfers

The $2\diamondsuit$ relay, asking for a doubleton major, 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:

$2\heartsuit$	Doubleton \heartsuit
2 ♠	Doubleton \blacklozenge
2NT	Minimum, $3^+ \heartsuit 3^+ \spadesuit$
3	Max., $3^+ \heartsuit 3^+ \spadesuit$, 4^+ card
$3\heartsuit \blacklozenge$	Max., $5-3$ in majors
3NT	Maximum, 4333

After $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$, responder bids naturally:

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

$2 \spadesuit$	$4 \spadesuit 5 \heartsuit$, invite ⁺
2NT	Invitational, $5\heartsuit$
3	$5\heartsuit/\diamondsuit, 4^+$ card
$3\heartsuit \blacklozenge$	Invitational
3NT	To play
4	Splinter confirming \blacklozenge
$4\heartsuit \blacklozenge$	To play
1NT –	$2\diamondsuit - 2\spadesuit - ?$
1NT – 2NT	$2\diamondsuit - 2\spadesuit - ?$ Invitational, 5♠
	· ·
2NT	Invitational, 5
2NT 3♣◊	Invitational, $5 \clubsuit$ $5 \heartsuit / \clubsuit, 4^+ \text{card}$
2NT 3♣♢ 3♡♠	Invitational, $5 \spadesuit$ $5 \heartsuit / \spadesuit$, 4^+ card Invitational

After the $3\clubsuit/\diamondsuit$ -rebid, opener assumes a 5-2 major fit. Repeating the doubleton suit confirms a fit in the minor.

5.2.1 Higher responses to $2\Diamond$

After the higher responses a fit is certain if responder has a 5-card major (his asking bid may have been tactical, though). After 2NT we need a way to set trumps:

 $1NT - 2\diamondsuit - 2NT - ?$ $3\clubsuit 5^+\heartsuit, GF$ $3\diamondsuit 5^+\bigstar, GF$ $3\heartsuit \clubsuit Invitational$ 3NT To play!

After all responses 2NT and higher, $4\clubsuit$ is a direct ace asking for \heartsuit , $4\diamondsuit$ is a direct ace asking for \blacklozenge .

5.3 $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ to play

Since marginal hands can stop in $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ after the 2 \diamondsuit asking bid, to play really means to play here. Opener should pass unless he has a maximum with 4- or 5-card support.

5.4 Minor suit transfers

Opener should always accept the transfer, responder may be weak. Any further bid by responder is then slam-going.

5.5 $3\diamondsuit$ asking for 5-card majors

A very useful bid if you are not sure you want to play 3NT. If opener has a 5-card major, he bids it, otherwise he bids 3NT.

5.6 "5431"

As after $1 \clubsuit - 1 \diamondsuit - 1$ NT, a direct jump to $3 \heartsuit / \spadesuit$ shows both minors, 3-card in the bid major and a singleton in the other major. Opener may want to forget about playing 3NT in this case and can show slam interest in the major by bidding the splinter suit.

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 $2\clubsuit$

$2\diamondsuit$	Relay, invite ⁺
$2\heartsuit$	Invite, $5^+ \heartsuit$
$2 \spadesuit$	Invite, $5^+ \spadesuit$
2NT	Invite $5^+ \spadesuit 4^+ \heartsuit$
3	Preemptive
$3\Diamond \heartsuit \spadesuit$	Invitational, 7^+ card

6.2 Responses to $2\Diamond$

$2\heartsuit$	Relay, invite ⁺
$2 \spadesuit$	Invite, $5^+ \spadesuit$
2NT	Inv^+ , or (GF 1 or 2 5crd M)
3♣	Inv. $5^+ \spadesuit 5^+ \heartsuit$
$3\diamondsuit$	Preemptive
$3\heartsuit \blacklozenge$	Invitational, 7^+ card

After 2NT, $3\clubsuit$ is negative and $3\diamondsuit$ is positive for \clubsuit . One major is shown by bidding it, both majors are shown by rebidding 3NT.

6.3 Responses to $2\heartsuit$

$2 \spadesuit$	Relay, invite ⁺
2NT	Invite ⁺ , 5^+

- $3\clubsuit$ Invitational, 6⁺card
- $3\heartsuit$ Preemptive
- $3 \blacklozenge GF, 6^+ card$

6.4 Responses to $2 \spadesuit$

- $3\clubsuit$ 5+ \heartsuit , invite⁺
- $3\diamondsuit$ Invitational, 6^+ card
- $3\heartsuit$ GF, $6^+\clubsuit$
- 3♠ Preemptive

6.5 After the relay

$6.5.1 \quad 2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit$

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

$2\heartsuit$	$3/4\heartsuit$, any number of \blacklozenge
$2 \spadesuit$	$3/4$, less than $3\heartsuit$
2NT	Maximum, 6^+ , no $3\heartsuit/$
3♣	Minimum, 6^+ , no $3\heartsuit/$
$3\diamondsuit$	6♣ 4♦

After the major-showing responses, the next bid is another relay, a signoff is possible in $3\clubsuit$ only.

 $2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit - 2\heartsuit - 2\bigstar - ?$ 2NT $4\heartsuit$ 3. 6♣ 3♡, no 3♠ $3\diamondsuit$ $3\heartsuit 4\diamondsuit$ $3\heartsuit$ $3\heartsuit 4 \spadesuit$ 3 6+♣3♡ 3♠ 3NT 2 = 3 = 2 = 6 7^+ 4 $2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit - 2\bigstar - 2 \bigstar - 2 \operatorname{NT} - ?$ 6♣ 3♠. no 3♡ 34 $3\diamondsuit$ $3 \bigstar 4 \diamondsuit$ $3\heartsuit$ $4 \bigstar 2 \heartsuit$ $4 \spadesuit$, short \heartsuit 3 3 = 2 = 2 = 63NT 7+ 4

6.5.2 $2\diamondsuit - 2\heartsuit$

Here the structure is similar as after $2\clubsuit$, one step higher.

2♠ 3/4♠, any number of ♡
2NT 3/4♡, less than 3♠
3♣ 4♣
3♦ Minimum, 6+◊no 3♡/♠

As after $2\clubsuit$, the next bid after the major responses is the second relay. Also here, a signoff is possible in $3\diamondsuit$ only.

$$2\diamondsuit - 2\heartsuit - 2\spadesuit - 2 \bigstar - 2 \operatorname{NT} - ?$$

 $6\diamondsuit 3\spadesuit$ $3\diamondsuit$ 4♡ 3♠ $3\heartsuit$ 4♠ 3♡ 3 3NT 3=2=6=2 $4\diamondsuit$ 7^+ $2\diamondsuit - 2\heartsuit - 2 \heartsuit - 2 \operatorname{NT} - 3\clubsuit - ?$ $4\heartsuit$ $3\diamondsuit$ 3♡4♣ $3\heartsuit$ 3 Short 3NT 2=3=6=2 7^+ $4\diamondsuit$

6.5.3 $2\heartsuit - 2 \spadesuit$

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

2NT $4^+ \clubsuit$ \bigstar $4^+ \diamondsuit$ \diamondsuit $4 \diamondsuit$ \heartsuit Minimum, $6^+ \heartsuit$ \bigstar $6 \heartsuit - 4 \bigstar$ 3NT Maximum, $6^+ \heartsuit$

This relay is GF.

6.5.4 $2 \spadesuit - 2 \mathrm{NT}$

In this case the responses to the relay reverse the round suits:

 $\begin{array}{rcl}
3 & 4 & \heartsuit \\
3 & 4 & & \\
3 & 4 & & \\
3 & & \text{Minimum, } 6^+ & \\
3 & & \text{Maximum, } 6^+ & \\
\end{array}$

This relay is GF.

6.6 Asking for the other major after $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$

The second step after the $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ -opening is invitational or better and asks for 3-card support in the other major:

 $2\heartsuit - 2NT - ?$ 3 4 $4\diamondsuit$ $3\diamondsuit$ $6^+ \heartsuit$ $3\heartsuit$ 3 Minimum, 3 $3NT^+$ Maximum, 3⁺ 2 - 3 - ? $3\diamondsuit$ $2\heartsuit$ $3\heartsuit$ $0/1\heartsuit$. 3♠+ 3^+ , controls

6.7 Passed hand bidding

In third seat the opening bids are very wideranged, in principle 6 - 12 but vulnerable some values will always be present. In fourth seat the opening bids are more sound than in other seats and are similar to a normal fourth seat Weak Two bid, about 11 - 13 HCP. The responses are also different than with an unpassed partner, as the only possible game is one in the suit opened.

6.7.1 Passed hand $2\clubsuit/\diamondsuit$

A new suit on the 2-level is natural nonforcing showing a Weak Two type bid (5 – 9 HCP). 2NT is forcing with fit, a new suit on the 3-level, including $2\diamondsuit - 3\clubsuit$, is a fit showing bid.

6.7.2 Passed hand $2\heartsuit/\clubsuit$

The next bid shows a fit and a maximum passed hand and forcing. It asks for a singleton. Partner shows a singleton when he sees game possibilities but can also choose not to show his singleton with a hand that is too weak to play game in the first place.

Other bids below 3M are minisplinters. $2\heartsuit - 2NT$ is a minisplinter in \bigstar .

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♣ Mod. 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 $3\heartsuit$ 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 $3\diamondsuit$ rebid responder bids the major he does not have. With both majors $4\clubsuit$ with slam interest and $4\diamondsuit$ without slam interest.

After $2NT - 3\clubsuit - 3\heartsuit$, responder asks for minors with $3\clubsuit$.

8 Conventions in constructive bidding

8.1 Game tries after a simple raise

8.1.1 No second known suit

Sequences affected are for example:

- $1\heartsuit 2\heartsuit$
- 1♠ 2♠

- $1 1 2 \heartsuit$
- 1♣ 1♡ 2♠

In these cases we play Romex trial bids: A direct bid other than 2M+1 shows a short suit trial (if the fit is in \heartsuit , 2NT for a \blacklozenge short suit trial), 2M+1 asks partner about the cheapest long suit trial bid he would accept, for example:

- $1 \spadesuit 2 \spadesuit 2NT ?$
 - 3. I would accept a LST in \clubsuit .
 - $3\Diamond$ I would decline \clubsuit , but accept in \Diamond .
 - $3\heartsuit$ I would only accept a LST in \heartsuit .
 - 3. I decline all Long Suit Trial bids.

8.1.2 With a second known suit

Sequences affected are for example:

- $1\diamondsuit 1\heartsuit 2\spadesuit$
- $1\diamondsuit 1\spadesuit 2\heartsuit$
- 1♡ 1NT 2♠

The cheapest response asks opener for a singleton in a side suit, other bids are natural long suit trials (2NT shows \blacklozenge if \heartsuit are trumps).

9 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.

9.1 2^{nd} seat doubles

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

$1\clubsuit$ (Dbl)	?
$1\diamondsuit$	$4^+ \heartsuit$
$1\heartsuit$	$4^+ \spadesuit$
$1 \spadesuit$	Balanced
$1\mathrm{NT}$	Both minors
2	NF 5^+
$2\diamondsuit\heartsuit\spadesuit$	Weak jump
$1\diamondsuit$ (Dbl)	?
100 1+	▲ (··1 ···

 $1 \heartsuit 4^+ \spadesuit$ (as without interference)

1. $4^+ \heartsuit$ (as without interference)

2♣ NF 5+♣

After $1\heartsuit/\clubsuit$ the transfers are on from 1NT upwards:

 $1\heartsuit$ (Dbl) ?

$1 \spadesuit$	$4^+ \spadesuit$
1NT	5^+
2 \$	5^+
$2\diamondsuit$	Good \heartsuit raise
$2\heartsuit$	Bad \heartsuit raise

After $1\heartsuit$, a new 1-over-1 sequence arises. Gazzilli applies:

 $1\heartsuit$ (Dbl) $1\clubsuit$ (Pass) ?

1NT 14 - 17 balanced 13 - 17, 4⁺card or 18⁺ any 13 - 17, 4⁺card 13 - 17, 4⁺card 13 - 17, 6⁺card 13 - 17, 4(3)+card

9.2 Overcalls after $1\clubsuit$

In principle assume that $1\clubsuit$ 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.

9.2.1 $1\Diamond$ overcall

Double shows $4^+ \heartsuit$, $1\heartsuit$ shows $4^+ \clubsuit$. A direct bid of $1\clubsuit$ shows both majors, exactly $4\heartsuit$ with $4/5\clubsuit$.

9.2.2 $1\heartsuit$ overcall

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

9.2.3 $1 \blacklozenge$ overcall

2 \clubsuit shows a 2-suiter with \heartsuit and a minor, 2NT shows both minors.

9.2.4 Natural 1NT overcall

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

9.2.5 Two-level overcalls

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

9.3 Overcalls after $1\Diamond \heartsuit \blacklozenge$

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

9.3.1 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
- $1\diamondsuit (1\heartsuit) 2\spadesuit$ 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 $1\diamondsuit$ the bids Double and $1\clubsuit$ are reversed as after $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit$.

9.3.2 1NT overcall

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

9.3.3 Jump overcalls on the 2-level

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

10 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 a major is set as trumps, 4NT asks for Key Cards. Also, if $4\clubsuit/\diamondsuit$ is ambiguous or bid by a limited hand, it may just set trumps and then 4NT will ask for Key Cards.

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.

10.1 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.

11 Competitive Conventions

11.1 Reverse major interference

After we open 1 / 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

 $1\clubsuit/\diamondsuit$ (Pass) $1\diamondsuit$ (Dbl) ?

Pass: No 3-card \heartsuit Rdbl: 3-card \heartsuit 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.

11.2 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: $1 \spadesuit (2\heartsuit) 2 \spadesuit (3\heartsuit)$ Dbl

11.3 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:

 $1\diamondsuit$ (Pass) $1\clubsuit$ (2 \bigstar)

Here 2NT is either 13 - 17 and good shape or 21^+ , $3\clubsuit$ and $3\diamondsuit$ are natural and show about 18 - 20.