

NO TRUMP RESPONSES TO 1 OF A SUIT

INTRODUCTION

This handout is a brief overview of No Trump responses when partner opens 1 of a suit. For full information see the [course on responding](#).

THE 1NT RESPONSE

1NT
6 - 9

THE DUSTBIN BID



The 1NT response to an opening bid is different from other No Trump bids in that it doesn't promise a balanced hand. The hand could be balanced or unbalanced.

It simply shows a point count.

1. It says 'I don't have 4 cards in my partner's suit'.
2. and 'I don't have a suit that I can bid at the 1 level'
3. and 'I don't have enough points to bid a new suit at the 2 level'

We call it the 'Dustbin Bid' as it catches all those rubbish hands with 6-9 points where there is nothing else you we bid. Remember, we always bid with 6+ points. 1NT is your last resort if you can't bid anything else.

After partner opens 1♥ we must respond with 6 points. A response of 2♦ would promise 10+ points or [Rule of 14](#). So we bid 1NT.

West	East	East
1♥	1NT	♠ 9 8 2
		♥ 7
		♦ K J 8 6 3 2
		♣ Q 8 4
Notice East doesn't have a balanced hand		

Exception

The exception is after a 1♣ opening. After an opening of 1♣ responder with 6+ points can **always** show a new suit at the 1 level or support clubs, so it's better to reserve the 1NT response for slightly stronger hands with no 4 card major, i.e. 8-10 points.

THE 2NT AND 3NT RESPONSES

We rarely use these responses to an opening bid of 1 of suit.

With stronger balanced hands (11+) we avoid responding with 2NT or 3NT when we can make a change of suit forcing bid. We will almost always be able to bid a new suit at the two level which gives more bidding space to explore the best contract.

The only 11+ hand when there is no change of suit bid available is when the opening bid is 1♠ and we have a 3433 hand (4 hearts). In this case we can bid 2NT (11-12) or 3NT (13+).

With exactly 10 points and 3433 shape (4 hearts) after an opening 1♠ we can bid 2NT if we have good intermediate cards (i.e. 9s and 10s) or otherwise bid 1NT.