General description

5-card Ms, best minor

15-17 NT openings

2♣ and 2♢ (Multi) strong openings

Weak weak 2♠ and 2♡

Definitions

bal = patterns 4333, 4432, 5332

semibal = patterns 5422, 6322

unbal = any other pattern (always a singelton or void)

4432 = unspecified pattern

(4432) = specific pattern (4♠, 4♡, 3♢, 2♣)

art = artificial

RF = round force, GF = game force, NF = non-forcing

strength notations (e.g. 13-15) mean solely high card points

X, Y = unspecified suit

M, m = major, minor

Balanced openings

1NT 15-17 hcp

2NT 22-24 hcp

1X and cheapest NT rebid 12-14 hcp

1X and jump in NT 18-19 hcp

2♣ followed by 2NT 20-21 hcp, by 3NT 25-27 hcp

1NT opening

2♣ non-forcing Stayman promises 4-card M OR a GF hand with 5+ m

    2♣ – 3♡ or 3♠ = 5-card, maximum
    2♣ – 2♢ – 2♡ = NF, choose M
    2♣ – 2♢ – 2♠ = invitational w (54) Ms
    2♣ – 2♢ – 3M = 4-card with 5-card other M
    2♣ – 2X – 3m = GF 5-card
    2♣ – 2M – 3 other M = fit and slam try

2♢, 2♡ transfers; new suit from responder is nat GF

    2♢ – 2♡ – 2♠ = invitational w (45) M
    2♢ – 2♡ – 3m = nat GF

2♠ minor suit transfer 1) weak onesuited ♣ or ♢, 2) 5-5 m any strength

    2♠ – 2NT = longer ♢s than ♣s
    2♠ – 3♣ = same length in ms or longer ♣s
    2♠ – 3♣ – 3M = GF w 5-5, shortness

2NT nat

3♣, 3♢ = nat onesuited invitational

4♢ = 5-5 M

4♣ Gerber

4♠, 4♡ to play

2NT opening (also after 2♣ opening)

3♣ asking for 5-card M.

    Responses:

    3♡, 3♠ = 5-card

    3♢ = some 4-card M
        3♡, 3♠ = 4-card in other M
        4♢ = 4-4 M

    3NT no 4- or 5-card M

3♢, 3♡ transfers

    3♢ – 3♠ = 4-card (even w 3-card ♡s)

3♠ asking for minors

    3NT no 4-card m OR unsuitable hand

2♣ opening

Bal 20-21, 25-27 hcp or any GF hand not suited for 2♢.

Responder uses direct suit bids and 2NT as sign-offs against the 20-21 hand. 2NT = both m, 3♢ = both M. Typical hands: 0-4 hcp.

Responders 3♡ and 3♠ are GF hands with 6+ in other M.

2♢ opening

Multi: 1) unbal GF with ♢ as best suit, 2) 9-11 hcp with 6+ M.

Comment: note that 1M opening and 2M rebid thus promises a decent opening hand (12-14 hcp).

Responder uses Multi treatments:

    2♡ no interest in H game, can be game-going if opener has Ss

        opener corrects to 2♠; anything else is the strong hand

    2♠ invitational if H, sign-off if Ss

        opener corrects to 3♡/4♡; anything else is the strong hand

    2NT invitational in both M or better.

        opener rebids 3♣ (Hs) or 3♢ (Ss) with min, crosswise 3♡ or 3♠ with max

        openers 3NT or higher is the strong hand

2♢ -2♡

This is the only response available for a weak hand.

Opener describes his hand:

    3♢ onesuited, unbal

    3♣, 3♡, 3♠ nat, 6+4+ distriution

    2NT, semibal or 5431 shape

On 2NT responder uses the 2NT bidding with the difference that 3♣ asks for 4- or 3--card M.

2♡ and 2♠ openings

5-8 with 6+ suit. In red zone, the suit must be stable.

Responder's suit bids are natural RF.

Responders 2NT is RF. Opener rebids with min, other bids show feature and non-min.

Conventions after 1X opening

1X – jump shift in m = one-suited invitational

1X – jump shift in M = GF one-suited, playable w/o support

2-over-1 natural GF unless 1M – 2♣ which also includes invitational hands with 3-card support. After 1♠ - 2♣ or 1♡ – 2♣:

    1♠ – 2♣ – 2◇ any minimum

    1♠ – 2♣ – other = 14+ hcp

Gazzilli (modified)

After 1♡ – 1♠, 1♡ – 1NT, 1♠ - 1NT;

2♣ = natural OR art RF with 16+ hcp hands

Responder bids art 2◇ with any 9+ hcp hand and responds nat to the weaker 5-4 hand with other (weaker) hand.
Opener's other rebids: nat and weaker.

xyNT

After all 1X – 1Y – 1NT:

    3♣ to play

    2◇ art GF

    2♣ transfer to 2◇ that can be passed. Any continuation is natural and invitational.

"Skrot-Stenberg"

1M - 2NT GF, normally with 4-card support

My favourite version is "Skrot", developed by Anders Morath and myself in the mid-60ies.

    3♣ any min except what is covered by the 4-level responses

    3◇ positive (16+) without singelton

    3♡, ♠, NT positive with singelton in respectiveliy ♣, ◇, other M

    4♣, ◇ min+ 5-5 hand

    4M min with 6 card suit

Over 3♣ and 3◇ responder invites to slam by showing a singleton as above. Over 3♣, 3◇ asks opener to show a singleton as above.

Competitive bidding

1NT overcall = opening 1NT. If 3rd hand passes, our NT system is on. If 3rd bids, see Lebensohl.

Strict t/o doubles

1-level takeout doubles promise 3+ cards in all unbid suits. An offshape double requires 17+ hcp. Overcalls may therefore be up to 17 hcp. Higher takeout doubles may be less strict.

Responder bids as if any unbid suit had been opened in a 4-card system, ut with some exceptions:

    2NT is natural; limit+ support is covered by the cuebid

    3-level responses promise 5-card suit

    the cuebid (1◇ - D – pass – 2◇) may be as weak as 5-6 hcp with 4-4 Ms

Twosuited overcalls

Overbid (1X - highest unbid suit + another

2NT shows both lowest suits.

Suit overcalls

Principle: weak overcalls (less than 9-10 hcp) should be based on a good suit.

NT defense

My favourite against 14+ NT openings is Trash. Any overcall shows either a 1-suiter in the transfer suit OR a 2-suiter in the following two.

So D = ♣ or ◇+♡, 2♣ = ◇ or ♡+♠, 2◇ = ♡ or ♠+♣, 2♡ = ♠ + ◇. Then 2♠ = ♠+◇ and 2NT ♡+♣.

Against weak NT, something more constructive is to be preferred. An easy application of Landy can be a penalty-type D, 2♣ for majors, 2◇ = weak onesuiter in either M, 2♡ and 2♠ constructive natural.

Active doubles

Doubles in competitive bidding are primarily for take-out. When there is an option between bidding/rebidding a suit and a double, the double is the stronger alternative.

Lebensohl

When our 1NT opening is overcalled with a natural bid, D is for take-out. Suit bids are just play at the 2 level but have to be preceeded by 2NT (demands 3♣) at the 3 level. Other direct bids are invitational.

This method can be applied to several situations where opponents bid to 2M. Examples:

    1♠ - D - 2♠ - ?

    1◇ - 2♠ - ?

    1◇ - 1♠ - D – 2♠ - ?

Lebensohl also works well after a reverse rebid:

    1◇ - p – 1♠ - p – 2♡ – p - ?

Now any suit bid other than 2♠ is GF, while a weak hand goes by 2NT.

Leads and carding

135 leads against suit contracts and fourth against NT.

UDCA carding.