

INFO

1 Notrump FOrcing

What is INFO?

Info is a bidding system, focusing on the opening bids at the one level. It is designed around some basic concepts:

- responder's first bid is used for differentiating three different situations: destructive, competitive and constructive. This simplifies further bidding (especially when opponents interfere) and is all about doing the right thing at the right time.
- in a destructive situation the chances are that the hand is opponents', they may even have game going. Responder is typically weak with a long suit or weak with support in the opening suit. Their main goal is to bid as high as possible with responders' first bid, to make life as hard as possible on opponents.
- a constructive situation is either game forcing, or a fit has been found and game will be investigated. In a constructive situation careful investigations are necessary, therefore the bidding takes off slowly.
- competitive situations in Info, contrary to normal bridge language, are situations that are neither destructive nor constructive. A fit has not yet been found, and game is not certain but still possible. In a competitive situation staying low is important, since there may be a misfit. In this situation there are no forcing bids.
- natural bidding. Almost all bids in a suit are natural. Most conventional bids make use of NT bids.
- re-use the same conventional structures in different situations. This decreases the number of full or partial misunderstandings.
- the same basics whether opponents interfere or not. Most bids in Info keep their meaning, even when opponents interfere. Of course, the new bids ((R)DBL/cue bid) are used to regain some of the lost bidding space. And there are some minor changes to special bids.

In total, Info is a well-balanced system that can compete with some of the more sophisticated systems in use today. But it has a major advantage: it is easy to use.

The Bids

Concepts are fine, but how do they translate into a bidding system?

Opening bids

| | |
|------|---|
| 1 ♣ | 12-19 HCP, 2+ clubs |
| 1 ♦ | 12-19 HCP, 4+ diamonds |
| 1 ♥ | 12-19 HCP, 5+ hearts |
| 1 ♠ | 12-19 HCP, 5+ spades |
| 1 NT | 16-21 HCP, 5+ card suit, 4+ card lower ranking suit |

Two oddities here: no better minor, but possibly a doubleton clubs. This is not really essential, and mostly based on regional preference. Both options are fully compatible with Info. The 1 Notrump opening is the second oddity. This opening is designed to lessen the strain on the rebid schemes especially after the 1♥ and 1♠ openings. It is, in principle, possible to use any other Notrump opening. But this will cause some complications, and has some impact on the 2 level openings used.

Overview Info

The following tables give an overview of the bidding structures of Info.

Overview of competitive and destructive bidding

Competitive bidding after an opening of one in a suit

| Opening | Resp. | | Contin. |
|---------|---------|--|--|
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♦ | can be 4333 with 4 clubs (and 3 diamonds) | |
| 1 suit | 1 above | 6-11 hcp, 4+ crd | pass 12/13 hcp, 3 crd 1 above 12-17 hcp, 4 crd 1 NT 12-15 hcp 2 under 12-15 hcp, 4 crd 2 in 12-15 hcp, 6+ crd 2 in betw. 14/15 hcp, 5+ crd 2 op. suit 12-15 hcp, 8+ fit 2 above 18/19 hcp, 4 crd 2 NT 16/17 hcp 3 under 12/13 hcp, 5+ crd 3 in 16-19 hcp, 6+ crd 3 above - 3 op. suit 16/17 hcp, 8+ fit 3 NT 18/19 hcp 4 op. suit 18/19 hcp, 8+ fit |
| 1 suit | 2 under | 8-11 hcp, 4+ crd | pass 12/13 hcp, 3+ crd 2 under 12-15 hcp, 4 crd 2 in 12-15 hcp 2 above 14-17 hcp, 4+ crd 2 NT 14/15 hcp 3 under 12/13 hcp, 5+ crd 3 in 16-19 hcp, 6+ crd 3 above 18-19 hcp, 4 crd 3 op. suit 12/13 hcp, 9+ fit 14/15 hcp, 8 fit 3 NT 16-19 hcp |
| 1 ♣ | 2 in | 0-7 hcp, 5 crd ♣ | |
| 1 ♦ | 2 in | 0-7 hcp, 4 crd ♦ | |
| 1 major | 2 in | 0-7 hcp, 3 crd op. suit 6/7 hcp, 2 crd op. suit | |
| 1 suit | 2 in | | 2 above/ game invite, 3 under strength or length in the suit bid 2 NT game invite 3 in pre-emptive 4 in pre-emptive or to play |
| 1 suit | 2 above | nvul: 0-7 hcp, 5+ crd vul: 5-8 hcp, 5+ crd | 2 above 4+ crd, to play 2 NT game invite in responders suit |

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | 3 new | 4+ crd, to play |
| | | | 3 suit responder | pre-emptive |
| 1 suit | 3 new | 6 crd, two of three tops, no side values | pass | to play |
| | | | 3 new | 4+ crd, to play |
| | | | 3 in op. suit | 6+ crd, to play |
| | | | 3 NT | to play |
| | | | 4 suit responder | either game invite (m) of to play (M) |
| 1 suit | 3 in | | - | - |
| 1 suit | 3 NT | 6 crd, two of three tops, no side values | pass | to play |
| | | | 4 new | pass or correct |
| | | | 4 in op. suit | 6+ crd, to play |

After forcing 1 NT response

Overview of bidding after forcing 1 NT response

| Bidding | Resp. | | Contin. | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♣ | no 6+ crd opening suit | 2 ♠ ** | InfoStayman |
| 1 suit-1NT | 2 ♣ | | 2 in * | 8-10, 8 fit |
| 1 suit-1NT | 2 ♣ | | 2 above | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♣ | | 2 NT ** | 10+ hcp |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♣ | | 3 other minor | 12+ hcp, 6+ crd |
| 1 suit-1NT | 2 ♣ | | 3 in | 10/11, 9+ fit 11/12, 8 fit |
| 1 suit-1NT | 2 ♣ | | 3 above | - |
| 1 suit-1NT | 2 ♣ | | 3 NT | 12-14, no 4 crd M, no 5 crd |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♠ | no 6+ card opening suit | 2 above | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♠ | | 2 NT * | 10+ hcp |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♠ | | 3 other minor | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♠ | | 3 in | 10/11, 9+ fit 11/12, 8 fit |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♠ | | 3 above | - |
| 1 minor-1NT | 2 ♠ | | 3 NT | 12-14, no 4 crd major, no support, no 5 crd suit |
| 1 major-1NT | 2 under | 12-15 hcp, 4 crd | 2 under | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| 1 major-1NT | 2 under | | 2 in | 8-10 hcp, 8 fit |
| 1 major-1NT | 2 under | | 2 NT *** | ExtraInfo |
| 1 major-1NT | 2 under | | 3 under | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| 1 major-1NT | 2 under | | 3 in | 10/11, 9+ fit 11/12, 8 fit |
| 1 major-1NT | 2 under | | 3 above | - |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 major-1NT | 2 under | | 3 NT | 12-14, no 4 crd major, no support, no 5 crd suit |
| 1 major-1NT | 2 in | 12/13 hcp, 5+ crd 14/15 hcp, 5 crd | 2 above | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | | 2 NT *** | ExtraInfo |
| | | | 3 under | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | | 3 in | 10/11 hcp, 9+ fit 11/12 hcp, 8 fit |
| | | | 3 above | - |
| | | | 3 NT | 12-14 hcp, no support, no 5+ crd suit |
| 1 suit-1NT | 2 above | 16-19 hcp, 4 crd | manche | 12+ hcp, 8+ fit |
| | | | 2 above | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | | 2 NT *** | ExtraInfo |
| | | | 3 under | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | | 3 in 1^e | 12+ hcp, 8 fit |
| | | | 3 above | - |
| | | | 3 in 2^e | 12+ hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 3 NT | 12-14 hcp, no support, no 5+ crd suit |
| 1 suit-1NT | 2 NT | 16/17 hcp, balanced | manche | 8-11 hcp, 8+ fit |
| | | | 3 under | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | | 3 in | 12+ hcp, 8 fit |
| | | | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12-14 hcp, no support, no 5+ crd suit |
| | | | 4 under | - |
| 1 suit-1NT | 3 under | 12/13 hcp, 5+/5+ distribution | 4 in | 8-11 hcp, 8+ fit |
| | | | 3 new | 12+ hcp, 6+ crd |
| | | | 3 in 1^e | 8/9 hcp, 8 fit |
| | | | 3 NT | 12+ hcp, no support, no 6+ crd suit |
| 1 suit-1NT | 3 in | 14/15 hcp, 6+ crd | manche | 10+ hcp, 8+ fit |
| | | | pass | 8/9 hcp, 9 fit |
| | | | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12-14 hcp, no support, no 5+ crd suit |
| | | | 4 under | 12+ hcp, 5+ crd |
| 1 suit-1NT | 3 above | 14/15 hcp, 5+/5+ distribution | 4 in | 10+ hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | pass | 8/9 hcp, 8 fit |
| | | | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 6+ crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12-14 hcp, no support, no 6+ crd suit |
| | | | 4 new | 12+ hcp, 6+ crd |
| | | | 4 in | 8/9 hcp, 8+ fit, |
| | | | second | game invite |
| | | | 4 in first | 8+ hcp, 8+ fit |

| | | | | |
|------------|------|---------------------------|--------|--|
| 1 suit-1NT | 3 NT | 16-19 hcp, 6+ crd | 4 new | 10+ hcp, strength in the suit bid, slam invite |
| | | | manche | 8/9 hcp, 8+ fit |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |
| 1 suit-1NT | 4 ♣ | 18/19 hcp, verdeelde hand | 4 ♦ ** | InfoStayman |
| | | | 4/5 in | 8/9 hcp, 8+ fit |
| | | | 4 new | 10+ hcp, strength in the suit bid, slam invite |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |
| 1 suit-1NT | 4 in | 9-11 hcp, 7+ crd | pass | |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |

Bidding after forcing 2 NT response

Overview of bidding after a forcing 2NT response

| Bidding | Resp. | | Contin. | |
|-------------|---------|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 minor-2NT | 3 ♣ | no 6+ crd opening suit | 3 ♦ ** | InfoStayman |
| | | | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 4 crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12+ hcp, no 4 crd major |
| 1 minor-2NT | 3 ♦ | 6+ crd opening suit | 4 in | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 4 crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12+ hcp, no 4 crd major |
| 1 major-2NT | 3 under | 12/13 hcp, 4+ crd 14/15 hcp, 4 crd | 4 in | 7-9 hcp, 11+ fit |
| | | | 3 under | 12+ hcp, 4+ crd |
| | | | 3 in | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 4 crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12+ hcp |
| | | | 4 new | 14+ hcp, 9+ fit first suit |
| | | | 4 in 2 ^e | 12+ hcp, 8+ fit |
| 1 major-2NT | 3 in | 12/13 hcp, 5+ crd 14/15 hcp, 5 crd | 4 in | 12/13 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | pass | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 4 crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12+ hcp |
| | | | 4 under | 14+ hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4 in | 12/13 hcp, 9+ fit |
| 1 suit-2NT | 3 above | 14/15 hcp, 5+/5+ distribution 16/17 hcp, 4 crd | 3 above | 12+ hcp, 4 crd |
| | | | 3 NT | 12+ hcp |
| | | | 4 under | 12+ hcp, 9+ fit first suit |
| | | | 4 in first | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4 in | 12+ hcp, 8+ fit |
| | | | second | |
| 1 suit-2NT | 3 NT | 16/17 hcp, balanced | 4 under (minor) | 12+ hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4/5 in | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | 4 new major | 12+ hcp, 4 crd, slam invite |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |
| 1 suit-2NT | 4 ♣ | 18/19 hcp, balanced | 4 ♦ ** | InfoStayman |
| | | | 4 new major | 12+ hcp, 4 crd, slam invite |
| | | | 4/5 in | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |
| 1 suit-2NT | 4 ♦ | 16-19 hcp, solid 5 crd or 6+ crd | 4 new major | 12+ hcp, 4 crd, slam invite |
| | | | 4/5 in | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |
| 1 major-2NT | 4 in | 14/15 hcp, 6+ crd | pass | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4 new major | 12+ hcp, 9+ fit, slam invite |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |
| 1 ♠ -2NT | 4 ♥ | 12/13 hcp, 5+/5+ | pass | 7-9 hcp, 8+ fit, 12+ hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4 in first | 7-9 hcp, 9+ fit |
| | | | 4 NT | RKC |

Overview of bidding after Info 1NT opening

Overview of bidding after Info 1NT opening

| Bidding | Resp. | Conti n. |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 NT | 2 ♣ 5+ hcp | 2 above 16-19 hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | 2 NT 20/21, 5+♥/4+♣ |
| | | 3 ♣ 20/21, 5+♠/4+♣ |
| | | 3 ♦ 20/21, 5+♦/4+♣ |
| | | 3 ♥ 20/21, 5+♥/4+♦ |
| | | 3 ♠ 20/21, 5+♠/4+♥ |
| | | 3 NT 20/21, 5+♠/4+♦ |
| | 2 ♦ 0-4 hcp | 2 above 16-21 hcp, 5+ crd |
| | | 3 suit 20/21 max, 5+ crd |
| | 2 major 0-4 hcp, 6+ crd | |
| | 3 minor 0-4 hcp, 6+ crd | |

Continuation after 1 NT – 2 ♣ – 2 above – 2 NT

In this situation 2NT is forcing and asks for opener's second suit.

Continuation after 1 NT – 2 ♣ – 2 above – 2 NT

| Bidding | Resp. | Conti n. |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1NT - ... - 2NT | 3 under 16-19 hcp, 4+ crd | 3 nw slam invite, second suit trumps, values in suit bid |
| | | 3 in 1^e slam invite, first suit trumps to play |
| | | 3 NT |