

# Joppe's NT

by JUKKA MATTILA

Translated by Jari Böling, finnish original can be found at  
<http://org.utu.fi/harrastus/bridge/joppent.html>.

| Responses to 1NT    |  |  |                                   |  |
|---------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2♣                  | 2♦<br>2♥<br>2♠                                 |  |                                   | asks<br>no major<br>4/5 cards, does not deny ♠<br>4/5 cards  |
| 1NT-2♣-2♦ responses |  |  |                                   |  |
|                     | 2♥<br>2♠<br><br>2NT<br>3X<br>3NT               | 2NT<br><br>3♣<br><br>3♦<br>3♥<br>3♠<br>3NT | 3♦<br>3♥<br>3♠<br>3♥<br>3♠<br>3NT | Majors at least 4-4, pass or correct asks, GF<br>5 card ♣, 3♣ asks for more<br>3-3-2-5 (you bid your doubleton)<br>3-2-3-5<br>2-3-3-5<br>5 card ♦, 3♦ asks for more:<br>3-2-5-3<br>2-3-5-3<br>3-3-5-2 (you bid your doubleton, NT replaces ♣)<br>3-3-4-3 (cf. t-w Stayman 3♣ ask)<br>2-3-4-4 (cf. t-w Stayman 3♣ ask)<br>3-2-4-4 (cf. t-w Stayman 3♣ ask)<br>3-3-3-4 (cf. t-w Stayman 3♣ or Baron 3♣-3NT)<br>invitational<br>GF (5)6+ cards<br>to play |
| 1NT-2♣-2♥ responses |  |  |                                   |  |
|                     | 2♠<br>2NT<br><br>3♣/♦<br>3♥<br>3♠/4♣/4♦<br>3NT | 3♣<br>3♦<br>3♥<br>3♠<br>3NT                |                                   | 4 card ♠, invitational, non forcing<br>asks, GF<br>4 card ♣<br>4 card ♦<br>5 card ♥<br>4 card ♠<br>3433<br>5+ cards, GF<br>invitational<br>splinter<br>to play   |
| 1NT-2♣-2♠ responses |  |  |                                   |  |
|                     | 2NT<br>3♣<br><br>3♦<br>3♥<br>3♠<br>3NT         | 3♦<br>3♥<br>3♠<br>3NT                      |                                   | natural, invitational<br>asks, GF<br>4 card ♦<br>4 card ♣ (4♥ already denied)<br>5 card ♠<br>4333<br>5+♦, GF<br>5+♣, GF<br>inv.<br>to play   |

| Responses to 1NT, continued |  |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 2♦                          | 2♠, 3♣, 3♦<br>2NT<br>3♥<br>3♠, 4♣, 4♦<br>3NT<br>4♥   |  | transfer to ♥(promises 5+♥), further responses are 4+ suits and round forcing balanced, inv.<br>slam-invitational, 3NT and 4♥ are negative resp.<br>6+k ♥ and splinter<br>choose game 3NT/4♥ to play                    |
| 2♥                          | 2NT<br>3♣, 3♦, 3♥<br>3♠<br>4♣, 4♦<br>4♥<br>3NT<br>4♠ |  | transfer to ♠(promises 5+♠), further responses balanced, inv.<br>4+ suits, round force<br>slam-invitational, 3NT and 4♠ are negative resp.<br>6+♠ and splinter<br>5-5 majors, choose game<br>choose game 3NT/4♠ to play |
| 2♠                          | pass<br>3♦<br>3♥<br>3♣                               |  | transfer to 3♣, weak or slam-inv. in minor, responder can bid<br>opener must pass<br>slam-invitational in ♣, 3NT only neg.<br>slam-invitational in ♦, 3NT only neg.   |
| 2NT<br>3♣/♦/♥/♠<br>3NT      |  |  | invitational<br>inv, promises XXxxxx-suit<br>traditional  |

Examples:

1. 1NT-2♣-2♠-3♣-3♥-3♠ sets ♠ to trumps and is slam-inv.
2. 1NT-2♦-2♥-3♣-?
  - a) 3♥ = negative
  - b) 4♥ = hearts ok
  - c) 3♠ = 5♠, and so on, natural, remembering that 3♣ is only round force
3. 1NT-2♥-2♠-3♣-?
  - a) 3♠ = negative
  - b) 4♠ = spades ok
  - c) 3♥ = 5♥, and so on, natural, remembering that 3♣ is only round force

The following alternative conventions was suggested by Marcin Skwark. The c)-alternatives on 2♠ and 2NT responses and the major length queries after 3♣ and 3♦ responses were added by JB.

| <i>Alternative meanings to the bids 2♠-3♠</i> |     |                                 |   |
|---|-----|---------------------------------|---|
| 2♠  | 2NT | pass/3♣<br>3♦/♥/♠<br>3 NT<br>4♣ | a) Bal. inv. b) to play in 3♣, c) slam inv. in ♣. Responses minimum, responder bids to play   |
|   | 3♣  | pass/3NT<br>3♦/♥/♠<br>4♣        | short suit, slam invitational in ♣<br>weak slam invitation in ♣, opener is allowed to pass<br>slam invitational in ♣, start que-bidding<br>maximum, responder bids to play  |
| 2NT   | 3♣  | 3♦/NT<br>3♥/♠/4♣<br>4♦          | a) Inv. with ♦ b) to play in 3♦, c) slam inv. in ♦. Responses maximum, responder bids to play   |
|   | 3♦  | 3♥/♠/4♣<br>3 NT<br>4♦           | short suit, slam invitational in ♦<br>slam invitational in ♦, start que-bidding<br>minimum, responder bids<br>short suit, slam invitational in ♦<br>weak slam invitation in ♦, opener is allowed to pass<br>slam invitational in ♦, start que-bidding |
| 3♣  | 3♦  | 3♥<br>3♠<br>3NT<br>4♣           | 5431 = short ♣, 5+ in ♦, 33, 43 or 44 in majors, GF, 3♦ asks ? asks for major length, responses<br>4♥, 3♠<br>3♥, 4♠<br>3♥, 3♠<br>4450   |
| 3♦  | 3♥  | 3♠<br>3NT<br>4♣<br>4♦<br>4♥     | 5431 = short ♦, 5+ in ♣, 33, 43 or 44 in majors, GF, 3♥ asks ? asks for major length, responses<br>3♥, 4♠<br>3♥, 3♠<br>3406<br>4405<br>3415   |
|   | 3♠  | 3NT<br>4♣<br>4♦<br>4♥           | asks for major length, more interested in ♠, responses<br>3♠, 3-4 ♥<br>4306<br>4405<br>4315   |
| 3♥  |     |                                 | 5431 = short ♥, 3 ♠, at least 54 in minors, GF  |
| 3♠  |     |                                 | 5431 = short ♠, 3 ♥, at least 54 in minors, GF  |

If the three-level responses are 5431-bids, 1NT - transfer - major - raise must be game invitational and not slam invitational, as in the original system. Slam invitations with 6+ majors must then be done via splinters or side-suits. With 6322 and 7222 distributions one have to go through 2♣ and ask for openers distribution and controls. Also if 5431:s are used, one should agree on openers rebids. Is a relay for controls or major-length ?

The suggested meanings for 2♠/2NT does only introduce new features into the system, although the original version is simpler to remember.