

<http://home1.gte.net/yweare/pc-xnt.htm>
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FISKFORSK NO TRUMP STRUCTURE

The Fiskforsk complex of No Trump responses is named after the URL of Petter Olsen's website that inspired the ideas. In its original form it was designed to economically use the limited bidding space over 2 NT openings to best advantage, accommodating the possibility that opener could hold a useful *five* card major *or* minor suit. The principles, with minor modifications, can be adapted to 1 NT auctions, both of which are discussed below.

This paper is part of a series on the Polish Club bidding system. Although applicable to all strong No Trump opening ranges, the remainder of this paper focuses on those used by this system.

12-15	Open 1 ♦, 1 ♥, or 1 ♠ and rebid 1 NT after a Major suit response or a Major after a 1 ♦ response. Fiskforsk is not applied to this point range.
16-18	Open 1 NT; may contain a 5-card Major suit.
19-21	Open 1 ♣ and rebid 1 NT after a 1 ♦ response or 2 NT after a Major suit response. This denies good 3-card support. May conceal a 5-card Major. Note 1 ♣ - 1 Major, 2 NT may also be 24+.
22-23	Open 2 NT. May conceal a 5-card Major suit.
24-25	Open 1 ♣. After a 1 ♦ response, rebid 2 NT. After a positive response find a forcing continuation, usually 1 ♠, 2 ♣, 2 ♦, or 2 NT. This implies that 1 ♣ - 1 ♦, 2 ♦ is either unbalanced or 26+ points!

No Trump Ranges for the Polish Club System

The Fiskforsk structure is applied to the 16+ point cases where responder has not shown a suit, i.e. the 1 NT and 2 NT openings and 1 ♣ - 1 ♦, x NT. Other methods are used in the development of the 12-15 point hands. They are discussed in a companion paper.

Motivation

Opening (or rebidding) No Trump on hands with a 5-card Major that is otherwise balanced (e.g. 5-3-3-2) will often produce better results than when opened in the Major. When 1 ♥ or 1 ♠ is opened on these hands, the opener often has a rebid problem. Further, when the responder raises on a minimum, the opener is compelled to carry on to the three level which may be too high with six opposite 16 points. In these cases 1 NT is often a better contract.

The down side of opening 1 NT with a 5-card Major is the absence of tools to disclose this feature that are not in some other way seriously compromising. Fiskforsk addresses these problems, as well as the somewhat less serious issue of finding opener's occasionally slam producing 5-card Minor.

General Approach

The structure following the 1 NT opening and 1 ♣ - 1 ♦, 1 NT sequence (the “1 NT auctions”) are identical, as are those that follow the 2 NT opening and the sequence 1 ♣ - 1 ♦, 1 NT (the “2NT auctions.”) The main differences between the 1 NT and 2 NT cases involve the need for invitational auctions in the former, and the availability of an additional level of bidding below game. In both cases the non-jump suit responses (1 NT – 2 ♣, 2 ♦, 2 ♥ and 2 ♠ and 2 NT – 3 ♣, 3 ♦, 3 ♥ and 3 ♠) and the four level responses have common meanings. The 2 NT and three level suit responses to 1 NT have meanings that have no analogy in the 2 NT case.

Here is an outline of the responses that both cases have in common followed by detailed discussions.

1NT-2♣ and 2NT-3♣:	The Fiskforsk Stayman inquiry hands that do not have an otherwise clear cut action, including: invitational or better hands with a three or four card Major and slammy hands with a Minor suit or six card Major and four card side suit.
1NT-2♦ and 2NT-3♦:	Transfer to Hearts; could be 4-5-x-x.
1NT-2♥ and 2NT-3♥:	Transfer to Spades. Could be 5-5-x-x (with no slam ambitions), but not 5-4-x-x.
1NT-2♠ and 2NT-3♠:	Specifically invitational or better 5-4-x-x or the first move on a Club or Diamond bust.
1NT-2NT:	Open 1 ♣. After a 1 ♦ response, rebid 2 NT. After a positive response find a forcing continuation, usually 1 ♠, 2 ♣, 2 ♦, or 2 NT. This implies that 1 ♣ - 1 ♦, 2 ♦ is either unbalanced or 26+ points!
1NT-3♣ and 2NT-3♦:	Invitational to 3 NT with a long suit.
1NT-3♥:	Strong Minor two-suiter, x-x-4-4, x-x-5-4 or x-x-4-5. Slam interest.
1NT-3♠:	Strong Minor two suiter, x-x-5-5. Slam interest.
1NT-3NT and 2NT-3NT:	To play.
1NT-4♣,4♦,4♥,4♠ and 2NT-4♣,4♦,4♥,4♠	Roman Keycard Gerber in Hearts, Spades, Clubs and Diamonds respectively. The suits are reversed (e.g. Clubs shows Hearts) so that the ask can be repeated at the five level for kings without it sounding like a signoff, thus 1NT-4♣, 4♠-5♣ sets Hearts as trump and asks about Kings.

Responses Common to both 1 No Trump and 2 No Trump

Fiskforsk Extended Stayman: 1 NT – 2 ♣ and 2 NT – 3 ♣

To this inquiry opener rebids his cheapest 4-card Major or 2 ♦ (3 ♦ after 2 NT) with any 5-card suit. With neither of these the opener must rebid 3 NT in the 2 NT case. In the 1 NT case the opener rebids 2 NT, which can be passed, with a minimum hand. With a maximum opener rebids the obvious fragment at the three level. The obvious fragments are: 3 ♣ = 3-3-3-4, 3 ♦ = 3-3-4-3, 3 ♥ = 2-3-4-4 and 3 ♠ = 3-2-4-4. This fragment bid solves responder's support discovery problem below 3 NT.

After 1 NT – 2 ♣, 2 ♦, showing a 5-card suit somewhere, the responder can ask which suit it is by bidding Hearts minimally, thus 1 NT – 2 ♣, 2 ♦ – 2 ♥ (or 3 ♥ when 2 NT is opened). Opener rebids in steps to show the suits in order: 2 ♠ shows Clubs, 2 NT shows Diamonds and a minimum opening, 3 ♣ shows Diamonds and a maximum opening, 3 ♦ shows five Hearts and 3 ♥ shows five Spades. The auction now proceeds naturally. Note the two steps used to show Diamonds which is necessary to safely sign off in 2 NT when the opener is minimum yet reach 3 NT when maximum. Here are some examples:

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 2NT-pass ... opener is minimum with five Diamonds and responder is only invitational strength.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 2NT-3♦ ... responder is setting Diamonds (opener's suit) as trump and is inviting cue bidding for slam.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 3♦-3♥, pass ... opener has five Hearts and responder is inviting in Hearts and opener declined.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 3♦-3♥, 4♥ ... this time the opener accepted the invitation.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 3♦-4♥, pass ... responder has game going strength and at least three Hearts.

The same approach is used after the 2 NT – 3 ♣, 3 ♦ auctions except the distinction between minimum and maximum hands with Diamonds is unnecessary and is dropped and the space that is freed up allows us to use responder's relay (except bypassing 3 NT) as a Roman Keycard Ask in opener's suit, thus:

2NT-3♣, 3♦-3♥, 3NT(showing Diamonds)-4♣ (RKA in Diamonds).

Although it would be easier to just *bid* the actual suit held after the 2/3 ♥ inquiry, it creates a problem in the 2 NT auction because it bypasses 3 NT when the opener's suit is a Minor. A related problem, in both the 1 NT and 2 NT auctions, is the responder's approach when holding support for only one of the Major suits that the opener might have. We do not want the opener to bypass 3 NT (or 2 NT in the 1 NT auctions when only holding invitational strength), when that might be the right spot. The solution to this is for the responder to rebid something other than 2/3 ♥ on these hands. With a willingness to play in Hearts but not Spades responder rebids 2/3 ♠, and with Spades but not Hearts he rebids 2/3 NT. This latter bid can be passed by the opener so should be avoided on slam going (after 2 NT) or game going (after 1 NT) hands.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♠ ... responder is invitational with tolerance for Hearts but not Spades, something like: xx Kxx Kxxx QJxx.

2NT-3♣, 3♦-3NT ... responder might have something like: Qxx xx QJxxx xx, that is, Spade tolerance; the opener can pass.

After 1NT-2♣, 2♦ the responder is free to bid a suit of his own at the three level. (Similarly after 2NT-3♣, 3♦ four of a Minor shows that suit and slam interest.) The Minor suits promise five or more cards and slam interest. The Majors are forcing and show a five card suit with three cards in the other Major, which may match opener's five card suit. (Note with a five card Major and anything but three in the other Major the responder will begin with a transfer, or 2♠ with 5-4-x-x.)

If the responder rebids a minor (1NT-2♣, 2♦-3m) and opener's five card suit is a Major then he bids it - he can always show interest in partner's suit on the next round. Opener rebids 3 NT with five cards in the other Minor. Any other rebid shows support for the responder.

If the responder rebids a Major (1NT-2♣, 2♦-3M, showing 5-3) the auction can proceed pretty much naturally. Opener rebids 3 NT to deny interest. Any other rebid shows support for the responder. Here are some examples of all this:

1NT-2♣, 2♦-3♠ ... responder has five Spades and three Hearts, something like: KJxxx Qxx AJx xx.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-3♣ ... responder has a good hand with at least five Clubs: Kx xx KQx AQxxxx.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-3♣, 3♥ ... opener's suit is Hearts.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-3♦, 3NT ... opener's suit is Clubs with a doubleton Diamond.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-3♦, 4♣/4♦ ... Diamond agreement, 4 NT next is RKC.

There are a few auctions that need clarification when the responder pursues opener's five card suit with 2♥ (1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥). Regardless of the suit the opener shows, the responder's rebid in opener's suit is invitational, 3 NT is to play and 4 NT is quantitative 4♣ is RKC in the opener's suit and anything else is a cuebid.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 3♣-3♦ ... opener has a good hand with a Diamond suit and responder, probably looking for a Major, thinks that may be best.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 3♣-3M ... responder likes opener's Diamonds and is cuebidding.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 3♣-4♣ ... RKC in Diamonds.

1NT-2♣, 2♦-2♥, 3♥-4NT ... opener has Spades and responder is inviting slam in NT.

When the opener shows a 4-card Major after 1NT-2♣ things develop pretty much as with standard Stayman. The responder's 2♠ rebid after 1NT-2♣-2♥ shows four Spades and is forcing one round; without support opener rebids 2 NT when minimum and his four card Minor at the three level on a maximum (or 3♥ or 3 NT with none) to facilitate the slam search when

responder holds a five card Minor. (This is similar in spirit to the 1NT-2♣, 3x auctions.)
Responder's 3♣ and 3♦ rebids (e.g. 1NT-2♣, 2any-3m) show five or more and slam interest.

1NT-2♣, 2♠-2NT ... responder is invitational and may only have a three card Major.

1NT-2♣, 2♥-3♣ ... responder has a strong Club hand and may not have a four card Major at all.

1NT-2♣, 2♥-2♠, 3♣ ... opener is a maximum 3-4-2-4.

1NT-2♣, 2♥-2♠, 3♥ ... opener is a maximum 3-4-3-3.

1NT-2♣, 2♥-4♣ ... Key Card Gerber in Hearts.

1NT-2♣, 2♥-4NT ... quantitative NT raise.

When the opener rebids a three level fragment showing a maximum hand without a five card suit or four card Major, the responder knows more about opener but is more constrained. A suit bid below game is forcing, sets the trump suit and initiates cuebidding. 3 NT and four of a Major are signoffs. 4 NT is quantitative. (Note that the awkward auction 1NT-2♣, 3♠-4♥ need never occur.) Here are some examples:

1NT-2♣, 3♥-3NT ... opener is 2-3-4-4 and responder wants to play 3 NT.

1NT-2♣, 3♥-4♣ ... opener is again 2-3-4-4 but now responder has a Club fit and slam interest. Opener is invited to cuebid.

1NT-2♣, 3♦-3♠ ... opener is 3-3-4-3 and responder has five Spades and slam interest. With only game interest he would bid 4♠ directly.

Transfers: 1NT-2♦, 1NT-2♥, 2NT-3♦ and 2NT-3♥

Auctions that follow these transfer bids follow pretty much standard practice. Opener must minimally rebid responder's anchor suit except when holding four card support. With four and a minimum hand the opener jump rebids in the anchor suit. With a maximum opener rebids a doubleton, or NT with 4-3-3-3.

1NT-2♥, 2NT ... opener holds a maximum 4-3-3-3.

1NT-2♥, 3♥ ... opener holds a maximum 4-2-x-x.

1NT-2♥, 3♠ ... opener holds a minimum 4-x-x-x.

1NT-2♦, 2♠ ... opener holds a maximum 2-4-x-x.

After the opener's simple rebid, the responder passes with no game interest; otherwise rebids 2 NT or 3 NT with a five card suit and no slam interest, asking the opener to show three card support, or 3 or 4 of the anchor suit with six or more and no slam interest.

1NT-2♥, 2♠-2NT, 3♠ ... responder has five Spades and opener has 3 Spades and a minimum hand.

1NT-2♥, 2♠-3♠ ... responder has an invitational hand and six or more Spades.

1NT-2♥, 2♠-3NT ... responder has five Spades and is asking the opener to choose the best game.

With slam interest the responder rebids 3♣ and 3♦ (4♣ and 4♦ after 2NT.) This Minor may be a bogus suit when the responder holds something like: AQxxx Axx Kxx Qx; other times it will show a real four or five card suit. In any case, the opener rebids the anchor suit with three card support, some other suit with four card support for responder's second suit, and 3 NT (4 NT after the 2 NT opening) with neither.

1NT-2♥, 2♠-3♣, 3♠ ... opener has three Spades.

1NT-2♥, 2♠-3♣, 4♠ ... opener has three Spades but does not like his hand much.

1NT-2♥, 2♠-3♣, 3♦ ... opener has four Clubs but only 2 Spades. 3♦ is a cuebid but Clubs are not yet agreed - remember that the responder's Clubs may be bogus.

Responder shows 5-5-x-x hands with these auctions.

1NT-2♥, 2♠-3♥ shows invitational strength.

1NT-2♦, 2♥-2♠, while possibly only 4-5-x-x, is forcing one round; if responder rebids 3♠ it shows 5-5 and is forcing to game.

2NT-3♥, 3♠-4♥ is to play.

2NT-3♦, 3♥-3♠ is forcing, possibly only 4-5-x-x. If responder rebids 4♠ it shows 5-5 and slam interest.

After 1 NT or 2 NT and a transfer, 4 NT and 5 NT by the responder are quantitative (5 NT forcing six) unless the opener has shown support, in which case they are RKC and GSF respectively.

Fiskforsk 2 ♠ Response: 1NT-2♠ and 2NT-3♠

The 2♠ response shows specifically invitational or better 5-4-x-x, or a Club or Diamond bust. Opener rebids a minimum NT with no tolerance for either Major (and, in the 1 NT opening case, with a minimum hand), otherwise rebids Clubs. After the opener's NT denial, the responder passes or bids 3 NT with the 5-4-x-x hands and bids Clubs or Diamonds with a Minor suit bust. After the opener's Club rebid the responder passes or rebids Diamonds with a bust, bids 3♥ with invitational 5-4-x-x, 3♠ with a game going or better 5-4-x-x. After 2NT-3♠, 4♣ (which promises a fit), the responder rebids 4♥ to play game or 4♠ with slam interest to discover opener's keycards - after which a Heart bid by the responder is a request to signoff in opener's fitting suit.

After a 2 NT opening, the opener rebids 3 NT, 4 ♥ or 4 ♠ depending on fit.

1NT-2♠, 3♣-3♥ ... opener is either a maximum or has tolerance for one of responder's (presumed) Majors. The responder has invitational strength 5-4-x-x. The opener can pass.

1NT-2♠, 3♣-pass ... opener likes one of the Majors, or is on a max, but responder has a Club bust.

1NT-2♠, 2NT-pass ... responder has an invitational 5-4-x-x and passes when the opener shows no interest.

2NT-3♠, 4♣-4♥, pass ... opener has four Hearts.

2NT-3♠, 3NT ... opener most likely is 2-3-x-x.

The Rest of the 1 NT System

1 NT – 2 NT is invitational.

The 3 ♣ and 3 ♦ responses to 1 NT are invitational to 3 NT showing a long broken suit and little outside strength.

The 3 ♥ response to 1 NT shows slam interest and a minor two-suiter that is less than 5-5. The opener rebids 3 NT without interest, bids 4 ♣ or 4 ♦ to set the suit, or bids 3 ♠ to get more information, to which the responder rebids 3 NT with x-x-4-4, 4 ♣ with x-x-4-5 or 4 ♦ with x-x-5-4. In the latter two cases the bid sets the trump suit and initiates cuebidding.

The 3 ♠ response shows a 5-5 Minor two-suiter and slam interest. The opener rebids 3 NT with no interest otherwise selects his favorite Minor at the four level. Cuebidding then ensues.

This system is **ON after a double**, with the added element that redouble is a puppet to 2 ♣ intending to sign off in a Minor suit. The opener must rebid 2 ♣ and the responder corrects to Diamonds if that is his suit.

The system is ON responding to a 1 NT overcall.

This system is replaced by **lebensohl after an overcall**.

Summary of 1 NT Auctions (1 NT opening and 1♣-1♦, 1NT)

1NT-2♣ asks about four card Majors and *any* five card suit. Opener rebids:

2♦ to show an unknown five card suit, to which responder bids:

2♥ to ask which one and opener rebids:

2♠ to show Clubs,

2NT to show Diamonds and a minimum opener,
3♣ to show Diamonds and a maximum opener,
3♦ to show Hearts and
3♥ to show Spades.

2♠ showing an invitational strength hand (not more) that would accept Hearts if that is the opener's suit. Opener rebids **3♥** or **4♥** holding five Hearts, otherwise 2 NT or 3 NT with a maximum.

2NT showing an invitational strength hand (not more) that would accept Spades if that is the opener's suit. The opener rebids **3♠** or **4♠** holding five Spades, otherwise 2NT or 3NT with a maximum.

3♣ or **3♦** showing a slammy hand with a five card or longer Minor.
Promises nothing in the Majors.

3♥ or **3♠** showing 3-5-x-x or 5-3-x-x and forcing.

2♥ and **2♠** show four cards in the bid suit (bid **2♥** with both), after which responder's:

2♠ (after **2♥**) shows four Spades, forcing one round.

2NT is natural.

3♥ and **3NT** show a maximum and 3-4-3-3.

3♣ shows a maximum and 3-4-2-4.

3♦ shows a maximum and 3-4-4-2.

2NT and **3NT** are natural.

3♣ and **3♦** show a five or more card suit, slam oriented.

2NT shows minimum hand with no four card Major or five card suit.

3♣, **3♦**, **3♥** and **3S** show a maximum opening and deny holding a four card Major or five card suit. The particular suit shows the obvious fragment for these hand types: 3-3-3-4, 3-3-4-3, 2-3-4-4 and 3-2-4-4 respectively.

1NT-2♦ is a transfer to Hearts, possibly 4-5-x-x. **1NT-2♦**, **2♥-2♠** is forcing one round.

1NT-2♥ is a transfer to Spades.

1NT-2♠ is either a Club or Diamond bust or 5-4-x-x and at least invitational strength. The opener rebids:

2NT with a minimum and no Major suit tolerance. Responder rebids:

pass with invitational 5-4-x-x.

3♣ or **3♦** with the Minor suit bust.

3NT with game going 5-4-x-x.

3♣ shows a maximum opening *or* tolerance for one of the Majors. Responder rebids:

pass or 3♦ with a Minor suit bust.

3♥ with invitational 5-4-x-x.

3♠ with forcing 5-4-x-x.

1NT-2NT is invitational.

1NT-3♣ and 3♦ are invitational with a broken six card suit and little else.

1NT-3♥ shows a strong Minor two-suiter, less than 5-5. Opener rebids:

3NT with no interest.

4♣ or 4♦ to set the suit and initiate cuebidding.

3♠ to get more information, to which the responder rebids:

3NT with x-x-4-4.

4♣ or 4♦ with x-x-4-5 or x-x-5-4 respectively. This bid sets the trump suit and initiates cuebidding.

1NT-4♣, 4♦, 4♥ and 4♠ are Roman Keycard Gerber in Hearts, Spades, Clubs and Diamonds respectively. The suit reversal of these bids makes available a rebid of the same suit to ask for Kings, thus: **1NT-4♦, 4NT(=2)-5♦**.

1NT-4NT is quantitative.

Summary of 2NT Auctions (2NT opening and **1♣-1♦, 2NT**)

2NT-3♣ asks about four card Majors and *any* five card suit. Opener rebids:

3♦ to show an unknown five card suit, to which responder bids:

3♥ to ask which one and opener rebids (after which responder's relay (but bypassing 3 NT) is Roman Keycard Gerber in that suit.):

3♠ to show Clubs (**4♣** is the RKG ask, bypassing 3 NT),

3NT to show Diamonds,

4♣ to show Hearts (note, this is different than the 1 NT case) and

4♦ to show Spades.

3♠ to accept Hearts if opener's suit is Hearts, otherwise 3 NT.

3NT to accept Spades if Spades is opener's suit, otherwise to play. Responder must use the **3♥** ask when he has slam ambitions because the opener can pass 3 NT.

3♥ and 3♠ show four cards in the bid suit (bid **3♥** with both), after which:

3♠ (after 3♥) shows four Spades.

3NT is to play.

4♣ and 4♦ show a five or more card suit, slam oriented.

4NT is Roman Keycard Blackwood in opener's Major.

3NT to show no four card Major or five card suit.

2NT-3♦ is a transfer to Hearts (possibly 4-5-x-x), after which 4 NT is natural and new suits show suits.

2NT-3♥ is a transfer to Spades, after which 4 NT is natural and new suits show suits.

2NT-3♠ is 5-4-x-x or a Minor suit bust.

2NT-3NT is to play.

2NT-4♣, 4♦, 4♥ and 4♠ are Roman Keycard Gerber in Hearts, Spades, Clubs and Diamonds respectively. The suit reversal of these bids makes available a rebid of the same suit to ask for Kings, thus: 2NT-4♦, 4NT(=2)-5♦.

2NT-4NT is quantitative.