

BRIDGE CLINIC SECTION# 2

1♣/1♦ OPENINGS - “Better Minor Principle”

1♣/♦: 11- 21hcps; 3+cards. The only time 1♦ Opener has 3Ds is when there are 2x4 card majors in the hand.

Since Major Openings are 5card suits; Hands which have no 5card Major and do not fall under a 1NT Opening have to be opened 1♣/♦.

The “Better Minor” is **not the stronger Minor**. It is:

1. The lower minor with 3Cs & 3Ds
2. The lower minor with 4Cs & 4Ds except with 11-15hcps and a singleton Major
3. The longer minor when the hand has 5 – 9 minor suit cards with one exception. With 11-15hcps and a singleton Major a hand with a biddable 4card Dsuit (AJxx or better) and 5card Csuit would open 1♦.
4. The higher minor with 5⁺Cs & 5⁺Ds AND 11-15hcps
5. The lower minor equal length with more than 5 of each with 16⁺ hcps

The reason for these rules is so that Opener **will not rebid NT** with a singleton/void; Opener will not reverse under 16hcps; Responder will have a count of Opener’s minor distribution.

Priority of Objectives after Opening 1♣/1♦:

1. To find an 8card Major fit to bid a Major suit contract.
2. With minor fit established, to determine level of contract and whether stoppers are available to bid a NT contract.

RESPONSES WITH 4+CARD MAJOR

POINTS	RESPONSES	REBIDS
0-5	Pass Jump-shift w 6+card suit	Over Opponents bid, with 5 ⁺ card suit Opener 16-18hcps may rebid minor; reverse with 19/20. Rebid NT with 18-19 and appropriate stopper

6+	1 ♠/♣	Opener 11-15: 4card supp. 2♥/♠; w/o4card no single./void , 1NT; 1♠ over 1♥ w4S; rebid minor w6; with single./void. rebid 5C minor, or bid 2 nd lower minor	Responder: invites to game by raising Opener's rebid. Forces by bidding new suit.
		Opener 16-17(unb.): Reverse or jump support/rebid	Lebensoln 2NT is weak asks Opener to bid 3♠ and pass next bid. Opener ignores w19/20
		Opener 18-20: Jump-shift, jump to game	

Responses with 4-5+ minor support

POINTS	RESPONSES	REBIDS	
0-4	Pass	Over Opponents bid, w 6card suit Opener may rebid minor w16-18hcps; jump rebid with 19/20. Rebid 1NT with 18-19 and appropriate stopper	
5-9	3 ♠/♦	Preemptive Raise. Opener passes unless very strong 5 losers 18+hcps	
10+	2 ♠/2♦	Opener 11-15: Show first stopper 11-12; 2NT shows 13 -14 and stoppers in at least 2 other suits	Bid game in NT; Invite game in minor
		Opener16-17(unb.): Mini-Splinter i.e. single jump to single./void	Cue-bids or Roman Key Card 4♦/2♠ or 4♥/2♦ Redwood/Kickback
		Opener 18-20: Investigate slam Roman Key Card 4♦/2♠ or 4♥/2♦ Redwood/Kickback	

Limited Responses in NT no 4 card major

POINTS	RESPONSES	REBIDS
11-12	2NT	Opener: 3NT w 14-16
		Opener: 4♠ RKC Gerber
13-15	3NT	Opener: 4♠ RKC Gerber