

# Multi 1NT

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## Contents

### 1 Description

When using Multi 1NT, the 1NT opening bid shows a standard strong no-trump opening (let's say 15–17 hcp) or a weak two in one of the majors. The bid is non-forcing.

The Multi 1NT is an idea I got from a thread by Cthulhu D at the BBO online forum. He was asking about weak/strong 1NT openings, inspired by Glenn Ashton's weak/strong 2NT opening. The response scheme and follow-ups is heavily inspired by the Heeman 1NT structure by Wim Heemskerk.

### 2 Responses

The 1NT opening is non-forcing, and responder should pass with hands that want to play 1NT opposite the strong version of the opening. This means that a response is either at least invitational vs the strong hand, or an attempt to sign-off in one of responder's suits.

1NT—

Pass	Less than invitational vs strong NT, usually no 5+ major
2♣	Lots of hands, but usually no 4 card major (may have 5 card major though)
2♦	Transfer with 4+♥. If 5+♥ then usually weak or both majors.
2♥	Non-forcing transfer with 4+♠. If 5+♠ then usually weak.
2♠	Forcing with 4♣. INV+ vs weak hand.
2NT	INV+ vs weak hand, wants to declare, usually balanced
3X	Natural GF vs weak hand, good suit

The 2NT and 3-level responses are not really necessary, and you may come up with better uses for them.

### 3 The 2♣ response

The 2♣ response shows a lot of hands:

- Weak with 5+♦
- Weak with 6+♣

- INV+ with a 5+ major (but not 5-4 majors)
- INV+ without a major

Weak above is defined as less than invitational vs the strong hand. INV+ above is at least invitational vs the strong hand, but may be as strong as slam interest vs the weak hand (so unlimited).

Opener's rebids are very simple; simply bid 2♦ with the strong variant or your major with the weak variant.

### 3.1 Opener's weak rebid

Over the weak rebid you're in the same position as if opener had opened two of a major, so I suggest that you use continuations mimicked from a weak two opening bid response structure.

### 3.2 Opener's strong rebid

So now you know that opener has the strong NT variant; it is time to describe your hand.

1NT-2♣; 2♦—	
Pass	Weak with diamonds
2♥	Transfer with 5+♠, at least invitational (may have 5♥ if INV)
2♠	Weak with clubs or at least invitational without major
2NT	INV with 5♥
3♣♦	GF with 5♥ and 4+ minor
3♥	INV with 6+♥
3♠	GF with 5+♥
3NT	To play
4♣♦	Splinter with long hearts, slam interest
4♥♠	To play
4NT	Quantitative with 5♥

This may seem hard to remember, but the key is that 2♥ shows spades, 2♠ shows a hand with no major and 2NT or higher shows hearts (the exception being 3NT and 4♥/♠, which are to play).

#### 3.2.1 Responder has a 5+ major

Over most of the heart showing rebids, opener bids naturally as if you've transferred to hearts and rebid in a normal Jacoby transfer structure. The obvious exception is 3♠, which is made with game forcing hands with at least five hearts.

1NT-2♣; 2♦-3♠;	
3NT	Not three card support
4♣♦	Cue bid, slam interest with 6+ hearts
4♥	To play, had slam interest if opener had support
4♣♦	Cue bid, max with 3+ support
4♥	Minimum with 3 card support

Now if responder shows spades opener accepts the transfer with a minimum, bids 2NT without support and max or bids at 3-level with 3+ support and max. The continuations are very similar to the original responses where responder has hearts.

1NT-2♣; 2♦-2♥;

2♠	Minimum
	Pass INV with 5♠
	2NT Wants to play game if opener has support
	3♣♦ Natural GF
	3♥ Invitational with 5-5 majors, non-forcing
	3♠ Invitational with 6+♠
	3NT 5♠, choice of games
	4♣♦♥ Splinter with long spades
	4♠ Mild slam interest
	4NT Quantitative with 5♠
2NT	Max, no support
	3♣♦ Natural GF
	3♥ Originally INV, but now GF, with 5-5 majors
	3♠ GF with 6+♠
	3NT To play
	4♣♦♥ Splinter with long spades
	4♠ To play
3♣♦♥	Max, 3+ support and weak doubleton
3♠	Max, 3+ support and no weak doubleton

### 3.2.2 Responder has no major

The 2♠ rebid can be one of the following:

- Weak with 6+ clubs
- Balanced invitational
- GF without a major
- Quantitative

Opener rebids 2NT if min and 3♣ if max (accepts an invite).

1NT-2♣; 2♦-2♠; 2NT/3♣—

Pass	Nothing more to say
3♣	Weak with clubs, opener passes
3♦	Minor suit Stayman, usually 5-4 minors
	3♥ 4+♣
	3♠ 5+♦
	3NT No support
	4X Cue bid
	3NT To play
	4♣ Sets trump
3♠	4+♦, not 4♣
	3NT 5♣
	4♣ 6+♣, sets trump

	4♦	Sets trump
	3NT	No minor
3♥		Slam interest with 5-5 minors
	3♠	Support for both minors
	3NT	Bad support for minors
	4♣♦	Sets trump (responder can show shortness)
3♠		Slam interest. Asks for a five card suit
	3NT	No five card suit
	4X	4 card suit. Bid four card suits up the line or 4NT if no suits left. Bid at 5-level is RKC response confirming a fit
	4X	Five card suit
3NT		To play
4♣♦		Natural and slam interest (could be used as optional RKC)
4♥♠		5-5 minors and void major
4NT		Ace ask

## 4 The transfer to 2♥

When bidding 2♦, showing 4+♥, responder may have one of the following:

- Weak with 5+♥
- INV+ with 4♥ (may have longer side suit)
- INV+ with 5-4 majors (either way)
- GF with 5-5 majors
- Balanced choice of games (vs strong hand) with 5♥

1NT-2♦;

2♥	Strong hand, not max with 4+♥
2♠	Weak hand, 6+♠ (may have heart support)
2NT	Strong hand, max with 4+♥
3♥	Weak hand with 6+♥
3♠	Asks shortness
	3NT No shortness
	4♣♦ Shortness
	4♥ Short spades

If responder is weak with spades, bids at the 3-level are natural and forcing and 2NT is an asking bid. You could use a normal weak two opening bid 2NT response structure here.

1NT-2♦; 2♥—

2♠	Forcing with at least 4-4 majors
2NT	Non forcing INV with 4 hearts
3♣♦	GF with 5+ suit and 4 hearts
3♥	Balanced choice of games with 5♥. Opener may bid 3NT even with support.
3♠	1-4-4-4, GF
3NT	Choice of games with 4♥

## 4.1 Responder has both majors

1NT-2♦; 2♥-2♠;

2NT Minimum, no four card major

3♣ Max, game forcing

3♥♠ Minimum, 4 card suit

When opener bids 2NT or 3♣, responder continues:

1NT-2♦; 2♥-2♠; 2NT—

Pass 4-4 majors, not enough for game

3♣ Undefined

3♦ Transfer, 5♥ and 4♠. INV+

3♥ Transfer, 5♠ and 4♥. INV+

3♠ GF, 5-5 majors

3NT Choice of games with 4-4 majors

4♣ 6 hearts, 4 spades

4♦ 6 spades, 4 hearts

When responder transfers to a 5 card suit opener must bid something other than 3M in order to reach game vs an invitational hand.

## 5 The transfer to 2♠

When transferring to 2♠, showing 4+♠, responder may have one of the following:

- Weak with 5+♠
- INV+ with 4♠, but not enough to invite vs weak hand
- Balanced choice of games (vs strong hand) with 5♠

1NT-2♥;

Pass Weak with hearts

2♠ Strong hand, not max with 4♠

2NT Strong hand, max with 4♠

3♠ Weak hand, 6+♠

3NT Asks shortness

4♣♦♥ Shortness

4♠ No shortness

The bidding is very similar to the heart transfer if opener accepts the transfer. However responder is usually more limited here, since 2♥ was non-forcing.

1NT-2♥; 2♠—

2NT INV with 4♠

3♣♦ GF with 5+ suit and 4♠

3♥ 4-1-4-4, GF

3♠ Balanced choice of games with 5♠

3NT Choice of games with 4♠

## 6 The forcing 2♠ response

This response is a forcing version of the transfer to spades.

1NT-2♠;

2NT	Strong, not 4♠
3♣♦	5+ suit, GF
3♥	4-1-4-4, GF
3♠	Balanced, slam interest
3NT	To play
3♣	Strong with 4♠
3♦	5+ diamonds
3♥	5+ clubs
3♠	Slam interest
3NT	To play
3♦	Weak, 6+♥
3♥	Invitational
3♠	Forcing, asking for shortness
3NT	No shortness
4♣♦	Shortness
4♥	Short spades
3NT	To play
4♣♦	Natural, slam interest
4♥	To play

## 7 The strong 2NT response

1NT-2NT;

3♣	Strong hand
3♦	Minor suit Stayman
3♥	4+♣
3♠	4+♦
4NT	No minor
3♦	Weak with hearts
3♥	Invitational
3♠	Asking for shortness
3NT	To play
4♥	To play
3♥	Weak with spades
3♠	Invitational
3NT	Asking for shortness
4♠	To play

## 8 The game forcing 3-level responses

The weak variant bids his major at the 3-level, holding bad support for responder's suit (over 1NT-3♠, bid 3NT instead to show hearts and bad support). With the strong hand bid the lowest possible bid which do not show the weak hand. With the weak hand,

support and min, raise the suit. With the weak hand, support and max, bid anything not mentioned above.