

JACOBY 2NT

When partner opens the bidding with 1♥ or 1♠ and you have a fit and game values it is an advantage to be able to show this without immediately raising to game..

It is more useful to employ the direct raise to 4♥/4♠ to show a hand with a good fit but little strength or defence. This has the advantage of being pre-emptive, hopefully making bidding more difficult for the opponents.

A common method is to reply 2NT (Jacoby) to partner's opening 1♥/1♠ to promise a fit and at least game values. Apart from differentiating from the pre-emptive type of hand, using this 2NT reply leaves more bidding space to further define shape and controls if a slam is envisaged.

After bidding 1♥/1♠ and hearing a 2NT reply, there are different methods for the opener to describe his hand; a simple method is as follows:

A direct jump to 4♥/♠ would indicate a minimum hand.

Any other bid would promise extra strength.

A three level bid in any other suit would be natural which would help responder to value his holding in that suit.

A four level bid would be, by agreement, a cue-bid (first round control) or a splinter (singleton).

A raise to 3♥/♠ would show extra strength and ask responder to cue-bid if looking beyond game.

3NT would show a balanced 15 – 16.