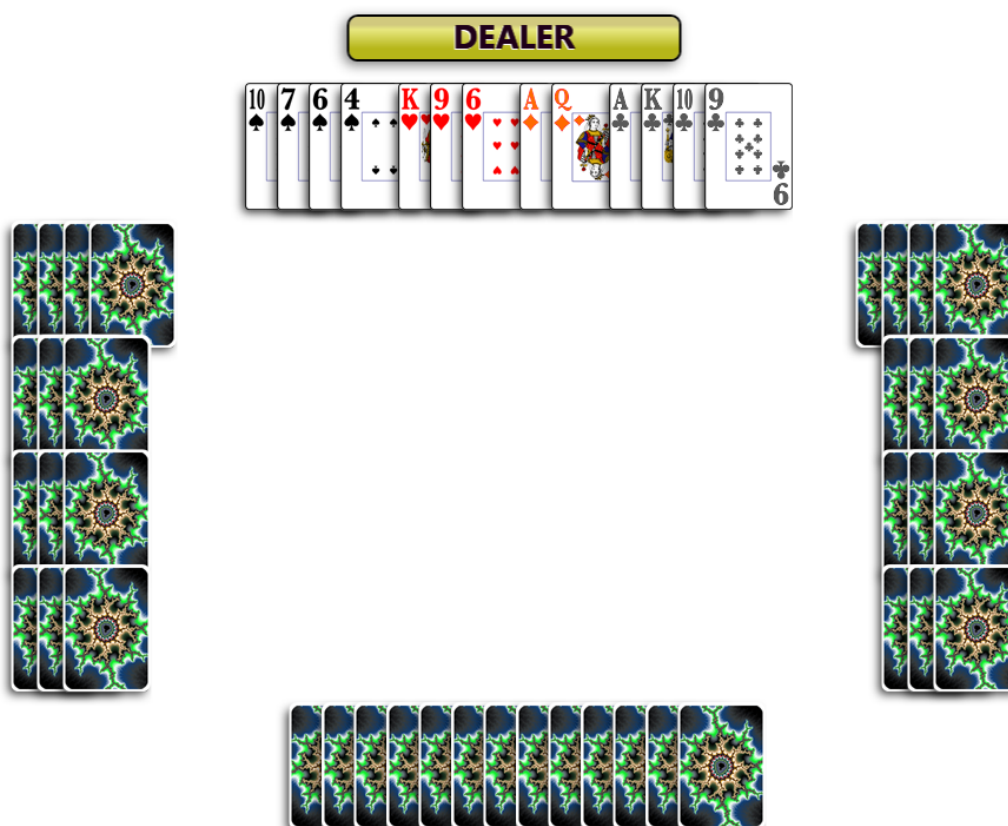


REVISION EXERCISE 7

You are north as dealer:



What should you bid?

1♣

1♠

1NT

2NT

Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have opened 1♣.

1♣

1♠

With exactly two 4-card suits, the lower ranked is the one to open with. Clubs rank lower than spades.

1NT

Opening 1NT is reserved for balanced hands with 12–14 HCPs. This hand is certainly balanced but has 16 HCPs.

2NT

Opening 2NT is for balanced hands with 20–22 HCPs. Our hand is nowhere near strong enough.

Opening with 4–4–3–2 hands

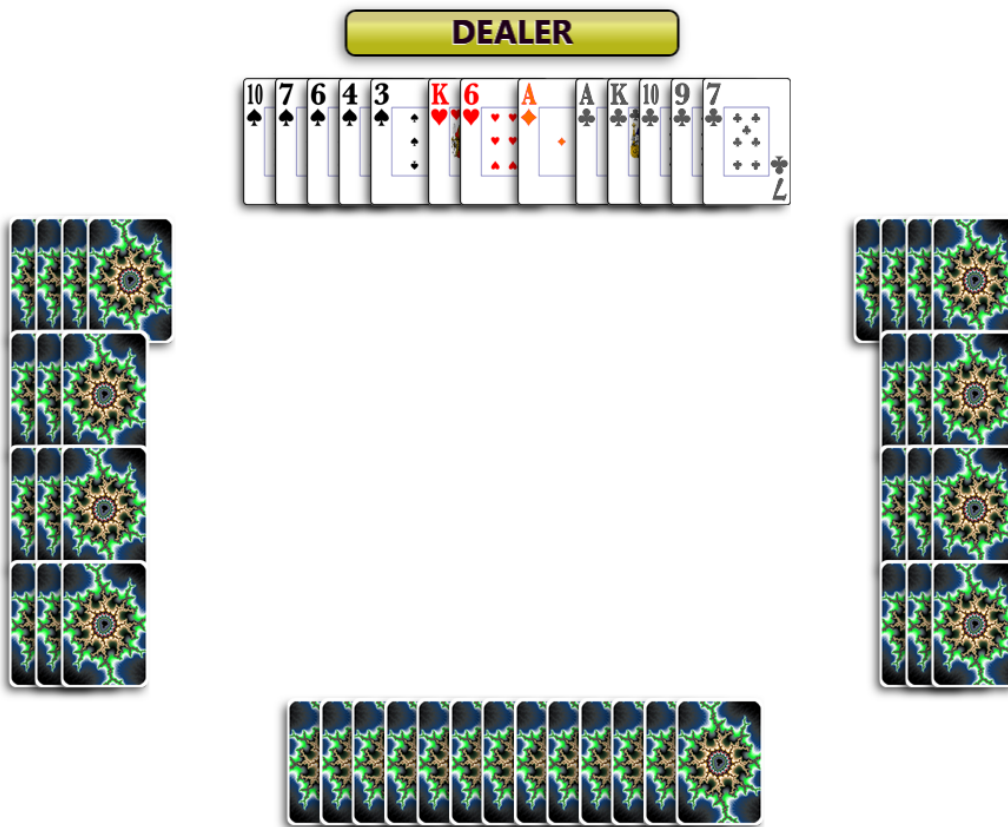
With enough HCPs, which suit do you open? It is actually surprising important to choose the right suit as responder will use the **ORDER** in which suits are bid to decide on the correct rebids. The situation is even more confused by various authors giving different ‘styles’ but always claiming theirs is the best. You will undoubtedly receive advice from more practiced players advising that their way of doing things is the only ‘correct’ one.

Bidding in the order club-diamonds-hearts-spades is very easy to remember and is as good as any for newcomers to the game. The all-important point is that you and your partner play the same way.

4–4–3–2 is the most common distribution so it could be said that it is more important than any other distribution to get the opening right all the time:

1. Open 1NT with 12-14 HCPs
2. Having excluded a 1NT opening, bid the **lower ranking** suit.

You are north as dealer:



What should you bid?



Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have opened 1♠.



With two 5-card suits, the higher ranked is the one to open with. Spades rank higher than clubs.



The 2♣ opening is reserved for very strong hands with the potential for game even with no support from responder. Our hand is way below this strength.



The 2-of-a-suit opening is reserved for strong hands with the potential for nine tricks with no support from responder. Our hand is below this strength. Additionally, the suit opened would very rarely be less than six cards long.

Opening with 5-5-2-1, 5-5-3-0 or 6-6-1-0 hands

With these hands, the higher ranking suit is opened. We will see why shortly when responder's actions are investigated, and we will see how the bidding order can be used to indicate suit length.

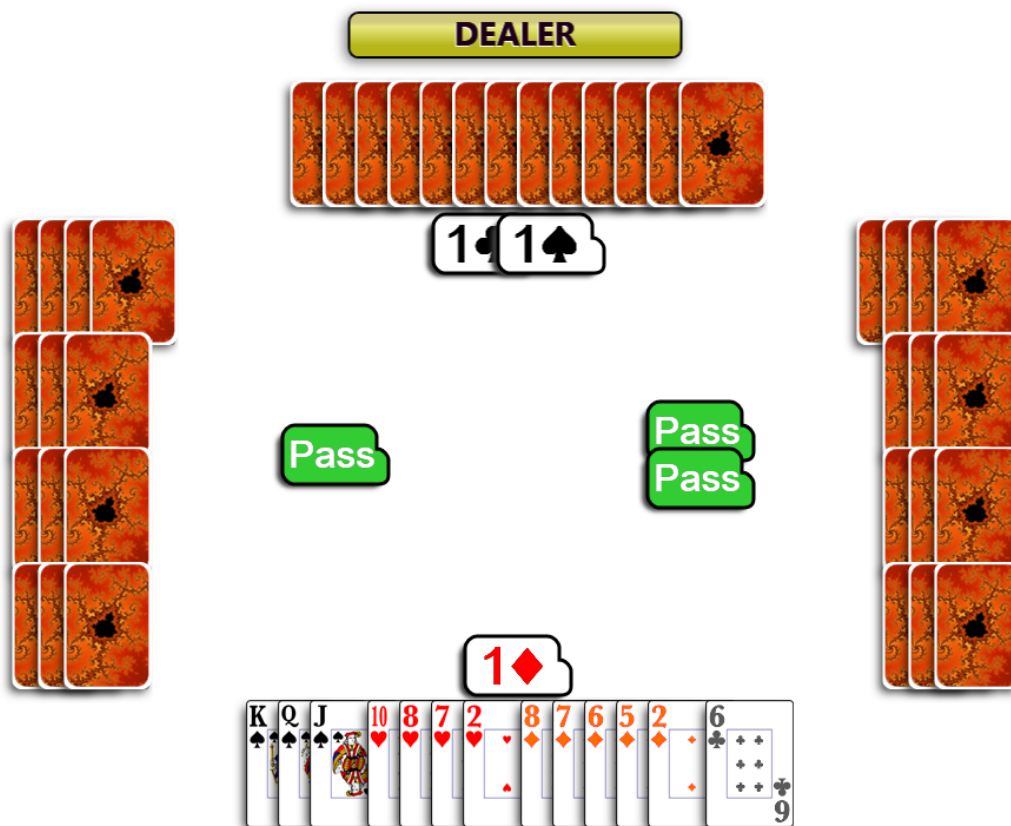
In this example, it is important to note that the opening is not 1♣ just because they are prettier. It will hardly ever be correct to use suit strength as a guide to which suit to open. So uncommon in fact that, for intents and purposes, suit strength can be ignored when opening.

Overcalls and pre-empt

The last comment on suit quality (strength) definitely does **NOT** apply to overcalls or pre-emptive openings. These are competitive bids where we need protection from being in a miserable, unmakeable contract. Suit quality is an essential ingredient to maintain trump control, so due attention must be given to this in all competitive auctions. This subject will be covered in later revision exercises.

You are south with partner (north) as dealer:

The bidding is as shown



Note on responder's bidding

Your initial response is naturally in your longest suit. With 6 HCPs you have correctly made your initial response.

What should you rebid?



Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have rebid 1NT.

Pass

Your first response of 1♦ has already shown a hand with some values, so you cannot pass. You must consider opener's 1♠ rebid as forcing as partner has not limited the strength of their hand in any way yet.

1NT

Shows a hand with 6–9 HCPs and no other suitable bid.

2♥

Shows at least four hearts but additionally shows a hand with at least 10 Total Points – not the case here.

2♠

Shows 4+ card support for opener's spades but you hold only three cards in the suit.

The bidding options shown here are all important in their own right and have clear meanings when used appropriately.

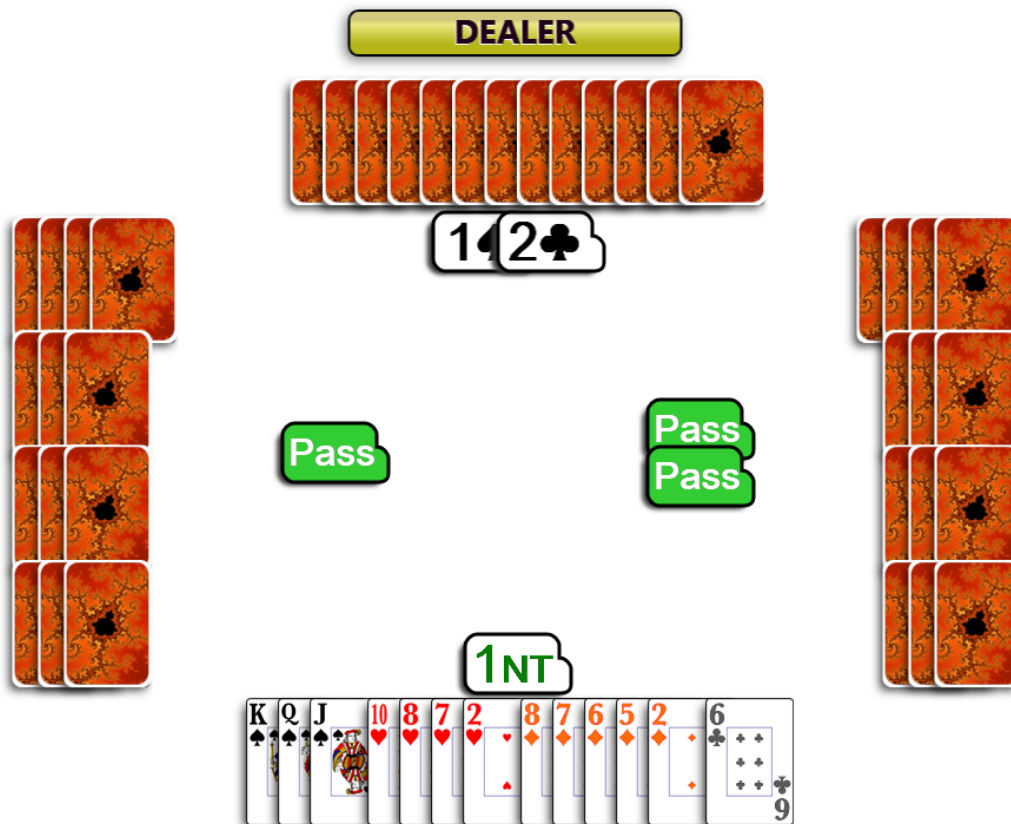
The correct rebid of 1NT has several implications:

1. You do not have four clubs
2. You do not have four spades
3. You do have 6–9 HCPs

Carefully note that 1NT here does not promise a balanced hand – a very common misapprehension. Thinking this often deters responder from bidding at all, which is wrong. It is a bid of last resort, sometimes called 'the dustbin bid', and may be made where appropriate with any hand shape and 6–9 HCPs.

You are south with partner (north) as dealer:

The bidding is as shown



Note on responder's bidding

Your initial response of 1NT is explained in the previous example. (6–9 HCPs, any shape.)

What should you rebid?



Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 2♠.

Pass

You clearly prefer spades to clubs.

2♠

You clearly prefer spades to clubs.

2NT

Shows 10–12 HCPs but you have already said you have 6–9 HCPs!

The key to understanding the correct bidding is to work out how many spades and clubs partner has. You recall that if both were 4-card suits, clubs would be bid first. Not the case here. It follows that:

1. Both spades and clubs are at least 4-card suits (they have both been bid)
2. Spades and clubs cannot both be four cards as clubs would have been bid first
3. Spades must be at least 5 cards in length with clubs being shorter (or maybe the same)

The key message that partner's bidding has supplied is that the spade suit has at least five cards. Knowing this and having three spades yourself (at least eight in total), the correct rebid of 2♠ is clear.

An extra question – or two

What if you had this hand as responder?



You don't like either spades or clubs! What do you do now? Again, work out what partner has told us. Partner has at least five spades and at least four clubs. By far the most common hands that fit this description are 5–4–3–1 and 5–4–2–2 (the first being the more likely). Assume this and work out your bidding.

Partner's (assumed) five spades plus you one gives a total of six cards. Partner's (assumed) four clubs plus you three gives a total of seven cards. A 7-card fit is preferable to a 6-card fit, so pass and let partner play in a 2♣ contract. When you put down dummy, remember to say 'good luck partner'. It might well be needed!

And this:



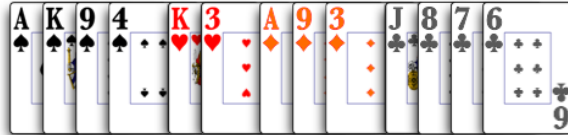
Same applies. Do you want to play in a 5-2 fit (spades) or a 4-3 fit (clubs)? 5–2 is much easier so it is correct to rebid 2♠.

QUIZ

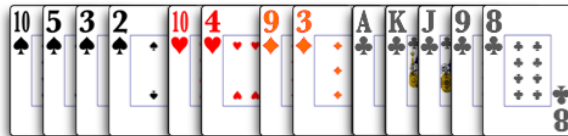
1. You have this hand, what is your opening bid?



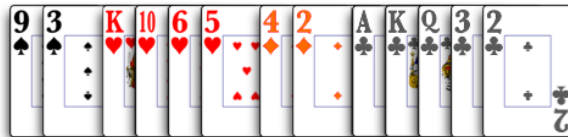
2. You have this hand, what is your opening bid?



3. Partner has opened 1♥, how do you respond?



4. Partner has opened 1♦, how do you respond?



[Click here to email your answers](#)

END