

# Suggested Upgrade for Jacoby 2NT Responses

By Mike Savage

Some experts play a complicated memory-intensive response structure to Jacoby 2NT, focusing on how & when to show shortness, but if you want an easy to remember tweak to the *standard* Jacoby 2NT responses that may help you bid good slams and stay out of bad ones, here is my suggestion.

It is simply this: instead of a rebid of opener's major over 2NT showing slam interest, use a rebid of three of opener's major to show a hand that would *cooperate* in slam bidding if responder is interested and *might* have—but does not necessarily have extras—just at least a side control or two.

If opener jumps to four of his major over 2NT, it should be reserved for a hand that would reject *any* slam try and has no side controls. Since 2NT sets opener's major as trumps, you shouldn't use 3NT after 2NT as an offer to play, but have 3NT by *either* partner to show at least some slam interest.

If opener rebids his major over Jacoby 2NT (and he usually will), then responder has various options. With no slam interest, he can just bid game and be done with it, with mild (or ever stronger) slam interest, he could bid 3NT to see if opener will cue-bid below game. With very strong slam interest, he might cue-bid himself or with an appropriate hand, he can use Roman Key Card (RKC) Blackwood, knowing opener has at least some kind of a control in one or more of the side suits.

Using standard Jacoby 2NT responses, opener jumps to game with a minimum but could have a control or two in side suits and over a 4H or 4S rebid, responder sometimes won't be able to probe for slam *when he has two small in a side suit* and a nice hand when the 5-level might be dangerous.

Here are some examples showing how this upgraded version would work after a major opener:

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
♠ A K x	♠ x x		1H	
♥ K J x x	♥ A Q 10 x x	2NT	3H*	* Waiting
♦ A Q J x	♦ 10 x x	3S**	4C	** Strong slam try in hearts
♣ x x	♣ A Q x	4NT***	5S****	*** RKC Blackwood
		5NT	6H	**** 2 controls & trump queen
<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
♠ A K x	♠ Q J x		1H	
♥ K J x x	♥ A Q 10 x x	2NT	4H*	* Minimum & no side controls
♦ A Q J x	♦ 10 x	Pass		
♣ x x	♣ Q J x			
<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
♠ K J x x	♠ A Q 10 x x		1S	
♥ x x	♥ A Q	2NT	3NT*	* Slam try in spades
♦ A x x	♦ K Q J x	4C	4NT**	** RKC Blackwood
♣ A x x x	♣ x x	5D***	5NT	*** Three controls
		6S		
<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
♠ K J x x	♠ A Q 10 x x		1S	
♥ K x x	♥ A J 10	2NT	3NT*	* Slam try in spades
♦ A x x	♦ K Q J	4D	4H	
♣ Q x x	♣ x x	4S	Pass	