

ZIG-ZAG Minor Suit Raises and More

How Some Modern Experts Handle Responses to Minor Suit Openings
A Mid-Chart Convention presented by Mike Savage

1C-2C or 1D-2D = Game forcing (GF) raise

1C-3C or 1D-3D = Preemptive raise

1C or 1D-2H = Shows either an invitational raise in opener's minor or 11-12 balanced (Pre-alert)

2S asks which hand responder has

2NT = Shows 11-12 balanced

3 of opener's minor = Shows an invitational hand with support

2NT = Natural, balanced, likes notrump and is usually passed (a minimum)

(Alternate use of 2NT: Artificial, asks responder if he has a singleton or void)

3 of opener's minor = To play and should have a six-card suit

3 of a new suit = Natural, unbalanced and/or may have slam interest (GF)

3NT = To play with a very nice minimum

4 of opener's minor = Roman Key-card Blackwood

1C or 1D-2S = Shows a mixed (constructive) raise of opener's minor (good 7 to 9 HCP) and should only be made with at least five-card support (Pre-alert)

2NT = To play

3 of opener's minor = To play

3 of the other minor = May be artificial and asks for major suit stoppers

3 of a major = Game forcing, may be a notrump stopper

3NT = To play

4 of opener's minor = Roman Key-card Blackwood

With a hand that responder would like to have been able to make a simple 6-9 HCP minor raise, he must choose between these imperfect responses. The choices are: 1NT, regardless of stoppers or even with a major singleton, bid 1H or 1S on a three-card major with one or two high honors or responder can underbid with a preemptive raise (3m) or overbid with a mixed/constructive raise (2S)

1D-3C = Invitational, natural with a 6+card stand-alone suit that plays well opposite shortness

1C-2D = Invitational, natural with a 6+card stand-alone suit that plays well opposite shortness

1C or 1D-2NT = Usually a minimum balanced opening hand, but could be more than an opening
1NT (17+ - 19)

1C or 1D-3NT = Shows a hand that you would have opened 1NT, *usually* no 4-card major

1C or 1D-2NT-3H or 3S = Shows stiff or void in the major bid

(Usually opener will be 1-4-4-4, 4-1-4-4 or 1-3-4-5(5-4), 3-1-4-5(5-4))

3NT = To play

4C or 4D = If responder can't bid 3NT, he should bid the minor that he has four-card support for (set trumps)

Step response = Roman Key-card Blackwood