

In volume 110 (2013) of the Bridge Magazine (in fact the final printed issue before going digital) Mike Wemble wrote an article "Gladiator Revisited" where he outlined a system of responses to a 1NT opening bid which uses a 2♣ response as a puppet bid to 2♦ rather than any form of Stayman. This originated in the Gladiator system over 60 years ago. Ron Klinger produced a similar but more complex system in his book "Bid Better, Much Better After Opening 1 No-Trump", (2001). The argument against the use of Stayman is that Responder is able to describe a significantly wider range of possible hands. Wemble points out that another similar system, Heeman, has been developed which he briefly outlines. He goes on to propose changes to Heeman which he believes provide further flexibility. I have looked in detail both at Wemble's suggestions and at Klinger's system and have developed a system combining ideas from both. The system as it stands assumes that there is no opposition interference and that Opener's 1NT is in any small range of high card points (HCP).

As usual it is assumed that Responder is either "Weak", "Game Invitational" (GI) or "Game Force/Slam Invitational" (GF/SI). The immediate responses to the opening bid together with the "weak" sign off sequences are as follows:

1NT-	= Balanced (any 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2 hand)
—Pass	= No game interest and not too unbalanced
—2♣-	= Puppet bid requiring Opener to bid 2♦
—2♦-	= As requested
—Pass	= Responder is weak with 5+ ♦'s
—2♦-	= Transfer to ♥'s. Responder has 5+ ♥'s
—2♥-	= As requested
—Pass	= Responder is weak with 5+ ♥'s
—2♥-	= Transfer to ♠'s. Responder has 5+ ♠'s
—2♠-	= As requested
—Pass	= Responder is weak with 5+ ♠'s
—2♠-	= MAX/MIN enquiry
—2NT	= Opener is MIN
—3♣	= Opener is MAX
—2NT	= Transfer to ♣'s. (Promises 5+ ♣'s)
—3♣-	= As requested
—Pass	= Responder is weak with 6+ ♣'s
—3♣	= Responder has 5+ ♣'s and is unbalanced (GI)
—3♦	= Responder has 5+ ♦'s and is unbalanced (GI)
—3♥	= Responder has 6+ ♥'s and < 4 ♠'s (GI)
—3♠	= Responder has 6+ ♠'s and < 4 ♥'s (GI)
—3NT	= To play, no slam interest
—4♣	= Roman Gerber for Aces
—4NT	= Asking Opener to bid 6NT if MAX

Important Notes:

- Unless Responder is signing off with long ♦'s the puppet bid of 2♣ shows at least GI points and either a single 4-card major or two 4+ majors.
- Unless Responder is signing off using the transfer bids of 2♦ and 2♥ then these show at least GI points and a major of 5+ cards with less than 4 cards in the other major.
- Unless signing off with long ♣'s Responder does not have a 4+ major when using either the 2♠ or 2NT responses to the opening 1NT bid.

Responder has a single 4-card major and at least 6I points:

1NT-

|—2♣-

|—2♦-

|—2♥-

|—2♠-

|—2NT

|—3♣

|—3♦

|—3♥

|—3♠

|—3NT

|—4♣

|—4♦

|—4NT

|—3♣/♦/♥/♠

|—2NT

|—3♣

|—3♦

|—3♥

|—3♠

|—3NT

|—4♣

|—4♦

|—4NT

= Balanced (any 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2 hand)

= Puppet bid requiring Opener to bid 2♦

= As requested

= Transfer to ♠'s. Responder has 4 ♠'s and < 4 ♥'s

= As requested

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and a balanced hand (NF)

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and 5+ ♣'s (NF)

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and 5+ ♦'s (NF)

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and 5+ ♣'s (GF)

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and 5+ ♦'s (GF)

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and offers a choice of 3NT or 4♠

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and 4+ ♣'s (SI)

= Responder has 4 ♠'s and 4+ ♦'s (SI)

= Responder is 4:3:3:3 (SI)

= "Superfit" via cue bid. Opener is MAX with 4/5 ♠'s

= Responder has 4 ♥'s and a balanced hand (NF)

= Responder has 4 ♥'s and 5+ ♣'s (NF)

= Responder has 4 ♥'s and 5+ ♦'s (NF)

= Responder has 4 ♥'s and 5+ ♣'s (GF)

= Responder has 4 ♥'s and 5+ ♦'s (GF)

= Responder has 4 ♥'s and offers a choice of 3NT or 4♥

= Responder has 4 ♥'s and 4+ ♣'s (SI)

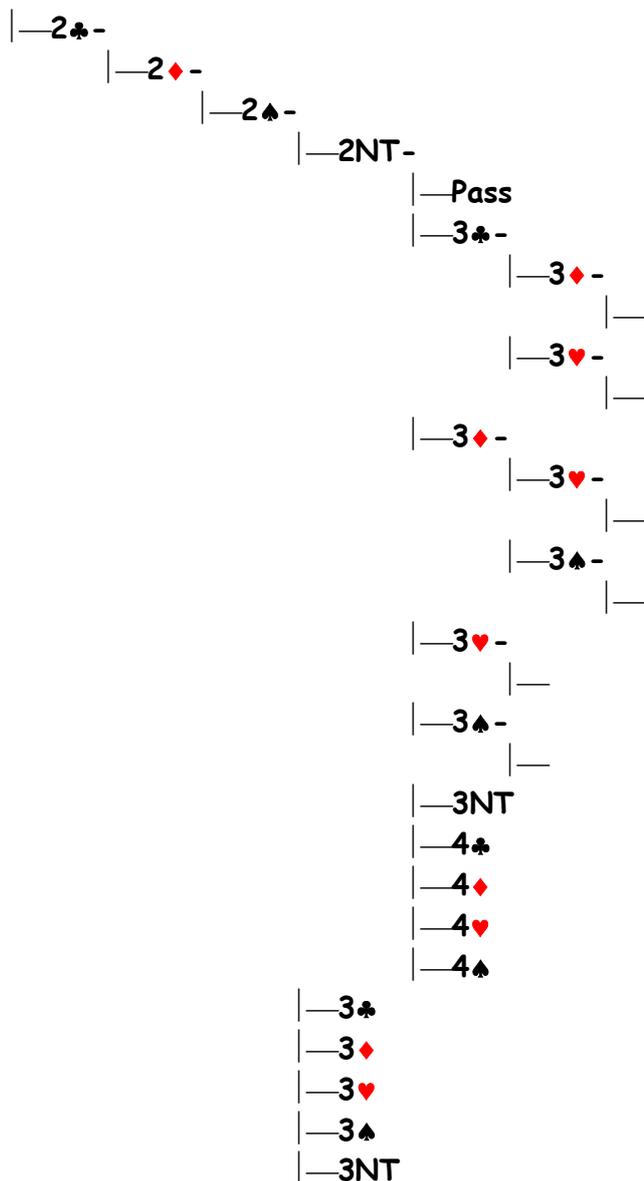
= Responder has 4 ♥'s and 4+ ♦'s (SI)

= Responder is 3:4:3:3 (SI)

Note the similarity of the bids depending on whether Responder has ♥'s or ♠'s.

Responder is 4+ in both majors and at least GI points:

1NT-



- = Balanced (4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2)
- = Puppet bid requiring Opener to bid 2♦
- = As requested
- = Responder has 4+ ♠'s and 4+ ♥'s
- = Opener is MIN with no 4-card major
- = Responder has 4 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s and is GI
- = Responder is 4/5+ in the majors and is GI
- = Opener has 3 ♥'s and 2/3 ♠'s
- = Responder chooses final contract
- = Opener has 3 ♠'s and 2 ♥'s
- = Responder chooses final contract
- = Responder is 4/5+ in the majors and is GF
- = Opener has 3 ♥'s and 2/3 ♠'s
- = Responder chooses final contract
- = Opener has 3 ♠'s and 2 ♥'s
- = Responder chooses final contract
- = Responder has 5+ ♠'s and 5+ ♥'s and is GI
- = Opener chooses final contract
- = Responder has 5+ ♠'s and 5+ ♥'s and is GF
- = Opener chooses final contract
- = Responder has 4 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s and is GF
- = Responder has 6+ ♥'s and 4 ♠'s (SI)
- = Responder has 6+ ♠'s and 4 ♥'s (SI)
- = To play. Responder has 6+ ♥'s and 4 ♠'s
- = To play. Responder has 6+ ♠'s and 4 ♥'s
- = Opener is MAX with 4/5 ♥'s (GF)
- = Opener is MAX with 4/5 ♠'s (GF)
- = Opener is MIN with 4/5 ♥'s (NF)
- = Opener is MIN with 4/5 ♠'s (NF)
- = Opener is MAX with no 4-card major

Next consider the "major" transfer bids where Responder has a single 5+ major and at least GI points:

1NT-2♦-

- |—2♥-
- |—2♠-
- |—Pass
- |—2NT
- |—3♣
- |—3♦
- |—3♥
- |—3♠
- |—3NT
- |—4♥
- |—2NT-
- |—Pass
- |—3♣
- |—3♦
- |—3♥
- |—3♠
- |—3NT
- |—4♥
- |—3♣
- |—3♦
- |—3♥
- |—3♠
- |—3NT
- |—4♥
- |—4♠
- |—4NT
- |—3♣/♦

- = Transfer. Responder has 5+ ♥'s, < 4 ♠'s and at least GI points
- = As requested
- = Responder is GI and 5-3-3-2 with 3 ♠'s
- = Opener is MIN with 2 ♥'s and 5 ♠'s
- = Opener is MIN with 2 ♥'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s and 5 ♣'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s and 5 ♦'s
- = Opener is MIN with 3+ ♥'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s and 5 ♠'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s
- = Opener is MAX with 3+ ♥'s
- = Responder is GI and 5-3-3-2 with 2 ♠'s
- = Opener is MIN with 2 ♥'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s and 5 ♣'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s and 5 ♦'s
- = Opener is MIN with 3+ ♥'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s and 5 ♠'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♥'s
- = Opener is MAX with 3+ ♥'s
- = Responder is GI with 5 ♥'s and 4+ ♣'s
- = Responder is GI with 5 ♥'s and 4+ ♦'s
- = Responder is GF with 5 ♥'s and 4+ ♣'s
- = Responder is GF with 5 ♥'s and 4+ ♦'s
- = Responder is GF and 5-3-3-2
- = Responder is GF with 6+ ♥'s
- = RKCB on ♥'s
- = Responder is SI and 5-3-3-2
- = "Superfit" via cue bid. Opener is MAX with 4/5 ♥'s

1NT-2♥-

- |—2♠-
- |—2NT-
- |—Pass
- |—3♣
- |—3♦
- |—3♥
- |—3♠
- |—3NT
- |—4♠
- |—3♣
- |—3♦
- |—3♥
- |—3♠
- |—3NT
- |—4♥
- |—4♠
- |—4NT
- |—3♣/♦/♥

- = Transfer. Responder has 5+ ♠'s, < 4 ♥'s and at least GI points
- = As requested
- = Responder is GI and 5-3-3-2
- = Opener is MIN with 2 ♠'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♠'s and 5 ♣'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♠'s and 5 ♦'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♠'s and 5 ♥'s
- = Opener is MIN with 3+ ♠'s
- = Opener is MAX with 2 ♠'s
- = Opener is MAX with 3+ ♠'s
- = Responder is GI with 5 ♠'s and 4+ ♣'s
- = Responder is GI with 5 ♠'s and 4+ ♦'s
- = Responder is GF with 5 ♠'s and 4+ ♣'s
- = Responder is GF with 5 ♠'s and 4+ ♦'s
- = Responder is GF and 5-3-3-2
- = RKCB on ♠'s
- = Responder is GF with 6+ ♠'s
- = Responder is SI and 5-3-3-2
- = "Superfit" via cue bid. Opener is MAX with 4/5 ♠'s

Now consider the other possible bids when Responder has at least *GI* points:

- 1NT-2♠-
- |—2NT-
 - |—Pass
 - |—3♣-
 - |—3♦-
 - |—3♥/♠
 - |—3♦
 - |—3♥
 - |—3♠
 - |—3NT
 - |—4♣
 - |—3♣-
 - |—3♦-
 - |—3♥-
 - |—3♠/NT
 - |—3♥
 - |—3♠
 - |—3NT
 - |—4♣
- = MAX/MIN enquiry. Responder has no 4+ major
 - = Opener is MIN
 - = Responder is balanced and *GI*
 - = Responder has 5+ ♦'s, 4+ ♣'s and a 3-card major (*GF*)
 - = What is your 3-card major?
 - = ♥'s/♠'s
 - = Responder has 5+ ♦'s and 4+ ♣'s but no 3-card major (*GF*)
 - =
 - = Responder has 6+ ♦'s and < 4 ♣'s (*GF*)
 - = Responder is balanced and *GF*
 - = RKCB on ♦'s
 - = Opener is MAX
 - = Responder has 5+ ♦'s, 4+ ♣'s and a 3-card major (*GF*)
 - = What is your 3-card major?
 - = ♥'s/♠'s
 - = Responder has 5+ ♦'s and 4+ ♣'s but no 3-card major (*GF*)
 - = Responder has 6+ ♦'s and < 4 ♣'s (*GF*)
 - = Responder is balanced and *GF*
 - = RKCB on ♦'s

- 1NT-2NT-
- |—3♣-
 - |—3♦-
 - |—3♥-
 - |—3♠/NT
 - |—3♥
 - |—3♠
 - |—3NT
 - |—4♦
- = Transfer to ♣'s. Responder has 5+ ♣'s and no 4+ major
 - = As requested
 - = Responder has 5+ ♣'s, 4 ♦'s and a 3-card major (*GF*)
 - = What is your 3-card major?
 - = ♥'s/♠'s
 - = Responder has 5+ ♣'s and 4 ♦'s but no 3-card major (*GF*)
 - =
 - = Responder has 6+ ♣'s and < 4 ♦'s (*GF*)
 - = RKCB on ♣'s

- 1NT-3♣-
- |—Pass
 - |—3♥
 - |—3♠
 - |—3NT/5♣
- = Responder has 5+ ♣'s and is unbalanced (*GI*)
 - = Opener is MIN
 - = Opener is MAX with 5 ♥'s
 - = Opener is MAX with 5 ♠'s
 - = To play

- 1NT-3♦-
- |—Pass
 - |—3♥
 - |—3♠
 - |—3NT/5♦
- = Responder has 5+ ♦'s and is unbalanced (*GI*)
 - = Opener is MIN
 - = Opener is MAX with 5 ♥'s
 - = Opener is MAX with 5 ♠'s
 - = To play

Summary of Responder's first bid to Opener's 1NT

Responder is WEAK:

- With long ♦'s/♥'s/♠'s/♣'s bid **2♣/2♦/2♥/2NT** else **Pass**

Responder is GI

- With a 5+ suit of ♣'s/♦'s and unbalanced bid **3♣/3♦** else
- With 6+ ♥'s/♠'s and < 4 ♠'s/♥'s bid **3♥/3♠** else
- With 5 ♥'s/♠'s and < 4 ♠'s/♥'s bid **2♦/2♥** else
- With a single 4-card major or with two 4+ majors bid **2♣** else
- If balanced or the longest suit is ♦'s bid **2♠** else
- (implies 5+ ♣'s) bid **2NT**

Responder is GF/SI

- With 5+ ♥'s/♠'s and < 4 ♠'s/♥'s bid **2♦/2♥** else
- With a single 4-card major or with two 4+ majors bid **2♣** else
- If balanced or the longest suit is ♦'s bid **2♠** else
- (implies 5+ ♣'s) bid **2NT**

Responder can, with sufficient HCP, of course, bid **3NT**, **4♣** or **4NT**. Usually with a 4-3-3-3 shape and a 4-card major it will be preferable to bid **3NT** instead of investigating for the major fit.