

Jacoby 2NT

Basic and “Advanced” Responses

Presented by Mike Savage

Jacoby 2NT shows at least four-card support for your partner’s one of a major opening and normally a balanced hand with opening values or more. It is only used when there has been no interference by the next hand. Just below are the standard basic responses to **Jacoby 2NT**.

1H or 1S – 2NT = Shows at least opening values, normally balanced and four (plus) trumps.

Basic **3C/3D** = Shows a singleton or void. Does not *promise* extra high-card points.

Responses: **3 of the other major** = Shows a singleton or void. Doesn’t *promise* extra HCP.

3 of opener’s major = Shows strong slam interest and asks partner to cue-bid controls, usually up the line or bid **4NT** if appropriate.

3NT = Shows a balanced, mild slam try. Accept with cue-bid or Blackwood.

4C/4D/4H (after 1S) = Shows a five-card suit. Doesn’t *promise* extra HCP.

4 of opener’s major = Shows a minimum opener with no slam interest.

You can use **Jacoby 2NT** just to set trumps and then bid Roman Key-card Blackwood.

Some partnerships play that **3NT**, after **Jacoby 2NT**, shows a bigger hand than **3 of opener’s major**.

Many expert partnerships don’t like describing their distribution in detail to the opponents - helping them defend more accurately - unless they are *really* interested in slam. With that in mind, I have developed some advanced, more comprehensive responses to **Jacoby 2NT** starting with this basic concept, used by the Kirkhams: *To show an unknown stiff or void, bid 3C with extras and 3D without.*

1H or 1S – 2NT = Shows at least opening values, normally balanced & four (plus) trumps.

Advanced **3C** = Shows a stiff or void or a 6+ card suit; both showing slam interest.

Responses: **3D** = Request to describe shortness or show a 6+ card suit (step responses).

3H = Shows an unknown void (step ❶).

3S = Asks you to cue-bid void. **3NT** shows void is in the other major.

3S = Shows a singleton in the other major (step ❷).

3NT = Shows 6-3-2-2 or 7-2-2-2 distribution with slam interest.

4C/4D = Shows a singleton in the suit bid.

3NT = Denies any 1st/ 2nd round controls outside trumps & is a minimum.

3D = Shows an unknown singleton or void with a minimum and *no slam interest*.

3H = Shows extras and asks partner to bid shortness (step responses).

3S = Shows an unknown void (step ❶).

3NT = Asks you to cue-bid void (after **1H**; **4H** shows a spade void).

3NT = Shows a singleton in other major (step ❷).

4C/4D = Shows a singleton in the suit bid.

3 of the other major = Natural with 5-4 distribution and slam interest.

3NT = Shows either the ace or king of partner’s 2nd major.

3 of opener’s major = Usually a minimum but could have mild slam interest.

3NT = Mild slam try. Accept by cue-bidding or bidding **4NT**.

Cue-bids = Strong try. Accept with cue-bid or bidding **4NT**.

3NT = Shows strong slam interest and asks partner to bid any outside controls.

4C/4D/4H (after 1S) = Optional (not recommended): Shows a fair to good 5-card suit.

4 of opener’s major = Shows great trumps, no outside aces and a minimum.