

ASKING BIDS

The following bids, and no others, are asking bids:

-- A new suit rebid by a 2♣ opener after he has jumped to set the trump suit:

Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
3♠	3NT
4♣/4♦/4♥ - asking bid	

-- A four-level minor suit response to an opening weak two or three bid in a major:

Opener	Responder
3♥	3♠ - natural, forcing
4♣/4♦ - asking bids	

-- A 5♦ response to a 5♣ opening:

Opener	Responder
5♣	5♦ - asking bid
5♥/5♠ - natural, signoff	

-- A takeout of an opening 4♥ or 4♠ to five of a new suit:

Opener	Responder
4♥	4♠ - natural
5♣/5♦ - asking bids	

Opener	Responder
4♠	5♣/5♦/5♥ - asking bids

-- A *rebid* by opener or responder that is one level higher than a splinter rebid:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
3♠ - splinter bid	
4♠ - asking bid	

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
3♦ - splinter bid			
4♦ - asking bid			

This principle applies to rebids only, not original responses:

Opener	Responder
1♠	4♣ - splinter bid
	5♣ - natural preemptive bid

It does not apply after a notrump opening:

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♦
2♥	3♠ - splinter bid
	4♠ - Mild notrump raise (poor hearts)
	4NT - stronger notrump raise

-- A jump rebid in a new suit at the five level:

Opener	Responder
1♠	3♠
5♣/5♦/5♥	- asking bid

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♥
2♠	5♣/5♦/5♥ - asking bid
	4♣/4♦/4♥ - splinter bid

Opener	Responder
1♥	5♣/5♦ - natural preemptive bid (not a rebid)

Opener	Responder
1NT	5♣ - Miller (see section 5-7)
	5♦ - natural, signoff

-- A "new suit" bid by a NAMYATS opener, after responder has shown two or more key cards (see section 7-4).

Responses to Asking Bids

Responses to asking bids are as follows: (x) means "or more"

Response (Steps are suits only)	Holding in the Asked Suit
Minimum bid in notrump	Kx(x), KQ(x) (guarded king)
First step	Qx(x), xx(x) (no control)
Second step	x (singleton)
Third step	Ax(x) (first round only)
Fourth step (raise asking bid)	A, AK(x) (two-round control)
Fifth step	void

Generally you do not indicate a singleton or void with fewer than two cards in the probable trump suit. If you have discards for partner in a side suit, you can indicate a singleton or void when holding only a singleton trump.

Memory aid: Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 show no control, second round, first round, first *and* second, and void, respectively: 0, 2, 1, 1 and 2, void.

A repeat asking bid in the same suit asks for clarification of the first response. Rather than make a table of detailed responses based on the original response, let's just say that the first step shows a poor holding for the first response (e.g., xxx for no control, Axx(x) for first round only, short trumps to go with a short suit, etc.), second step better, third step better yet, etc.