

Part 7: Structured Reverses – Responder Bids 1NT

We have learned that responder's bid after a reverse is forcing for at least one round. It is important to have a partnership agreement about which of responder's bids are forcing to game and which are forcing for just one round.

One such agreement is called **structured reverses**. It is widely used, but it's not the only such agreement. With structured reverses, there are three cases to consider:

1. Responder's first bid is One No Trump
2. Responder's first bid is one of a major (One Heart or One Spade)
3. Responder's first bid is two of a minor (Two Clubs or Two Diamonds)

For this lesson, we're going to consider Case #1, responder's first bid is One No Trump. Here are some examples of bidding sequences:

Opener's First Bid	Responder's First Bid	Opener's Second Bid
1C	1NT	2H
1D	1NT	2S
1H	1NT	2S

Playing structured reverses, if responder's first bid is One No Trump then one and only one of responder's bids over a reverse is NOT forcing to game. That bid is Two No Trump. Therefore, any bid over the reverse other than Two No Trump is forcing to game.

So if responder's first bid was One No Trump and opener reverses, then if responder isn't sure that they belong in game he should bid Two No Trump. Period. This is the **only** bid that will allow them to stop short of game and play in a part score. The Two No Trump bid is forcing for one round, but it is the last forcing bid in the auction. Opener must bid again but responder might pass opener's next bid.

What should opener bid over Two No Trump? That will depend upon his hand, of course. But most of the time he will just rebid his first suit. This

does not guarantee a 6-card suit. It just says that opener has described his hand and he doesn't have anything more to add.

If responder's first bid was One No Trump and opener reverses, and if responder is sure that they belong in game, then responder can make **any** bid other than Two No Trump. Responder's actual bid will depend upon his hand, of course. But any bid other than Two No Trump will guarantee that they get to game.

Here are some example hands and bidding sequences where responder's first bid is One No Trump and opener reverses:

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|----|---|--|---|--|
| 1. | <u>Opener</u>
S: 7
H: AK94
D: KJ3
C: KQJ63 | <u>Responder</u>
S: K98
H: QJ2
D: 1076
C: 7542 | <u>Opener</u>
1C
2H
3C | <u>Responder</u>
1NT
2NT (one round force)
Pass |
| 2. | <u>Opener</u>
S: 7
H: AK9
D: KQJ9
C: KQ863 | <u>Responder</u>
S: K98
H: QJ2
D: 10764
C: 754 | <u>Opener</u>
1C
2D
3C
Pass | <u>Responder</u>
1NT
2NT (one round force)
3D |
| 3. | <u>Opener</u>
S: 7
H: AK94
D: KJ3
C: KQJ63 | <u>Responder</u>
S: A98
H: QJ2
D: Q76
C: 7542 | <u>Opener</u>
1C
2H
5C | <u>Responder</u>
1NT
3C (game force)
Pass |
| 4. | <u>Opener</u>
S: KJ5
H: AK64
D: 7
C: KQJ103 | <u>Responder</u>
S: QJ8
H: 952
D: AQ10
C: 754 | <u>Opener</u>
1C
2H
Pass | <u>Responder</u>
1NT
3NT |
| 5. | <u>Opener</u>
S: 8
H: AK943
D: 5
C: AK9863 | <u>Responder</u>
S: A98
H: Q72
D: 106432
C: Q5 | <u>Opener</u>
1C
2H
3H
Pass | <u>Responder</u>
1NT
2NT (one round force)
4H |