

Part 8: Structured Reverses – Responder Bids 1H/1S

Today we're going to continue our discussion of **structured reverses**. This is an agreement about which of responder's bids over a reverse are forcing to game and which are forcing for just one round. For this lesson, we're going to consider the case where responder's first bid is One Heart or One Spade. Here are some examples of bidding sequences:

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

If responder's first bid is One Heart or One Spade, then two of his possible bids over a reverse are NOT forcing to game. Those bids are Two No Trump and a rebid of his major (Two Hearts or Two Spades). If responder rebids his major, this shows a 5-card suit or longer. If responder bids Two No Trump, this shows just a 4-card major. Both of these bids are forcing for one round only. Any other bid by responder over the reverse is forcing to game.

So let's say that responder's first bid was One Heart or One Spade and opener reverses, and responder isn't sure that they belong in game. If responder has at least five of his major, then he should rebid his major (Two Hearts or Two Spades). If responder has exactly four of his major, then he should bid Two No Trump. These are the **only** bids that will allow them to stop short of game and play in a part score. Both bids are forcing for one round, so opener must bid again, but responder might pass opener's next bid.

If responder rebids two of his major, then opener should raise with 3-card support. With less than 3-card support, or if responder bids Two No Trump over the reverse, then opener will probably just rebid his first suit. But opener's bid will depend upon his hand, of course.

If responder has 5+ of his major, and if he is sure that they belong in game, then what should he bid over the reverse? He COULD bid Three of his major (Three Hearts or Three Spades). This bid shows a 5+-card suit and is forcing

to game. However, there is a major problem with this bid: It takes up a LOT of bidding space. Consider the following:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
S: J3	S: AQ942	1C	1S
H: AQJ2	H: 854	2H	??
D: 8	D: KQ3		
C: AKQ942	C: J3		

Responder knows that they belong in game, but which game? If opener has three spades, then they belong in Four Spades. Otherwise, they probably belong in Three No Trump. If responder jumps to Three Spades over the reverse, showing 5+ spades and forcing to game, then what will opener do? He shouldn't raise spades with just two, and he shouldn't bid No Trump with a singleton diamond. Therefore, he'll probably bid Four Clubs – and there goes the chance to play in Three No Trump!

Instead, responder should bid just Two Spades over the reverse. This is forcing for one round, not to game. It says that responder might pass opener's next bid. But that doesn't mean that responder MUST pass opener's next bid! If opener raises spades, then responder will bid Four Spades. If opener bids Three Clubs, then responder will correct to Three No Trump.

1.	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
	S: 7	S: K985	1C	1S
	H: AK94	H: QJ2	2H	2NT
	D: KJ3	D: 107	3C	Pass
	C: KQJ63	C: 7542		
2.	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
	S: 7	S: K9	1C	1H
	H: A74	H: QJ652	2D	2H
	D: KQJ9	D: 10764	3H	Pass
	C: KQJ63	C: 75		
3.	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
	S: 7	S: A9	1C	1H
	H: A74	H: QJ652	2D	2H
	D: KQJ9	D: 10764	3H	4H
	C: KQJ63	C: A5	Pass	