

Part 2: How to Recognize a Reverse by Opener

Here are the criteria for recognizing a reverse by opener. NOTE: For the purposes of these lessons, we will assume that responder bids over the opening bid, and the opponents are silent.

1. Opener bids a suit at the 1-level.
2. Responder bids a different denomination, without jumping.
3. Opener's second bid is a different suit, one that no one has bid.
4. Opener's second suit must be higher ranking than his first suit.
5. Opener bids the higher-ranking suit at the 2-level, without jumping.

Here are some examples of reverses by opener. Note how they all satisfy the five criteria.

	Opener's 1 st Bid	Responder's Bid	Opener's 2 nd Bid
1.	1C	1H	2D
2.	1D	1S	2H
3.	1H	1NT	2S
4.	1D	2C	2H

Here are some other examples of bidding sequences that are NOT reverses by opener. They're followed by an explanation of why each isn't a reverse and what it is instead.

	Opener's 1 st Bid	Responder's Bid	Opener's 2 nd Bid
1a.	1C	1D	1H
b.	1C	1D	1S
c.	1C	1H	1S
d.	1D	1H	1S

Opener's second bid is a different, higher-ranked suit, but it was bid at the one-level, NOT the two-level. All of these sequences show a minimum opening hand. Opener COULD have more than a minimum, but not necessarily.

	Opener's 1 st Bid	Responder's Bid	Opener's 2 nd Bid
2.	1C	1H	2S

Opener's second bid is a higher-ranked suit, and it was bid at the two-level. However, opener's second bid is a jump. Therefore, this isn't a reverse. Instead, it's a jump shift by opener, showing 18+ HCP.

3a.	1C	1H	2H
b.	1H	1S	2S

Opener's second bid is a higher-ranked suit, and it was bid at the two-level, without jumping. However, the suit was already bid by responder. This sequence shows a minimum opening hand with four Hearts/Spades.

4.	1H	2H	2S
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Opener's second bid is a higher-ranked suit, and it was bid at the two-level, without jumping. However, responder didn't bid a different denomination. Instead, responder supported opener's suit. The 2S bid is a game try, showing about 16 – 17 HCP, but it's NOT a reverse.

5.	1H	1S	2NT
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This isn't a reverse because opener's second bid is No Trump, not a suit. This is a one-and-a-half No Trump sequence, showing 18 – 19 HCP.

6.	1S	2C	2NT
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Again, this isn't a reverse because opener's second bid is No Trump, not a suit. This sequence shows a balanced minimum hand, less than 15 HCP. (Why? Because if opener had a balanced hand with 15 – 17 HCP, he would have opened 1NT.)

7.	1H	1S	2C
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Opener's second bid is a different suit and it was bid at the two-level without jumping. However, it's a lower-ranked suit. Therefore, this isn't a reverse. It shows an unbalanced, minimum hand. Opener COULD have more than a minimum, but not necessarily.