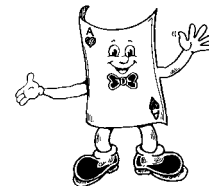


DON'T REBID A FIVE-CARD SUIT With a reasonable alternative



When looking for a fit, opener's rebid of his original suit usually promises six cards in that suit. With only five cards, opener can usually find a better rebid.

- Bid notrump with balanced distribution
- Mention a second suit of four-card length
- *Occasionally* support responder's 4-card major with only 3-card support.

EXERCISE 1: You are the *opener*. Choose your rebid on the auction shown.

HAND 1	HAND 2	HAND 3	HAND 4	HAND 5
1♥ - 1♠ ??	1♥ - 1♠ ??	1♣ - 1♥ ??	1♣ - 1♥ ??	1♣ - 1♥ ??
♠ 4 ♥ A Q J 7 6 5 ♦ A J 2 ♣ 9 6 3	♠ 4 ♥ A Q J 7 6 ♦ A 9 7 2 ♣ K 9 3	♠ A 2 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ K Q 9 7 6 4	♠ A 7 2 ♥ 8 2 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ K Q 9 7 6	♠ A 10 7 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A 9 ♣ K Q 9 7 6

It wouldn't be bridge without exceptions! Sometimes opener must rebid a five-card suit because he can't afford any other bid. This is true if opener's rebid would be a *reverse*. Opener's reverse occurs when:

- The opening bid is one of a suit.
- Responder answers on the one level.
- Then opener rebids a new suit that prevents responder from going back to two of opener's first suit. (Opener's second suit is higher than two of opener's first suit.)
- Opener should avoid making a reverse bid with minimum strength.

EXERCISE 2: You are the *opener*. Choose your rebid on the bidding shown.

HAND 1	HAND 2	HAND 3	HAND 4	HAND 5
1♠ - 1NT ??	1♥ - 1NT ??	1♥ - 2♣ ??	1♣ - 1♠ ??	1♣ - 1♥ ??
♠ A K 9 7 6 ♥ K J 7 6 ♦ Q 2 ♣ 9 6	♠ A K 9 7 ♥ K J 9 7 6 ♦ Q 2 ♣ 9 3	♠ A K 9 7 ♥ K J 9 7 6 ♦ Q 2 ♣ 9 3	♠ Q 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A Q 4 3 ♣ K Q 9 7 6	♠ Q 7 3 ♥ 7 ♦ A Q 4 3 ♣ K Q 9 7 6

Responder's rebid of his own suit also tends to show six cards (even though responder only promised four cards with the first bid of that suit). Any time you and partner are still trying to find a fit, stop before you bid a five-card suit for the second time. Look for a better description of your hand. Usually, you can find it.

EXERCISE 3: What rebid would you make with Hand 5 of Exercise 2 if partner had responded 1♠ instead of 1♥?

ANSWERS TO EXERCISES: Exercise 1: 1) 2♥; 2) 2♦; 3) 2♣; 4) 1NT; 5) 1♠.

Exercise 2: 1) 2♥; 2) Pass; 3) 2NT/2♠; 4) 2♣/1NT; 5) 2♣. Exercise 3: 2♠.

DON'T REBID A FIVE-CARD SUIT

Hand 1
Dlr: North
Vul: None

♠ A 7 6 4 ♥ J 10 2 ♦ Q 10 ♣ J 10 9 2 ♠ K J 2 ♥ A 9 8 6 5 4 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K 5	♠ Q 10 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A K 7 4 3 ♣ A 6 4 ♠ 9 8 5 ♥ K Q ♦ J 9 8 5 ♣ Q 8 7 3
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THE BIDDING: W N E S

			1D	P
	1H	P	1NT	P
	4H	P	P	P

! West has an opening hand and must take charge of reaching game after East opens. West's 1H response is forcing (a new suit by responder is forcing).

! What is East's best rebid? 1NT describes a balanced minimum hand, while 2D tends to show an unbalanced minimum hand with six diamonds. 1NT is the most accurate description.

! After opener rebids 1NT, responder is in charge. West knows opener will hold 2 or 3 hearts. There is a game and a heart fit.

! West's rebid would be more difficult if East had rebid 2D instead of 1NT. Neither 2H nor 3H is forcing and E-W might end up in 3NT instead of 4H.

! Against 4H, North leads the ♣J, top of a sequence.

! Losers in 4H are one spade and two hearts (on a normal 3-2 split). Draw trump and then promote spades to make 4H. A 3NT contract should go down.

Hand 3
Dlr: South
Vul: N-S

♠ 9 2 ♥ Q J 10 8 ♦ K Q 10 8 ♣ Q 10 4 ♠ A 6 5 ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ J 7 6 5 2 ♣ J	♠ J 8 7 4 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A K 5 2 ♠ K Q 10 ♥ 9 4 3 ♦ A 9 ♣ 9 8 7 6 3
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THE BIDDING: W N E S

			1D	P
		1S	P	P
	2S	P	P	P

! East's 1S response is forcing and promises only four spades so West isn't certain of a fit.

! West has a difficult rebid. A 1NT rebid shows a balanced minimum opening hand; a 2D rebid tends to show a six-card suit; A 2H rebid is a reverse showing more than minimum strength and we never lie to partner about our strength. Fibbing and rebidding a 5-card minor isn't at all desirable with this lousy diamond suit. With the ability to trump clubs, raising spades seems like the least bad lie. West's best "fib" is 2S.

! South doesn't have a good opening lead. South might lead the ♣6 or the ♥3.

! Losers are 2 clubs, 2 diamonds, and some spades. If the missing spades split 3-2, there will be 2 trump losers for a total of 6 losers - one too many. West's club shortness can take care of one club loser. Trump a club before drawing trump. Then draw trump to get them out two by two.

Hand 2
Dlr: East
Vul: N-S

♠ J 10 5 4 3 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ K 10 ♠ K 7 2 ♥ A K Q 10 8 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ 8 7	♠ A 9 8 6 ♥ J ♦ 6 5 4 2 ♣ 6 5 4 3 ♠ Q ♥ 5 4 3 2 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ A Q J 9 2
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THE BIDDING: W N E S

			1C	
	1H	1S	P	2C
			P	all pass

! With a minimum opening hand, South has limited rebid options: two of an old suit; 1NT with a heart stopper; or a new suit below 2C. Rebidding 2C tends to show 6 clubs but it seems to be the best choice. South cannot pass. North's 1S response is forcing.

! North now knows there is no game. The guideline to avoid rebidding a five-card suit also applies to responder. When we don't have a game, we stop in a reasonable low spot and 2C appears to be that spot. North should pass 2C. ! Losers in 2C are 4 hearts and 1 spade. Pull trump and claim. A 2S contract should go down.

Hand 4
Dlr: West
Vul: Both

♠ 6 ♥ A K 7 5 3 ♦ A K 6 2 ♣ 7 6 4 ♠ K J 8 3 ♥ J 9 6 ♦ J 9 ♣ K 9 8 2	♠ Q 10 4 ♥ Q 10 8 4 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ A J 10 ♠ A 9 7 5 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 7 5 4 3 ♣ Q 5 3
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THE BIDDING: W N E S

			1H	P
		1S	P	1S
		2D	P	all pass

! South's 1S response is forcing. It's much better for North to rebid 2D than 2H. South already knew that North had five hearts. Now South also knows that North has four diamonds.

! A new suit by opener is not generally forcing so passing 2D is a possible option for South. Even though South has five spades, it's better to take a preference between opener's two suits than to rebid a 5-card suit. South is sure of a fit in diamonds. Together the pair might have only 5 spades. South passes 2D.

! East has no attractive lead. If East does opt for the only unbid suit, he should lead the ♣A.

! Losers are 3 hearts, 3 clubs, and 1 diamond if the suit splits 3-2. Two losers must be eliminated. This can be done by trumping two hearts in dummy. Declarer cannot afford to draw all the trumps before trumping. Cash ONE high heart and trump two. Then draw trump.

Hand 5
 Dlr: North
 Vul: N-S

<p>♠ A K 7 ♥ 2 ♦ A 10 8 5 3 ♣ K 9 6 5</p> <p>♠ J 9 4 ♥ J 6 5 4 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A J 8 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 3 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ K J 9 4 ♣ 10 4 2</p> <p>♠ 10 8 5 ♥ K Q 10 9 8 3 ♦ 6 2 ♣ Q 7</p>
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THE BIDDING: W N E S
 P 1D P 1H
 P 2C P 2H all pass

! North describes a hand with length in both minors by bidding diamonds (the longer suit) first and rebidding clubs.

! Normally, a minimum responder would take a preference between the two real suits suggested by opener. But South has 6 hearts and knows hearts will make a reasonable trump suit. South's 2H rebid, an old suit at the two level, shows minimum strength and is not forcing. North passes.

! West leads the ♠4, the unbid suit.

! Losers are 1 spade, 1 diamond, 1 club, and 2 hearts. Without too many losers, draw trump. Then promote one club trick.

Hand 6
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

<p>♠ K Q J 10 6 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ 9 8 5 ♣ J 3</p> <p>♠ 7 3 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ Q 10 6 4 ♣ K 10 8 4</p>	<p>♠ A 8 5 ♥ 10 6 5 2 ♦ K J 2 ♣ Q 9 6</p> <p>♠ 9 4 2 ♥ K Q J ♦ A 7 3 ♣ A 7 5 2</p>
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THE BIDDING: W N E S
 P 1S P 1C
 P 2S all pass 1NT

! We don't usually rebid a 5-card suit that partner has not supported. However, North's hand might be of little use in a notrump contract. If opener doesn't have the ♠A, how will opener reach the spades once they are good? All the defenders need do is hold up on the ♠A until declarer's hand is cut off from dummy. Opener's 1NT rebid promised either 2 or 3 spades so it is safe for North to rebid a good 5-card suit.

! In 2S, East might lead either the ♦2 or ♥2, one of the unbid suits. Losers are 1 spade, 1 heart, 2 diamonds, and 1 club. Without too many losers, draw trump. Then promote hearts.

! In 1NT, West will lead the ♦4 (the unbid four-card suit), which sets up 3 tricks for the defense. Declarer sees a way to get the 7 needed tricks by promoting spades and hearts. But East can stop declarer from using dummy's spades. All East has to do is hold up until the third spade. Now declarer is cut off from dummy and cannot come up with 7 tricks.

! When spades are trump, there is no way to stop declarer from using the spade suit. It's usually best to play in the weak hand's long suit - especially when that long suit has no outside entry.

Hand 7
 Dlr: East
 Vul: E-W

<p>♠ J 10 9 2 ♥ 10 3 ♦ Q 10 5 2 ♣ A 9 4</p> <p>♠ K 6 4 ♥ K Q 9 8 5 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ 10 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q 7 ♥ A 6 2 ♦ A K 7 4 ♣ Q 8 5</p> <p>♠ 8 5 3 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ J 9 ♣ K J 7 6 3</p>
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THE BIDDING: W N E S
 1H P 2NT P
 3H P 4H all pass

! With a balanced hand that is in between a 1NT opening and a 2NT opening, East opens in a suit, planning to jump rebid 2NT, an **invitational** bid showing a balanced hand with 18-19 points.

! With 9 total points, West now wants to be in game. In standard bidding, **any bid over opener's 2NT rebid is game forcing**. 3H by West is forcing and shows exactly FIVE hearts. If West had 6 hearts, he would be sure of a fit opposite partner's balanced hand and could go directly to 4H. Over 3H, East chooses to play in 4H because of his 3-card support. (The New Minor Forcing Convention applies here for pairs advanced enough to know it.)

! Against 4H, North leads the ♠J.

! In 4H, losers are 2 clubs and 1 diamond. Draw trump and take your tricks.

! E-W pairs who end up in 3NT instead of 4H should go down before they even get the lead. South leads the ♣6 to North's ♣A and the ♣9 return traps declarer's ♣Q. South runs clubs for a one trick set. A major suit game is usually better than 3NT when you have a fit in the major.

Hand 8
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

<p>♠ Q 9 3 ♥ A J 10 4 2 ♦ A K 8 5 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ K 7 ♥ Q 3 ♦ 10 7 4 2 ♣ Q 10 8 7 6</p>	<p>♠ A 6 4 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♦ J 9 ♣ J 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 8 5 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ A K 4</p>
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THE BIDDING: W N E S
 1H P 1S P
 2D P 2NT P
 3S P 4S all pass

! East only needed four spades to bid 1S, however East shouldn't rebid a five card suit. East wants to show a medium responding hand and invite game. Generally, responder's new suit on the three level forces the partnership to game. If East made a forcing 3C rebid (the only new suit left) opener might have no other option but to rebid 3NT. For that reason, a medium responder can't afford a new suit on the three level. So an invitational 2NT is East's best choice.

! West has 15 points, enough to accept East's invitation. West could rebid 3NT, but it's better to show 3-card spade support in case partner was stuck for a bid with a 5-card suit. West's 3S bid is game forcing and East is expected to bid 4S with five spades and 3NT with only four spades.

! 4S makes by trumping a club in dummy; 3NT should go down.