

1 minor – 1 Major, 2 Major Checkback

I do not like to raise a major on three, unless it is simply the better choice between a raise and 1N. For example, you hold: xx, Kxx, AKxx, QJxx. You open a minor, partner bids 1H. A raise to 2H is better than 1N. I never jump raise with three.

With 2N check back, here is the complete system I worked out. It may not be the best, but it helps describe a lot of possible hands. It's a little complex, but allows opener to show a variety of hands with which he could have raised. For all minimum hands, 11 to a bad 13, opener starts with a response of 3C. With max hands, there are several choices.

2N - 3C shows min. (11 - bad 13)

After opener's 3C response to 2N, 3N by responder asks for pass or correct with four card support; 3H/3S of agreed suit is to play; 3D asks for a further description, is game forcing and possibly looking for slam

So, after 2NT - 3C - 3D, opener will jump to game in the agreed upon major with four, 3 of other major shows that suit stopped, 3NT shows the minor stopped. (If you only have 3 card support, AND you have both the other suits stopped, you should have responded 1NT instead of raising the major with three card support! We'll have to skip those times when partner has a stiff ace.)

2NT - 3C - 3 of other major, asks for a singleton. 3NT denies, 4C shows stiff club, 4D shows stiff D, 4H shows stiff in other major. (Slam going)

OK, that takes care of most bids when opener shows a minimum.

When opener has a max (good 13 -15), after 2N by responder:

4 of agreed upon major shows four and denies a singleton

3 of other major shows 3 card support, that suit stopped, and denies a singleton; 3NT shows 3 card support, the unbid minor stopped, and denies a singleton

3D shows singleton/void and 3 or 4 card support: after 3D, responder's bid of 3H asks for singleton/void and if 3 or four card support: 3S shows stiff in unbid major and 3 card support, 3NT shows 3 card support and stiff in the unbid minor, 4C shows four card support and stiff in unbid minor, 4D shows four card support and stiff in unbid major.

After 3D response by opener to 2N:

3NT (pass or correct with four card support)

4H/4S to play

4C (keycard)

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