

## Gambling 3NT

Opening 3NT in first, second, and third seat promises a solid seven-card minor (at least AKQxxxx) and no side ace or king. It's an extremely effective preempt and occasionally produces a game or slam that few other pairs can reach.

pass	willing to play 3NT (may intend to run to 4m if doubled)	
4	pass or correct	
4	Asks for shortness, forcing to 5m, then	
	4	shortness in
	4	shortness in
	4NT	no shortness (7-2-2-2)
	5	shortness in other minor
4 4	signoff	
4NT	asks for opener's suit length by steps: 7, 8, 9...	
5 5	signoff	

Responder's initial action depends on the vulnerability. If there's a reasonable chance that the contract may make, pass. If 3NT has no chance but isn't doubled, pass at favorable, pass or run to 4 at equal, and run to 4 at unfavorable. If 3NT is doubled and is likely to go down, run to 4 at any vul.

### Interference

When there's a direct double, the responses are the same. When there's an overcall, responder passes or saves at the appropriate level.

## Overcalling 3NT

A direct overcall of 3NT promises a solid seven-card minor (at least AKQ) and a stopper in RHO's suit. An indirect overcall of 3NT (1 -P-1 -3NT) also promises a solid seven-card minor (at least AKQ) and a stopper in RHO's suit (hearts in this case), but not necessarily any other suit. In either case, opener can have additional stoppers on the side.

Responder's actions are essentially the same, i.e., pass 3NT if there's a reasonable chance that the contract may make, i.e., two winners and at least a slow stopper in each side suit. Also pass at favorable vul if the contract has no chance but isn't doubled. Example:

**Board 21**

West Deals     ♠ 9 8 6 5 3 2  
 E-W Vul       ♥ 5 2  
                  ♦ K 8 3  
                  ♣ 9 4

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

♠ K  
 ♥ A 9 3  
 ♦ 10 9  
 ♣ A K Q 10 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	3NT

3NT in this context promises a solid minor (at least AKQxxxx) and a stopper in hearts. If West passes over 3NT, North is in the situation in which he knows the contract may have no play but the vulnerability allows him to pass and play 3NT undoubled for -50s against whatever NS can make. If doubled, he runs to 4♣.

As it turned out, NS don't have a game but 3NT would go down only one on a heart lead (grab eight tricks and give up) and would actually make on a non-♠A or small diamond lead. -50 would be a great score and 4♣X would go down one, also a great score.

**Gambling 3NT in Fourth Seat**

This can be any hand with which opener wants to take a shot at 3NT without giving away any information and doesn't promise anything in particular except a source of tricks and some side stoppers.