

1 1- 1NT1

A response of 1NT shows a balanced hand with eight or more HCP (unlimited) and is forcing to game.

2	Distribution relay to check for 4-4 major fit, then
2	4 hearts, may have 4 spades
2	4 spades, denies 4 hearts
2	No 4 card major
	Because the relay responses stop at 2, opener can use the relay to check for a 4-4 fit and then make an Alpha.
2 2 2	Alpha
2NT	Alpha in *
3 3 3	Delta
3	
3NT	Signoff
4	Beta

1 - 1NT

2 - 2 1(4 hearts, may also have 4 spades)

2	Eta in hearts then relay is Beta , non-relay is Eta
2	Checkback relay for 4-4 spade fit, then
2NT	No spade suit then
3	Distribution relay then
3	4 hearts 4 diamonds
3	4 hearts 4 clubs
3	4 hearts 3-4-3-3 8-12 HCP
3NT	4 hearts 3-4-3-3 13+ HCP
3 3 3	Eta
3NT	Signoff
3 ... 4	Both majors, 0 ... 6 top honors in + combined
2NT	Distribution relay (don't care about spades), then
3	4 hearts 4 clubs 8-12 HCP
3	4 hearts 4 diamonds 8-12 HCP
3	4 hearts 4 spades (4-4-2-3) (color of doubleton) 8-12 HCP
3	4 hearts 4 spades (4-4-3-2) (color of doubleton) 8-12 HCP
3NT	4 hearts 3-4-3-3 8-12 HCP
4	4 hearts 4 clubs 13+ HCP
4	4 hearts 4 diamonds 13+ HCP
4	4 -4 (both majors) (4-4-2-3) (color of doubleton) 13+ HCP
4	4 -4 (both majors) (4-4-3-2) (color of doubleton) 13+ HCP
4NT	4 hearts 3-4-3-3 13+ HCP
3 3	Alpha
3	Delta
3	Delta
3NT	Signoff

1 - 1NT

2 - 2 1(4 spades, denies 4 hearts)

2	Eta in spades, then relay is Beta , non-relay is Eta
	Asks for 4-card minor then
3	4 spades 4 clubs 8-12 HCP
3	4 spades 4 diamonds 8-12 HCP
3	4 spades 4 clubs 13+ HCP
3	4 spades 4 diamonds 13+ HCP
3NT	4 spades no 4 card minor (4-3-3-3)
4	4 spades no 4 card minor (4-3-3-3) 13+ HCP

3 3 3 Alpha

1 - 1NT

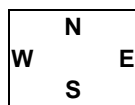
2 - 2 (no 4-card major)

2NT	Asks for 4-card minor then		
	3	4	clubs 3-3-3-4 8-12 HCP
	3	4	diamonds 3-3-4-3 8-12 HCP
	3	4	clubs 4 diamonds 3-2-4-4 (color of doubleton) 8-12 HCP
	3	4	clubs 4 diamonds 2-3-4-4 (color of doubleton) 8-12 HCP
	3NT	4	clubs 3-3-3-4 13+ HCP, 0-3 controls
	4	4	clubs 3-3-3-4 13+ HCP, 4+ controls
	4	4	diamonds 3-3-4-3 13+ HCP
	4	4	clubs 4 diamonds 3-2-4-4 (color of doubleton) 13+ HCP
	4	4	clubs 4 diamonds 2-3-4-4 (color of doubleton) 13+ HCP
3 3 3 3	Alpha		

Relay Examples

East Deals K 10 8 7 6 3
Both Vul 8 7 5 2
K 4
J

Q A 5 4 2
K J 10 9 A 6
A 7 J 8 6 3
A K 8 7 6 5 Q 10 4



J 9
Q 4 3
Q 10 9 5 2
9 3 2

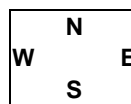
West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ¹	1	1NT ²	Pass
2 ³	Pass	2 ⁴	Pass
3 ⁵	Pass	3NT ⁶	Pass
4 ⁷	Pass	4 ⁸	Pass
6	All pass		

1. Precision 16+ HCP
2. Balanced 8+ HCP with stopper
3. Relay
4. 4 spades, denies four hearts
5. Asks for club support and controls
6. Club support (Qxx) and 4+ controls
7. Asks for top honors in diamonds
8. No top honor

Opener knows that he will be able to make an Alpha in clubs after checking for a 4-4 heart fit. When he gets the double positive in clubs, he asks about diamonds in order to identify responder's controls. When responder shows no top honor in diamonds, opener knows responder's controls must be both major suit aces. Responder is a passed hand and thus can't have a king (13 HCP) so he settles for 6, knowing that the slam will depend on a heart finesse or an end position at worst.

Had responder not been a passed hand, opener would have probed for a grand slam. Either the K or the K in addition to the Q would allow opener to count 13 top tricks in notrump.

A 5 3 9 4
K J 8 3 A Q 9 7
A K J 6 5
A K 7 6 3 Q 5 4



West	East
1	1NT
2 ¹	2 ²
2 ³	3 ⁴
3 ⁵	3 ⁶
4 ⁷	4 ⁸
4 ⁹	4NT ¹⁰
7	Pass

1. Relay
2. Four hearts, maybe four spades
3. Eta
4. Two top honors
5. Beta
6. Three controls
7. Eta
8. One top honor
9. Eta
10. No top honor

Opener can count ten top tricks (one spade, four hearts, one diamond, three clubs, and responder's king) and expects to ruff two diamonds in hand using trumps and the queen of clubs as entries. The thirteenth trick will come from the fourth club, or the fifth club, or a third diamond ruff, or a squeeze.