

Pekka Viitasalo

Finnish Expert Methods

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1NT
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♠	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

4♠	2♠	K♥	J♥	7♥	Q♣	8♣	7♣	2♣	A♦	9♦	5♦	2♦		
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S South: bagman

Version History:

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.1	2006-03-06	Initial draft.
0.2	2006-03-26	Corrected DONT -typo, Added 1♥-1♠-1NT
0.3	2006-04-11	Review by Robert Todd : 4m opening added, 4NT opening added; Clarified 1/1 and 2/1 after X=T/O; Clarified splinters after overcall; Changed 4NT-5NT to odd nbr of keys + void; Added 4 level jump to Michaels sequence; Modified (2♥) X: 2NT-3♣-3♠; Corrected lots of typos
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1.1	2006-07-20	Review by Jorma Valta : Added missing 1/1 and 2/1 after 1M-(X)
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Introduction

Finnish Expert Methods (FEM) is intended for casual expert partnerships. It is optimized for the best results possible instead of the best possible results.

The need for this document became obvious during the league seasons, when I played with many different partners each time spending less than half an hour for system discussion. Each time the details of the system changed depending on partner, state of mind, phase of moon etc.

This document focuses on those issues that always seem to be forgotten in the 15 minute system discussion before the game time.

With this document I hope to unify the methods used in my casual partnerships as well as the methods used by those other Finnish casual expert partnerships made out of my casual partners.

The choice of language for this document is rational: this can be filed as a system description for potential emergency partnerships in international tournaments like European Championships or Nordic Championships.

Intended audience

This document is addressed for experienced bridge players. No basic bidding sequences or calls are described.

Terminology and abbreviations

Opener = Player who opens the bidding

Responder = Opener's partner

Aggressor = Player who enters the auction after opponent has opened

Advancer = Aggressor's partner

NT = no trump

X = double

XX = redouble

m = minor suit, bid minor suit

M = major suit, bid major suit

om = the other minor

OM = the other major

4333 = any 4333 distribution

4-3-3-3 = 4 spades 3 in all other suits

5m332 = 5 card minor, 332 the rest of the suits

=> = In the subsequent auction

ART = artificial

BAL = balanced

COMP = competitive

DEPO = X=even / pass=odd

DOPI = X = the 1st step, pass = 2nd step and lowest bid = the 3rd step etc.

F = forcing, forcing situation

FG = forcing to game and declares the ownership of the hand

F1R = forcing for one round

F<n><D> = forcing to level <n> in denomination <D> F2NT = forcing to 2NT

INV = invitational (INV+ = invitational or better)

Lisbon = bid in minor to agree major or bid in major to agree minor, ♣<=>♥ and ♦<=>♠

MOD = Maximum overcall double

NF = not forcing

NV = not vulnerable

P/C = pass or correct

PRE = pre-emptive

RESP = responsive

ROPI = XX = the 1st step, pass = 2nd step and lowest bid = the 3rd step etc.

SEMIBAL = semi balanced

SPL = splinter

STM = Stayman

SUPP = support

T/O = take out

UNBAL = unbalanced

UPH = unpassed hand

VUL = vulnerable

Xfer = transfer

System basics

The FEM is based on modified Finnish Modern Standard: four card majors, 15-17 NT, Ekren and weak twos. The system employs pre-emptive raises, “Funny Splinters”, invitational or better J2N etc. All these give better definition to the system than the old “Modern Standard” convention card, which is a single-sided A5 with lots of white.

In version 2.0 and above FEM offers an option to play 2/1 based five card majors system.

General principles

If a bid is undiscussed and ambiguous, it shall be interpreted as natural and nonforcing. (Natural, because there is no reason to invent solo conventions and nonforcing, because there is nearly always a bid that is obviously forcing.) *Note: I have never declared a splinter but I have been dummy many times in such contracts. Beware!*

Two over one is forcing to two of the suit opened.

When there is no forcing raise available, unnecessary jump is not a splinter but a cue bid.

A positive reaction to a splinter indicates that there are either no wasted values in the splinter suit or there are compensating values for the wastage.

Positive reaction to a limited hand slam-try promises that there are sufficient values for slam. The limited hand is allowed to take control.

Bidding a small slam instead of stalling when facing an unlimited partner promises that a key card is missing.

Fourth suit is forcing to game. Fourth suit by a passed hand is artificial and promises a maximum pass with no clear direction.

Jump reverse in the 4th suit is splinter in support of opener's 2nd suit. Descending jump in 4th suit is NF, INV, at least 5-5.

When opponents have bid two suits and we are looking for stoppers:

- when both suits can be cued below 3NT, cue shows a stopper and asks stopper in the other
- when only one suit can be cued below 3NT, cue asks for a stopper

Opening bids

Balanced hands containing 12 or more hcp are opened. Unbalanced hands can be opened with less but responder can expect at least 1.5 quick tricks and 10 hcp.

When opener has two or three four card suits the following guidelines are used:

1. If one of the suit is hearts, the opening is 1♥
2. If hearts are not held and one of the suit is diamonds, the opening is 1♦
3. From clubs and spades the opening is 1♣

The guidelines above can be overridden for any reason or for no reason. Typically deciding factors are suit quality and position (tactical considerations).

With 6-5 with the longer lower ranking suit opener tries to bid the hand “correctly” but the hand can be treated as 5-5, if the hand is relatively weak. To reverse with a 6-5, a working 13 count with intermediates is enough.

Opening Description

Pass	0-11, all hands containing 12 or more hcp are opened
1♣	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 4 clubs
1♦	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 4 diamonds
1♥	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 4 hearts
1♠	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 4 spades
1NT	15-17 BAL or SEMIBAL, 5 card major, 6 card minor or 5m4M possible
2♣	22-24 BAL or any FG
2♦	3-9, 4-4/4-5/5-4/5-5 in the majors
2♥	5-10, weak two
2♠	5-10, weak two
2NT	20-21 BAL, 5card major possible
3suit	Random pre-empt
3NT	Gambling, no side A or K
4m	Namyats, AKQ, AKJ10 or AQJ on top of the anchor suit. If the suit is not solid, a side ace is required.
4M	Pre-empt
4NT	Specific ace ask
5m	Pre-empt
5M	Acol type top honour ask

X-Y-NT

After 1x-1y-1NT two-way checkback (aka x-y-NT) is utilized:

After 1♣ - 1♦ - 1NT

- 2♣ = puppet to 2♦ (any invitational or to play 2♦) =>
 - pass to play
 - any other bid = descriptive, invitational and NF
- 2♦ = ART FG =>
 - Natural picture bidding
- 2M = genuine reverse with strong suits, FG
- 2NT = INV, only 4 diamonds
- 3♣ = to play
- 3♦ = strong 6+ card suit, FG
- 3M = at least 5-6, good suits, FG

After 1m - 1♥ - 1NT

- 2♣ = puppet to 2♦ (any invitational or to play 2♦) =>
 - pass to play
 - 2♥ = weakest invitation with 5 card suit, looking for maximum and fit
 - 2NT = invitational with 5 card suit, good invitation
 - any other bid = descriptive, invitational and NF
- 2♦ = ART FG =>
 - Natural picture bidding
- 2♠ = genuine reverse with strong suits, FG
- 2NT = INV, only 4 hearts
- 3♣ = to play
- 3♦ = at least 5-5, good suits, FG
- 3♥ = strong 6+ card suit, FG
- 3♠ = at least 5-6, good suits, FG

After 1m - 1♠ - 1NT

- 2♣ = puppet to 2♦ (any invitational or to play 2♦) =>
 - pass to play
- 2♠ = weakest invitation with 5 card suit, looking for maximum and fit
- 2NT = invitational with 5 card suit, good invitation
- any other bid = descriptive, invitational and NF
- 2♦ = ART FG =>
 - Natural picture bidding
- 2♥ = at least 5-4, weak
- 2NT = INV, only 4 spades
- 3♣ = to play
- 3♦/♥ = at least 5-5, good suits, FG
- 3♠ = strong 6+ card suit, FG

After 1♥ - 1♠ - 1NT

- 2♣ = puppet to 2♦ (any invitational or to play 2♦) =>
 - pass to play
- 2♠ = weakest invitation with 5 card suit, looking for maximum and fit
- 2NT = invitational with 5 card suit, good invitation
- any other bid = descriptive, invitational and NF
- 2♦ = ART FG =>
 - Natural picture bidding
- 2♥ = 3♥, at least 5♠, weak
- 2NT = INV, only 4 spades
- 3♣ = to play
- 3♦/♥ = at least 5-5, good suits, FG
- 3♠ = strong 6+ card suit, FG

X-Y-NT is on after overcalls or X=T/O if and only if responder has made a one-over-one bid. X-Y-NT is off if responder is a passed hand.

Auction after jump to 2NT

Opener may bypass a major suit when making a jump rebid of 2NT. As we play WJR responder has no need to sign off to 3 of the responded suit. Thus, 2NT is either passed out or a game shall be reached. The system structure permits the use of natural bids instead of ART checkback.

In sequence 1♣ - 1♦ - 2NT responder bids:

- 3♣ = 4+ card support, at least some slam interest
- 3♦ = 5+ diamonds, at least some slam interest, may hold 4 card M =>
 - 3M = 4 cards
 - 3NT = no support or unsuitable for slam
- 3M = 4 cards, no slam interest =>
 - 3♠ = 4 cards
 - 3NT = no support
 - 4M = support

In sequence 1m - 1♥ - 2NT responder bids:

- 3m = 4+ card support, at least some slam interest
- 3om = NAT, at least some slam interest, at least 5♥
- 3♥ = at least 5 cards =>
 - 3♠ = 4 cards
 - 3NT = no support
 - 4m = cue
- 3♠ = 4 spades and 4 hearts =>
 - 3NT = no support
 - 4m = cue agreeing spades
 - 4♠ = 4 spades, unsuitable for slam

In sequence 1m - 1♠ - 2NT responder bids:

- 3m = 4+ card support, at least some slam interest
- 3om = NAT, at least some slam interest, at least 5♠
- 3♥ = at least 4 cards, at least 5♠ =>
 - 3♠ = 3 spades, 2-3 hearts, some slam suitability
 - 3NT = no support
 - 4m = cue agreeing hearts
 - 4♥ = 4 card support, unsuitable for slam
 - 4♠ = support, unsuitable for slam
- 3♠ = at least 5 cards =>
 - 3NT = no support
 - 4m = cue
 - 4♠ = support, unsuitable for slam

Opening 1m

Minor suit openings promise at least 4 card suit unless there is a tactical reason to open with a shorter suit. The opening promises at least 12 hcp or a good unbalanced hand with at least 1.5 quick tricks and at least 10 hcp.

Specific 4th suit sequence

Sequence 1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ shows 4(+) spades in an unlimited hand. Opener's 3rd bid, excluding all diamond bids, which are natural and limited, is the same as bid after a direct 1♠ response. If opener's 3rd bid is 1NT, x-y-NT applies.

Sequence 1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - 2♠ denies 4 spades and is 4th suit FG.

Inverted minor suit raises (IMSR)

1m - 3m is PRE promising such values that opener shall bid 3NT with 18-19 BAL.

1m - 2m is inverted promising at least invitational values. In the subsequent auction:

- Opener bids 2NT with minimum BAL and 3m with minimum UNBAL. Responder can pass or correct 2NT to 3m to play
- Opener bids 2M with FG values and stopper.
- Opener bids 3♣ after 1♦ - 2♦ to show FG values and a real minor two-suiter where showing length is more important than showing a shortness
- Opener bids splinter 3M with FG values
- Opener bids splinter 3♦ after 1♣ - 2♣ with FG values
- Opener bids splinter 4♣ after 1♦ - 2♦ with substantial extra values; with FG values but not much extras opener starts with 2M
- Responder should bash 3NT after opener's 2NT with minimum FG values.
- Responder's 3 new after opener's 2NT is splinter with substantial extra values. (More than direct splinter after opening)

NT-responses

1m - 2NT shows 11-12 BAL without 4 card majors. In the subsequent auction:

- Opener's 3m is to play
- Opener's 4NT RKCB (Responder has 2 point range and opener cannot have a suitable balanced hand (21hcp) for a quantitative raise)

1m - 3NT shows 13-16 BAL without 4 card majors. In the subsequent auction:

- Opener's 4NT is quantitative 18-19 BAL

Splinters

Splinter responses to minor suit openings deny four card majors. Note that a splinter promising shortness in om implies at least six card support!

1m - 3M is a splinter promising a singleton or void and strength about 12-15 hcp.

1♣ - 3♦ is a splinter promising a singleton or void and strength about 12-15 hcp.

1♦ - 4♣ is a splinter promising a singleton or void and strength about 13-16 hcp.

Weak jump responses (WJR)

1m - 2M and 1♣ - 2♦ are weak jump responses promising 6-7 card suit and 3-6 hcp. This has no effect to other sequences involving responder's limited one-suiters.

After 2-level WJR opener can make an Ogust 2NT ask. The responder adjusts the responses to context.

1♦ - 3♣ is also a weak jump response. It shows 6 card good suit or 7 card reasonable suit without side values. The best hand is like xx xxx xx KQJTxx and the worst like xx xx xx QJTxxxx.

Reverses after 1-over-1 suit response

Reverse is forcing for one round. Lebensohl is used after reverse.

After 1♣ - 1♥ - 2♦

- 2♥ = 5+ cards, F1R =>
 - 2♠ = 4th suit ART FG
 - 2NT = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3♣ = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3♦ = 6-5, can be only good 13 hcp, NF
 - 3♥ = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3♠ = SPL
 - 3NT = NAT, about 19-21
- 2♠ = ART, FG, no clear direction, denies 5+ hearts
- 2NT = LEBENSOHL, denies 5+ hearts, generally weak =>
 - 3♣ = would have passed NF 3♣ =>
 - 3♦ = to play
 - 3♦ = NAT (6-5), FG
 - 3♥ = 3 cards, suggests 4-3 hearts, FG
 - 3♠ = ART 4th suit, FG
 - 3NT = NAT, strong
- 3m = NAT, FG, looking for right game for the moment
- 3♥ = 6+ cards, FG
- 3♠ = SPL, ♦-support (General principles)
- 3NT = to play
- 4m = NAT slam-try

After 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♦

- 2♥ = ART, FG, no clear direction, denies 5+ spades
- 2♠ is 5+ cards, F1R =>
 - 2NT = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3♣ = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3♦ = 6-5, can be only good 13 hcp, NF
 - 3♥ = 4th suit, ART FG
 - 3♠ = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3NT = NAT, about 19-21
 - 4♥ = SPL, about 19-21
- 2NT = LEBENSOHL, denies 5+ spades, generally weak =>
 - 3♣ = would have passed NF 3♣ =>
 - 3♦ = to play
 - 3♦ = NAT (6-5), FG
 - 3♥ = ART 4th suit, FG
 - 3♠ = 3 cards, suggests 4-3 spades, FG
 - 3NT = NAT, strong
- 3m = NAT, FG, looking for right game for the moment
- 3♥ = SPL, ♦-support (General principles)
- 3♠ = 6+ cards, FG
- 3NT = to play
- 4m = NAT slam-try

After 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♥

- 2♠ is 5+ cards, F1R =>
 - 2NT = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3♣ = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3♦ = 4th suit, ART FG
 - 3♥ = 6-5, can be only good 13 hcp, NF
 - 3♠ = NAT, minimum reverse, NF
 - 3NT = NAT, about 19-21
 - 4♦ = SPL, about 19-21
- 2NT = LEBENSOHL, denies 5+ spades, generally weak =>
 - 3♣ = would have passed NF 3♣ =>
 - 3♥ = to play
 - 3♦ = ART 4th suit, FG
 - 3♥ = NAT (6-5), FG
 - 3♠ = 3 cards, suggests 4-3 spades, FG
 - 3NT = NAT, strong
- 3♣ = NAT, FG, looking for right game for the moment
- 3♦ = 4th suit, ART FG, denies 5+ spades
- 3♥ = NAT, FG
- 3♠ = 6+ cards, FG
- 3NT = to play
- 4♣ = NAT slam-try

In competition

After X=T/O the following applies:

- XX = 9+, penalty seeking
- 2NT = 4+ support, at least INV
- 2 over 1 = nonforcing, good (5)6+ card suit
- 1 over 1 as without X

After simple overcall the following applies:

- 1♣ - (1♦) X = majors 44
- cue = support, INV+
- Jump = WJR
- Double jump = splinter
- Jump raise = PRE

After 1NT overcall Cappelletti is utilized:

- 1m - (1NT) - X = PEN
- 1m - (1NT) - 2♣ = Any one suiter or support
- 1m - (1NT) - 2♦ = Both majors
- 1m - (1NT) - 2M = M + om
- 1m - (1NT) - 2NT = ART FG, distributional, not suitable for X=PEN
- 1m - (1NT) - 3X = PRE

Unusual over unusual:

- 1m - (2NT) - X = Penalty seeking, can double at least one of the suits
- 1♣ - (2NT) - 3♣ = Competitive up to weak INV
- 1♣ - (2NT) - 3♦ = FG with support (INV can be upgraded)
- 1♣ - (2NT) - 3♥ = F1R, 5+ spades => 3♠ = no support NF, 4♦♥ = cue
- 1♣ - (2NT) - 3♠ = Competitive, 6+ cards, NF
- 1♦ - (2NT) - 3♣ = INV+ with support => 3♦ = minimum
- 1♦ - (2NT) - 3♦ = Competitive raise
- 1♦ - (2NT) - 3♥ = F1R, 5+ spades => 3♠ = no support NF, 4♣♥ = cue
- 1♦ - (2NT) - 3♠ = Competitive, 6+ cards, NF

Opening 1M

Major suit openings promise at least 4 card. The opening promises at least 12 hcp or a good unbalanced hand with at least 1.5 quick tricks and at least 10 hcp.

Raises

1M - 2M can be made with 3 card support if the hand is suit-oriented. With adequate trump support this raise can be weak if the vulnerability is wrong for a pre-emptive raise.

1M - 3M is PRE. Larry Cohen does not protect us so some sense shall be used.

1M - 4M is PRE with at least 5 card support and a shortness. With 5332 or 6322 some other bid should be invented.

Jacoby 2NT (aka Limit-Stenberg)

1M - 2NT shows at least four card support and at least invitational values. The subsequent auction follows the guidelines below:

1♥ - 2NT =>

- 3♣ = any minimum without void (less than 15 hcp) =>
 - 3♦ = ART, FG asks shortness =>
 - 3♥ = no shortness, 5+ hearts
 - 3♠ / 4m = shortness
 - 3NT = no shortness, 4 cards in hearts
 - 3♥ = invitational, NF
 - 3♠ / 4m = shortness, stronger than direct splinter
- 3♦ = 4+ cards, 15+ hcp
- 3♥ = 1-suiter or 4+ clubs, 15+ hcp
- 3♠ = 4+ cards, 15+ hcp
- 3NT = 18-19 BAL
- 4m = void, not subminimum (12+hcp)
- 4♥ = spade void, not subminimum (12+hcp), NF
- 4♠ = spade void, makes slam against a fitting invitational raise

1♠ - 2NT =>

- 3♣ = any minimum without void (less than 15 hcp) =>
 - 3♦ = ART, FG asks shortness =>
 - 3♥ / 4m = shortness
 - 3♠ = no shortness, 5+ spades
 - 3NT = no shortness, 4 cards in spades
 - 3♠ = invitational, NF
 - 3♥ / 4m = shortness, stronger than direct splinter
- 3♦ = 4+ cards, 15+ hcp
- 3♥ = 4+ cards, 15+ hcp
- 3♠ = 1-suiter or 4+ clubs, 15+ hcp
- 3NT = 18-19 BAL
- 4m/♥ = void, not subminimum (12+hcp)

If 1M - 2NT is doubled the following applies:

- XX shows interest to play for penalties
- pass shows a BAL minimum
- 3♣ shows SEMIBAL/UNBAL minimum => system on
- system is on

If 1M - 2NT is overcalled below 3M the following applies:

- X is for penalties
- 2NT is forcing only to 3M
- pass shows a minimum hand with at least two cards in the overcalled suit =>
 - 3M shows a limit raise (after adjusting values in the overcalled suit) and is NF
- 3M shows a minimum with singleton (or void) in the overcalled suit and is NF
- new suit is natural(ish) and shows FG values
- cue shows shortness in the overcalled suit and is FG
- 4M is just a stab at game. It does not create a forcing situation

If 1M - 2NT is overcalled above 3M the following applies:

- X is for penalties
- pass shows minimum and is NF
- 4M is just a stab at game. It does not create a forcing situation
- cue shows shortness in the overcalled suit and promises substantial extra values
- new suit below 4M is naturalish FG

If 1M - 2NT is overcalled with 3M (Michaels type)

- X shows interest to play for penalties
- pass shows minimum and is NF
- 4M is just a stab at game. It does not create a forcing situation
- cue in the suit known to be held by opponents shows shortness and is FG
- new suit (non cue) below 4M is naturalish FG

Splinters

Splinter structure a.k.a. *Funny Splinters* distinguishes singleton splinters and void splinters. A singleton splinter promises about 13-15 hcp. A void splinter promises about 12-14 hcp. The splinters work in the following manner:

1♥ - 3♠ = any singleton splinter =>

- 3NT = Asks, slam interest against a right singleton
 - 4m = short
 - 4♥ = short spades
- 4♥ = No interest against any splinter

1♥ - 3NT = ♠-void

1♥ - 4m = void

1♠ - 3NT = any singleton splinter =>

- 4♣ = Asks, slam interest against a right singleton
 - 4♦/♥ = short
 - 4♠ = short clubs
- 4♠ = No interest against any splinter

1♠ - 4m/♥ = void

Funny Splinters are on after X=T/O and by passed hand (with hcp adjustment). The Funny Splinters are off after an overcall. After an overcall a double jump is an old-fashioned splinter i.e. either singleton or void.

Weak jump responses (WJR)

1♥ - 2♠ is a weak jump response promising 6-7 card suit and 3-6 hcp. This has no effect to other sequences involving responder's limited spade bids with a one suiter. Opener can make an Ogust 2NT ask. The responder adjusts the responses to context.

1M - 3m and 1♠ - 3♥ also weak jump responses. They show 6 card good suit or 7 card reasonable suit without side values. The best hand is like xx xxx xx KQJTxx and the worst like xx xx xx QJTxxxx.

Weak jump responses are on after non-jump overcalls or X=T/O.

In competition

After X=T/O the following applies:

- XX = 9+, penalty seeking
- 2NT = 4+ support, at least INV, j2n system on
- 2 over 1 = nonforcing, good (5)6+ card suit
- 1 over 1 as without X
- other as without X

After simple overcall the following applies:

- cue = support, INV+
- Jump = WJR
- Double jump = splinter
- Jump raise = PRE

After 1NT overcall Cappelletti is utilized:

- 1M - (1NT) - X = PEN
- 1M - (1NT) - 2♣ = Any one suiter
- 1M - (1NT) - 2♦ = 3+ card support and 5+ cards in OM with 2+ card disparity
- 1M - (1NT) - 2M = NAT
- 1M - (1NT) - 2OM = 5+ cards with (4)5+ side minor
- 1M - (1NT) - 2NT = ART FG, distributional, not suitable for X=PEN
- 1M - (1NT) - 3X = PRE

Unusual over unusual:

- 1M - (2NT) - X = Penalty seeking, can double at least one of the minors
- 1♥ - (2NT) - 3♣ = INV+ with support => 3♥ = minimum
- 1♥ - (2NT) - 3♦ = F1R, 5+ spades => 3♥ = NAT, 3♠ = no support NF, 4m = cue
- 1♥ - (2NT) - 3♥ = Competitive raise
- 1♥ - (2NT) - 3♠ = Competitive, 6+ cards, NF
- 1♠ - (2NT) - 3♣ = F1R, 5+ hearts => 3♦ = waiting, no support, 3♥ = support, 3♠ = NAT
- 1♠ - (2NT) - 3♦ = INV+ with support => 3♠ = minimum
- 1♠ - (2NT) - 3♥ = Competitive, 6+ cards, NF
- 1♠ - (2NT) - 3♠ = Competitive raise

Opening 1NT

1NT opening promises 15-17 BAL or SEMIBAL. All these are possible: 5 card major, 6 card minor or 5m4M22.

Two-way Stayman

The NT-mechanism is two-way Stayman with SA-Texas, which is practically standard in Finland.

Lebensohl

Over natural 2-level overcalls modified Lebensohl is played. The mechanism over 2♣ is a bit different than over other overcalls:

1NT (2♣) =>

- X = PEN (creates F at 2 level)
- 2♦ = T/O, COMP values, typically any 443-2♣ with about 6 hcp.
- 2M = to play
- 2NT = puppet to 3 ♣ =>
 - 3♣ = forced =>
 - 3♦/♥/♠ = NAT INV
 - 3NT = to play with stopper
- 3♣ = ART ASK =>
 - 3♦ = no stopper => Majors are bid up the line until a fit is found. Opener bids 3NT without any more majors to bid. Responder takes care that 3NT is not played unless the suit is stopped.
 - 3M = 4-5 cards and ♣ stopper => Responder bids spades, raises/cues or bids 3NT
 - 3NT = no major and ♣ stopper
- 3♦/♥/♠ = NAT FG
- 3NT = NAT, no stopper
- 4m = SA Texas
- 4M = to play

1NT (2♦/♥/♠) =>

- X = PEN (creates F at 2 level)
- 2 any = COMP
- 2NT = puppet to 3♣ =>
 - 3♣ = forced =>
 - cue = Stayman with stopper
 - 3any = to play or INV if the suit was biddable at 2 level
 - 3NT = to play with stopper
- 3new = NAT FG
- 3NT = NAT, no stopper
- 4m = SA Texas
- 4M = to play

Against 3 level overcalls

Against 3 level overcalls X=T/O. 3NT tends to show a stopper or some length.

Defence against conventional NT defences

Against X=conventional showing some shape or another:

- XX = Interested to play for penalties (creates F at 2 level)
- System is on (2♣ = NF Stayman, 2♦ = FG Stayman, etc.)

Against 2-level suit overcalls that show one known suit (also a two-suiter) Lebensohl is used; the stoppers are shown with reference to the anchor suit. This is applicable at least against the following defence families: As[pt]ro 2m, Cappelletti 2M, DONT 2m.

Against 2♣ = any 1-suiter (Cappelletti):

- X = Interested to play for penalties (creates F at 2 level)
- 2 any = COMP
- 3 any = NAT FG
- 4m = SA Texas
- 4M = to play

Against 2♣ = both majors (Landy)

- X = Interested to play for penalties (creates F at 2 level)
- 2♦ / 3♣ = COMP
- 2♥ = Any INV hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2♠ = Any FG hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2NT = both minors, COMP
- 3♦ = NAT INV
- 3M = SPL, both minors, FG
- 3NT = to play (short stoppers in majors)

Against 2♦ = both majors (Cappelletti)

- X = Interested to play for penalties (creates F at 2 level)
- 2♥ = Any INV hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2♠ = Any FG hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2NT = both minors, COMP
- 3♣ / 3♦ = competitive
- 3M = SPL, both minors, FG
- 3NT = to play (short stoppers in majors)

Against other 2-level bids that show two known suits like DONT 2♥, Brozel, Pinpoint Astro the following applies:

- X = PEN (creates F at 2 level)
- lowest bid in a free suit = COMP
- 2NT = a COMP 2-suiter in the free suits
- jump in a free suit = NAT FG
- 3NT shows short stoppers both suits and is to play
- cue = stopper in the suit bid, no stopper in the other, FG
- jump cue = SPL, both free suits, FG

Against 2-level overcalls without any known suit e.g. Suction, the following applies:

- X = Interested to play for penalties (creates F at 2 level)
- 2 any = NAT, COMP
- 3 any = NAT, FG
- 4m = SA Texas
- 4M = to play

Opening 2 clubs

Opening 2♣ shows 22-24 BAL or any FG. Responder's 2♦ is negative or a waiting move. No second negatives, nothing fancy.

If 2♣ is overcalled, responder's X=PEN, pass = negative or waiting and the rest is natural.

Opening 2 diamonds

Opening 2♦ is Ekren showing about 3-9 hcp and 44/45/54/55 in the majors. The opening is destructive and is based on fit expectancy. Statistically the opening breaks even but makes bridge more exciting :) In the 4th hand Ekren promises 10-13 and 55 in the majors.

Responses

The responses to Ekren 2♦ are the following:

- pass = to play (Ekren is NF)
- 2M = to play
- 3m = NAT F1R, looking for some kind of fit
- 3M = PRE
- 3NT = to play
- 4m = Lisbon slam try
- 4M = to play
- 2NT = ART INV+ =>
 - 3♣ = any minimum =>
 - 3♦ = ART FG =>
 - 3M = 5 cards
 - 3NT = 44 majors
 - 4m = shortness, 55 majors
- 3♦ = maximum, 44 majors
- 3M = maximum, 5 card suit
- 3NT = maximum, 55 majors

In competition

After a non-jump suit overcall the responses are following:

- X = PEN
- 3M = COMP/PRE, can be raised with exceptionally good hand and 5 card support
- 4M = to play
- minor suit bid without jump = NAT COMP
- 4m with jump = Lisbon

After X the responses are following:

- pass = suggests to play in diamonds; generally no 3 card M =>
 - after a penalty pass by advancer opener is advised to bid 3♣ with 4414/4504/5404
- XX = equal length in majors and asks opener to make preference; does not want to compete
- other = system on

Opening 2M

Opening 2M is a weak two showing 5-10 and 5-7 card suit. In 3rd position the opening has even wider ranges. In 4th position the opening is disciplined 10-13 with 6 card suit. The following table describes the expectancies as function of vulnerability and position:

	<i>1st hand</i>	<i>2nd hand</i>	<i>3rd hand</i>	<i>4th hand</i>
<i>NV vs VUL</i>	5-6 cards, bad-good	5-6 cards, bad-good	Random	10-13, 6 cards
<i>NV vs NV</i>	5-6 cards, bad-good	6+ cards, bad-good	Random	10-13, 6 cards
<i>VUL vs VUL</i>	6+ cards, bad-good	6+ cards, not bad	Random	10-13, 6 cards
<i>VUL vs NV</i>	6+ cards, not bad	6+ cards, good	Random, not bad	10-13, 6 cards

Responses

New suit is F1R, jump in new suit is splinter. 2NT is Ogust ask promising INV+ and F3M. Responses to Ogust 2M - 2NT are:

- 3♣ = bad suit and weak hand (F3M)
- 3♦ = good suit and weak hand (F3M)
- 3♥ = bad suit and strong hand (FG)
- 3♠ = good suit and strong hand (FG)
- 3NT = AKQxxx

In Competition

Over X=T/O new suit with or without jump is lead directing and forces conversion if advancer passes. 2NT is still Ogust.

If Ogust 2NT is doubled, ROPI is used. (xx = bad, weak, p= good, weak, 3♣=bad, strong...)

If Ogust 2NT is overcalled below 3M DOPI is used

If Ogust 2NT is overcalled with 3M or higher

- pass = bad suit (can be strong without defensive values)
- X = PEN (bad suit and defence)
- 4M = good suit, weak/moderate hand
- new suit = good suit, strong hand, feature (or something close to it)

Opening 2NT

Opening 2NT shows 20-21 BAL (any 4333, 4432 or 5332). In 3rd or 4th position 6 card minor or 5422 shape are possible but not recommended.

Responses

The responses to 2NT (also to 2♣-2♦-2NT and 2NT non jump natural overcall) are:

- 3♣ = puppet Stayman =>
 - 3♦ = no 5 card major, at least one 4 card major =>
 - 3♥ = 4 spades, can be 4 hearts =>
 - 3♠ = 4 spades
 - 3NT = 4 hearts, not 4 spades =>
 - 4m = 5(+) cards, slam try =>
 - 4NT = negative
 - 4♥ = 4 hearts, to play
 - 5♥ = 4 hearts, slam-try, NF
 - 3♠ = 4 hearts, denies 4 spades =>
 - 3NT = 4 spades, not 4 hearts =>
 - 4m = 5(+) cards, slam try =>
 - 4NT = negative
 - 4m = cue agreeing hearts =>
 - cue = enough values for slam
 - 4♥ = to play
 - 4♥ = 4 hearts, hand unsuitable for slam
 - 3NT = to play (was looking for 5-3 major suit fit)
 - 4m = 5(+) cards slam-try =>
 - 4NT = negative
 - 4M = (Lisbon slam try with a good 6 card minor. Handle with care, accident prone!)
 - 5m = to play

- 3♣ = puppet Stayman =>
 - 3♥ = 5 card suit =>
 - 3♠ = ART slam try in hearts
 - 3NT = to play
 - 4m = 5(+) cards slam-try =>
 - 4NT = negative
 - 3♠ = 5 card suit =>
 - 3NT = to play
 - 4m = 5(+) cards slam-try =>
 - 4NT = negative
 - 4♥ = ART slam try in spades
 - 3NT = no 4 card majors =>
 - 4m = 4m = 5(+) cards slam-try =>
 - 4NT = negative
 - 4M = (Lisbon slam try with a good 6 card minor. Handle with care, accident prone!)
- 3♦ = Transfer, at least 5 hearts =>
 - 3♥ = neutral =>
 - 3♠ = at least 45, longer hearts =>
 - 3NT = no support
 - 4m = Lisbon
 - 4M = unsuitable for slam
 - 3NT = choice of contracts
 - 4m = 4+ cards, slam-try
 - 4♥ = to play
 - 4♠ = at least 55, slam-try, F1R =>
 - 4NT = RKCB for spades
 - 5m = Lisbon
 - 5M = unsuitable for slam
 - 4NT = Quantitative
 - 5♥ = Slam-try, good suit
 - 3NT = Good 4+ support, bad controls, maximum =>
 - 4♦ = re-transfer
 - 4♥ = to play, forgot the re-transfer
 - 4♥ = Good 4+ support, good controls, maximum

- 3♥ = Transfer, at least 5 spades =>
- 3♠ = neutral =>
 - 3NT = choice of contracts
 - 4m = 4+ cards, slam-try
 - 4♥ = at least 55, no slam interest
 - 4♠ = to play
 - 4NT = Quantitative
 - 5♠ = Slam-try, good suit
- 3NT = Good 4+ support, bad controls, maximum =>
 - 4♥ = re-transfer
 - 4♠ = to play, forgot the re-transfer
- 4♠ = Good 4+ support, good controls, maximum
- 3♠ = 5+ spades, 4+ hearts
- 3NT = to play =>
 - 4♥ = at least 55, slam interest, NF =>
 - pass/4♠ = to play
 - 4NT = RKCB for hearts
 - 5m = Lisbon
 - 4m = Lisbon
 - 4M = unsuitable for slam
- 3NT = forces opener to display a green card
- 4m = 6+ cards, slam-try =>
 - 4NT = negative
- 4M = 6+ cards, slam-try, weak suit having at least 2 losers against xx(x)
- 4NT = quantitative
- 5m = to play

Opening 4m

Opening 4m is Namyats showing a good 4M opening with the anchor suit having AKQ, AKJ10 or AQJ10 on top. If the anchor suit is not solid, a side ace is required. The opening is forcing to four of the anchor suit but does not declare the ownership of the hand.

Responses

The relay is a slam try asking opener to start cue bidding.

4NT is RKCB.

Opening 4NT

Opening 4NT is a specific ace ask.

Responses

The responses are the modern responses instead of the old Acol responses:

- 5♣ = no aces
- 5♦ = the ace of diamonds
- 5♥ = the ace of hearts
- 5♠ = the ace of spades
- 5NT = the ace of clubs
- 6♣ = two aces

RKCB

The used version of RKCB is the standard 0314. Even a simple convention like RKCB requires some agreements about continuations and void showing mechanisms. The following applies:

- When the RKCB response is 5♣ or 5♦ the relay asks for the queen of trumps. The relay is the lowest non-trump bid at the 5-level.
- Responder denies the queen of trumps by bidding the trump suit at the lowest level
- Responder promises the queen of trumps without side kings by bidding 5NT
- Responder promises the queen of trumps and a side king by bidding the cheapest of the side kings
- After any response to RKCB 5NT guarantees all six keys (4 aces and KQ of trumps) and asks for specific kings. The responder bids the cheapest king suit.
- After a specific king reply (either after 5NT or trump queen ask) a bid in a new suit asks king in that suit. Responder bids grand slam holding the king or six of the trump suit (or 6NT if six of the trump suit is already passed) without the king.
- Response 5NT shows odd number of key cards and a useful void
- Six-level response below six of the trump suit shows two key cards and a void in the suit bid
- Response six of the trump suit shows two key cards and a (useful) void in a higher ranking suit than the trump suit

In competition

If RKCB is doubled, ROPI applies.

If RKCB is overcalled below five of the trump suit, DOPI applies.

If RKCB is overcalled with five of the trump suit or above, DEPO applies.

GSF

The generic response to 5NT GSF is:

- 7♣ = two of top three trump honours

All other responses are dependant of the trump suit. The generic feature is that six of the agreed trump suit shows the weakest holding. The responses with different trump suits are:

- ♣: 6♣ = 0-1 of top three trump honours
- ♦: 6♣ = A/K; 6♦ = weaker (0 or Q)
- ♥: 6♣ = A/K; 6♦ = Q; 6♥ = 0
- ♠: 6♣ = A/K; 6♦ = Q; 6♥ = 0 with extra length; 6♠ = 0

NT defence

The NT defence against weak NT is Cappelletti and against strong NT DONT. A passed hand uses always DONT.

Definition: 1NT opening is **strong**, if the sum of the lower range and upper range is **29 or more**.

Cappelletti

- X = PEN (at least 13 hcp with a good lead). The following applies after X:
 - If responder runs to 2m, advancer's X=PEN and pass=F1R giving doubler the chance to X=PEN. (After X opponents cannot play 2m undoubled.)
 - If responder runs to 2M or higher, advancer's X=COMP and pass=NF giving doubler the chance to make X=T/O with extra values. (Opponents can play anything above 2♥ undoubled. Doubler cannot make solo penalty doubles.)
- 2♣ = any one-suited hand, constructive, around 9-13 with good 6+ card suit =>
 - 2♦ = P/C
 - 2M = 6+ cards, to play
 - 2NT = NAT, INV
 - 3NT = to play
- 2♦ = both majors, constructive, around 9-13 with at least 4-4 (44 really rare) =>
 - 2M = preference
 - 2NT = ART, INV+, See Ekren 2♦
- 2M = 5+M and 4+m
 - 2NT = asks minor => if advancer supports major it shows INV
- 2NT = both minors, constructive, around 9-13 with at least 55 OR ANY FG 55+

In competition

(1NT) 2♣ (X): advancer's pass = P/C and any suit bid shows 6+ cards and to play there

(1NT) 2♣ (2any): advancer's X=PEN and cheapest bid is P/C

Modified Cappelletti

NOTE 1: *This is an option and has to be agreed. Standard FEM uses standard Cappelletti.*

NOTE 2: *Agreement of this option changes also 1x - (1NT) defence*

- X = PEN (at least 13 hcp with a good lead). The following applies after X:
 - If responder runs to 2m, advancer's X=PEN and pass=F1R giving doubler the chance to X=PEN. (After X opponents cannot play 2m undoubled.)
 - If responder runs to 2M or higher, advancer's X=COMP and pass=NF giving doubler the chance to make X=T/O with extra values. (Opponents can play anything above 2♥ undoubled. Doubler cannot make solo penalty doubles.)
- 2♣ = 6+ diamonds or 5+M and 4+m , constructive, around 9-13
 - 2♦ = P/C
 - 2M = 6+ cards, to play
 - 2NT = NAT, INV
 - 3NT = to play
- 2♦ = both majors, constructive, around 9-13 with at least 4-4 (44 really rare) =>
 - 2M = preference
 - 2NT = ART, INV+, See Ekren 2♦
- 2M = NAT
- 2NT = both minors, constructive, around 9-13 with at least 55 OR ANY FG 55+
- 3♣ = NAT , constructive, around 9-13

In competition

(1NT) 2♣ (X): advancer's pass = P/C and any suit bid shows 6+ cards and to play there

(1NT) 2♣ (2any): advancer's X=PEN and cheapest bid is P/C

DONT

DONT is a tool to contest part scores in a crude way. For a precision tool it's as suitable as a 5kg sledgehammer.

- X = any one suiter, aggressive (if the suit is spades, the hand is good) =>
 - Pass = at least -180
 - 2♣ = P/C
 - 2♦/M = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♣ = clubs and another suit (aggressive, generally 9+ cards in the suits) =>
 - 2♦ = P/C
 - 2M = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♦ = diamonds and a major suit (aggressive, generally 9+ cards in the suits) =>
 - 2♥ = P/C
 - 2♠ = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♥ = both majors (aggressive, generally 9+ cards in the majors) =>
 - 2♠ = Preference
 - 2NT = ART, INV+, See Ekren 2♦ (Generally a bad idea, aggressor bids 3♣)
- 2♠ = NAT
- 2NT = FG, very distributional hand

In competition

(1NT) X (XX): advancer's pass = P/C and any suit bid shows 6+ cards

(1NT) 2m (X): advancer's XX = asks the 2nd suit and any suit bid shows 6+ cards

(1NT) X (2any): advancer's cheapest bid = P/C

(1NT) 2m (2any): advancer's cheapest bid in the potential aggressor's suit = P/C

New Millennium DONT

NOTE: *This is an option and has to be agreed. Standard FEM uses standard DONT.*

New Millennium DONT changes the meanings of X and 2♥:

- X = both majors or one-suited in a minor
 - Pass = at least -180
 - 2♣ = P/C
 - 2♦/M = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♣ = clubs and another suit (aggressive, generally 9+ cards in the suits) =>
 - 2♦ = P/C
 - 2M = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♦ = diamonds and a major suit (aggressive, generally 9+ cards in the suits) =>
 - 2♥ = P/C
 - 2♠ = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♥ = NAT
- 2♠ = NAT
- 2NT = FG, very distributional hand

In competition

(1NT) X (XX): advancer's pass = P/C and any suit bid shows 6+ cards

(1NT) 2m (X): advancer's XX = asks the 2nd suit and any suit bid shows 6+ cards

(1NT) X (2any): advancer's cheapest bid = P/C

(1NT) 2m (2any): advancer's cheapest bid in the potential aggressor's suit = P/C

Doubles, forcing passes and related stuff

The following applies:

- Support X and XX are used (also after 2nd hand X=T/O or overcall) whenever opener can raise responder's one-over-one to two. The only exception sequence is 1♣-(p)-1♦-(1♠) after which X by opener shows 4 card in hearts without reversing values.
- Maximum overcall X (MOD) is used when the advancer's bid is at the maximum level. MOD does not apply against solo bidder. The following sequences are the only possible MOD-sequences:
 - 1♥ - (2♦) - 2♥ - (3♦) X=MOD
 - 1♥ - (X) - 2♥ - (3♦) X=MOD
 - 1♠ - (2♥) - 2♠ - (3♥) X=MOD
 - 1♠ - (X) - 2♠ - (3♥) X=MOD
- COMP X from 'under', tends to show at least xx in the suit.
- When in penalty hunt, double in direct seat shows 4+ trumps and double in 4th position shows 3 trumps with good defence or 4+ trumps. A 4th hand double is removed by singleton or void.
- Forcing pass is on if
 - a game force is established in the auction OR
 - the ownership of the hand has been declared OR
 - the forced level has not yet been reached OR
 - the opponents are clearly sacrificing
- In forcing pass situation pass&pull is a strong move.
- Transferable value doubles are used when forcing pass does not apply
- A penalty pass at 1 level (or a penalty pass of 2 level non jump overcall) creates a forcing situation up to the 2 level. The weak move by the penalty passer is 1NT or bid in the penalty passed suit.
- X of splinter asks lead in the suit below the splinter suit BUT NV vs VUL shows length.

Defence against 1-level openings

Overcalls

Overcalling style is quite aggressive. Four card overcalls are permissible in Lawrenceish way. The overcalls are advanced in the following fashion:

- A raise to two level can be a stretch if vulnerability suggests such moves
- A jump raise is pre-emptive and promises at least four trumps. When vulnerable, a pre-emptive raise shows some playing strength.
- A cue bid by an unpassed advancer is a general purpose forcing move. It shows either any game forcing hand or an invitational hand with at least three card support. A cue bid is forcing ->2 overcall suit. Aggressor repeats the overcall suit to show a minimum (can still be 4 cards).
- A cue bid by a passed advancer shows at least a sound raise to 2 level.
- A new suit response by advancer is constructive but not forcing. Aggressor can raise or repeat the overcall suit without promising extra values.
- A jump shift in a new suit by advancer shows a good 6+ card suit and constructive but NF values.
- A double jump by advancer is splinter
- A jump cue by advancer shows a mixed raise (too weak for limit raise, too much defence for a pre-emptive raise)
- If responder raises opener or makes a higher bid, advancer's new suit bids are forcing.
- If responder raises opener, X by advancer = RESP; over jump raises X = RESP with tendency towards Transferable Values Double

Jump overcalls

Jump overcall is weak. Against an unpassed partner a jump overcall is sound. Facing a passed partner a NV vs. VUL jump overcall is random.

The jump overcall is advanced in following manner:

- Advancer's NT-bids are natural and limited.
- A new suit response by unpassed advancer is forcing.
- A new suit response by a passed advancer shows a raise with values (and often also length) in the suit bid.
- A cue bid by advancer shows a game invitation with support.

Balancing jump overcall is intermediate (about opening with a good suit)

X=T/O

X=T/O shows support to unbid suits or a good (normally 19+) hand. With a good distribution X=T/O can be made with ~9 decent hcp.

The take out X is advanced in following manner:

- Advancer's all NT-bids are natural and limited.
- Advancer's jumps are limited. A jump to 2M promises 4+ card suit with about decent 8 hcp. A jump to 3 level shows 5+ cards.
- Advancer's cue bid is forcing to suit agreement. Advancer's jump cue after a minor suit opening shows both majors. Advancer's jump cue after a major suit opening asks stopper with a long decent minor.
- Responsive doubles are used if responder raises:
 - Over a minor X=RESP promises equal length in majors.
 - Over a major X=RESP shows values and tends to deny 4 spades after heart opening.

Balancing X=T/O can be made with a weak hand with good distribution.

4th hand X=T/O in a live auction shows the unbid suits and about opening strength OR a very good hand.

The direct cue bid

A direct cue bid promises the highest unbid suit and another suit at least 5-5. The hand is either weakish or strong. A minimum NV. cue promises about KTxxx KQxxx.

The direct cue bid is advanced in following manner:

- Advancer's 2-level bids are P/C. Advancer's 3 level bids (not in the known suit) show a long suit and constructive but NF values.
- Advancer's cue bid is a general FG move.
- Advancer's 2NT asks the 2nd suit. The hand can be weak. After 2NT advancer can raise the new suit invitationaly, cue to show a forcing raise in the 2nd suit or prefer to the highest suit to show at least a mild slam try in the highest suit.
- Advancer's 4 level jumps are P/C

Unusual NT

The unusual NT promises the lowest unbid suits at least 5-5. The strength is similar to direct cue bid.

The direct cue bid is advanced in following manner:

- Advancer's cue is a general FG move.
- Advancer's bid in the 3rd suit is constructive

In sequence (1♥)-P-(2♥) 2NT promises minors. In sequence (1♠)-P-(2♠) 2NT promises a two suiter.

The direct jump cue bid

A direct jump cue bid asks stopper with a solid suit without side voids.

Advancer either bids 3NT with a stopper or bids a P/C bid at appropriate level.

If 3NT reached in this manner is doubled XX by either player shows doubt.

1NT overcall

1NT overcall in 2nd position shows 15-18 hcp, BAL or SEMIBAL distribution and a stopper in the suit opened. => The NT system is on (Two-way Stayman)

Balancing 1NT in 4th position shows 11-14. It does not promise a stopper.

1NT in 4th position in a live auction shows the unbid suits at least 5-4 and decent playing strength without the high card power and/or defensive values required for a take out double. The tendency is that the lower suit is longer.

Defence against preempts

The defence against weak 2 diamonds

- X=T/O, no Lebensohl
- 2NT = 16-19 BAL => 2NT-system on
- 3♦ = Stopper ask with a solid suit
- 3M = good hand, good suit
- 4♣ = ♣+ Major at least 55, FG
- 4♦ = Both majors
- 4M = very good hand, good suit, creates forcing situation if opponents compete

The defence against weak 2M

Generic:

- X=T/O => Lebensohl on (See below)
- 2NT = 16-19 BAL => Mod Puppet Stayman (See below)
- 3M = Asks stopper
- 4m = at least 55 m + unbid major, FG

Against weak 2♥:

- 3♠ = good hand, good suit
- 4♠ = very good hand, good suit, creates forcing situation if opponents compete
- 4♥ = minors, not equal length, advancer's 4NT asks longer suit
- 4NT = minors, equal length

Against weak 2♠:

- 4♥ = very good hand, good suit, creates forcing situation if opponentss compete
- 4♠ = minors, not equal length, advancer's 4NT asks longer suit

Lebensohl

(2♥) - X:

- 2♠ = NAT, weak
- 2NT = puppet -> 3♣ =>
 - 3♣ = normal, aggressor breaks only with a huge hand
 - pass/3♦ = weak
 - 3♥ = 4 spades + stopper
 - 3♠ = 5 spades, FG, slam-interest
 - 3NT = NAT, but shows doubt
- 3m = constructive (generally ~8)
- 3♥ = 4 spades, no stopper
- 3♠ = NAT INV
- 3NT = to play with good stopper

(2♠) - X

- 2NT = puppet -> 3♣ =>
 - 3♣ = normal, aggressor breaks only with a huge hand
 - pass/3♦/♥ = weak
 - 3♠ = 4 hearts + stopper
 - 3NT = NAT, but shows doubt
- 3m/♥ = constructive
- 3♠ = 4 hearts, no stopper
- 3NT = to play with good stopper

Mod Puppet Stayman

(2M) - 2NT

- 3♣ = Puppet Stayman
- 3♦ = Xfer¹
- 3♥ = Xfer¹
- 3♠ = both minors, FG

¹Transfer to opponent's suit promises a shortness there, no 4 card major, 4+ in either minor and at least invitational values. Aggressor's 3NT shows willingness to play there, 4m shows a bad hand and willingness to stay below game.

Defences against other natural preempts

The generic defence against natural preempts is: $X=T/O \Rightarrow 4\spadesuit$. Against 5m X shows cards; advancer is supposed to take out with equivalent of 6331 with AK in the long suit (Bridge World MSC early 2006).

The following applies against natural preempts:

- Jump to game shows a very good hand with good suit and creates a forcing situation if opponents compete.
- Against $3\clubsuit$ jump to $4\diamondsuit$ shows at least 55 diamonds + major and FG values
- Against 3m cue shows at least 55 majors and does not create forcing situation. Aggressor can make later a transferable values double to show FG values.
- Against $3\heartsuit$ cue shows at least 55 spades + minor and does not create forcing situation. Aggressor can make later a transferable values double to show FG values.

Carding agreements

Opening leads

The opening leads are 1st / 3rd / 5th from any combination except:

- vs NT:
 - K is strong, forcing unblock or count signal
 - Q is lead from KQxx, if an honour is lead
 - 4th best can be lead from a four card suit if the 3rd has trick taking power e.g. KJ82
- vs Suit:
 - K is lead from AK bare

From three or more low cards top card can be lead to show bad holding.

In supported partner's suit a top card is lead from three (and sometimes from four) small.

Later leads

Later leads are very much like opening leads with following exceptions:

- No strong K
- K can be lead from AK when behind dummy
- In cash-out situation attitude leads can be used

2nd hand plays

2nd hand plays higher of touching honours unless playing a sure winner (then the lowest is played).

Signals

Low-high is either encouraging or shows even number of cards. The first discard is Roman (odd=encouraging, even=SP)

On partner's lead **attitude has the highest priority** with the following exceptions:

- If K is lead against NT, responder either unblocks or gives count
- If A is lead vs suit and dummy holds singleton in the suit, 3rd hand gives suit preference.
- If dummy's holding tells that 3rd hand does not have the hoped for strength we give count.

Examples:

- A lead vs suit: Qxx+ on dummy => count
- K lead: Jxx+ on dummy => count
- A lead: dummy has KQ+ => count or SP depending on who is short **BUT**
- A lead: dummy has Kx+ => attitude for Q
- x lead, 3rd hand cannot beat dummy's J or lower => count **BUT**
- x lead, 3rd hand cannot beat dummy's Q from Q(x+) => attitude for J
- If a singleton is lead => SP
- If K-A is lead vs suit the **2nd** card by 3rd hand is SP

Count is given only when thinking that partner needs that information. All count signals are 'present count'. SP is often included into count signal from xxx or xxxx.

The first discard is Roman. The later discards show either count, or are the cards nearest the thumb. Discarding first a high odd card and then a low odd card of the same suit the encouraging message is cancelled.

NO SMITH ECHO IS USED.

2/1 Framework

The 2/1 framework is an option of FEM. The framework affects only one level suit openings. The openings are sound in first and second position – partner must force to game with a reasonable twelve-count.

Opening Description

1 ♣	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 3 clubs (three if 4-3-3-3/3-4-3-3/4-4-2-3)
1 ♦	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 3 diamonds (three only if 4-4-3-2)
1 ♥	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 5 hearts
1 ♠	10+ UNBAL or 12+ BAL, at least 5 spades

Opening 1 club

Opening 1 ♣ promises at least 12 hcp or a good unbalanced hand with at least 1.5 quick tricks and at least 10 hcp. If the hand contains less than 12 hcp in the 1st or the 2nd position, the general structure of the hand must be good. The club length can be three cards if the distribution is 4-3-3-3, 3-4-3-3 or 4-4-2-3.

After the opening 1 ♣ and the subsequent auction are not affected by the switch in context. Responder may skip 4 card diamond suit to bid a four card major but this has also been a judgement issue in the traditional 4 card major environment. Walsh style responses are not used; opener bids his major with only three clubs in sequence 1 ♣ - 1 ♦.

Opening 1 diamond

Opening 1 ♦ promises at least 12 hcp or a good unbalanced hand with at least 1.5 quick tricks and at least 10 hcp. If the hand contains less than 12 hcp in the 1st or the 2nd position, the general structure of the hand must be good. The diamond length can be three cards only if the distribution is 4-4-3-2.

After the opening 1 ♦ two changes are made due to the 2/1 forcing to game structure:

1. The response 2 ♣ is forcing to game. The meanings of opener's rebids are not changed: reverse shows additional strength and splinter 3M shows a goodish hand. A minimum for a reverse is about xx AQJx AKJxx xx and for a splinter about xxx x AKxxx AQxx.
2. The response 3 ♣ is invitational with at least six card suit.

Passed hand responses are similar to standard FEM i.e. 3 ♣ is a weak jump response.

Opening 1 M

The major suit openings promise in the 1st, the 2nd or the 4th position at least a five card suit. In 3rd position it is permitted to open with a four card suit for tactical reasons.

In the 1st or the 2nd position the opening promises at least 12 hcp or a good unbalanced hand with at least 1.5 quick tricks and at least 10 hcp. If the hand contains less than 12 hcp, the general structure

of the hand must be very good.

The responses in the system with 5 card majors differ from 4 card major system in the following:

- Forcing 1NT response
- 2/1 forcing to game
- Invitational jump responses at the 3 level
- Drury-Fit by passed hand

Forcing 1NT response

The forcing 1NT response (only from unpassed hand) is a catch-all response for hands not suitable for other calls. At best it promises 12 ill-fitting bad hcp. The generic hand types for the forcing 1NT response are:

- unbalanced hand not good enough for 2/1 response
- balanced weak (6-9) hand
- balanced invitational hand (9-11)
- three card limit raise
- weak tactical raise (not suitable for preemptive raise)

Opener responds to the forcing 1NT response as to a non-forcing 1NT response with the exception that pass is not allowed. A hand that would have passed a non-forcing 1NT response (any 5332 or 4-5-2-2) bids the lowest three card minor or, in case of 4-5-2-2, either 2♣ or 2♥ whichever looks more descriptive.

Responder's 2nd call discloses the hand type.

2/1 forcing to game

Responder's 2/1 is unconditionally forcing to game requiring, in general, at least 12 hcp.

Opener tries to describe and limit his hand as convenient. The following applies:

- New suit lower than the suit opened shows 4+ cards and does not define the strength. Opener can be 55 with good suits; the jump in a new suit is a splinter.
- Rebid in the suit opened shows either any minimum or 6+ card suit (with a minimum hand opener selects the most descriptive bid from rebid of the suit opened and 2NT)
 - opener rebids the 6+ card suit later if possible
- 2NT shows a balanced or semibalanced minimum suitable for NT or 18-19 BAL (with a minimum hand opener selects the most descriptive bid from suit rebid and 2NT)
 - opener goes above game with 18-19 BAL
- Reverse or high reverse shows extra strength (a good looking 15 is enough)
- Jump rebid in the suit opened shows a good hand (a good looking 15 is enough) with a solid or semisolid 6+ card suit
- Raise of responder's minor suit promises four card support but does not specially limit the hand

- Jump raise of responder's minor suit promises 5422 with substantial extra values
- Raise of 2♥ to 3♥ shows 3+ support and does not limit the hand
- Raise of 2♥ to 4♥ shows 5422 with concentrated minimum values (picture bid)
- Jump in a new suit is a splinter (a good looking 15 is enough)
- Double jump in a new suit is a void splinter with substantial extra values
- Jump to 3NT shows a bad looking 18-19 5332 with doubleton in the responder's suit.

Responder tries to describe and limit his hand as convenient with his 2nd call. The following applies:

- Jump to game shows a minimum and no interest to learn more about opener's hand
- 2NT is descriptive with stoppers. Opener makes a descriptive bid.
- The 4th suit is artificial and shows doubt about strain
- Jump in the 4th suit is splinter agreeing opener's 2nd suit

Invitational jump responses at the three level

As 2/1 is unconditionally forcing to game responder needs a way to show an invitational hand with 6+ card suit. Thus, a single jump in a new suit to the three level shows about 10 hcp and a decent, at least six card suit. All opener's non game bids are forcing, including opener's single rebid of the suit opened.

Drury-Fit

Passed hand 2♣ is Drury-Fit promising at least 3 card trump support and game invitational values.

The following applies to opener's rebids:

- Rebid in the suit opened is weak and can be only 4 card suit. Responder shall pass.
- New suit without jump is a help suit game try. Responder may re-invite with a descriptive bid even though immediate decision is often the best.
- Jump in a new suit shows a side suit with slam-invitational values
- Double jump in a new suit is void with slam invitational values
- 2NT is a balanced invitation with about 14 hcp
- 3NT is a suggestion to play there, often with 18-19 BAL

As a corollary to Drury-Fit the following applies:

- Passed hand 2NT shows an invitational hand with 6+ clubs
- Passed hand 3♣ is weak jump response

In competition

2/1 forcing to game is off. Normal FEM structure applies.

Other passed hand bidding

2/1 forcing to game is (naturally) off. Invitational jumps to three level are off. Forcing 1NT is off.