

16+ point hands

Balanced hands are easy to show 15+ pts just use the NT ladder.

<i>Rung Bid</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	** Stayman and Transfers apply
1 st 1NT	15-17 HCP**	
2 nd 1(any) - 2NT	18-19 HCP	
3 rd 2NT	20-21 HCP**	
4 th 2C - 2NT	22-23 HCP**	

All these hands are balanced 4333 or 4432 or 5332 shape.

Unbalanced are more difficult to show

It is quite common for us to pick up hands that are better than your common or garden hands (12-14/5 HCP). So we need to be able to tell partner the good news as quickly as possible. This is usually openers 2nd Bid. The 1st bid tells about the absence or otherwise of a major. The second bid describes the strength.

You can show 16-18 pts and a fit by jumping in your suit or partners suit.

Eg 1

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1H	1S	Opener has 16-18 HCP because no known fit. He would need 6 card H suit to bid this.
2H		
1H	1S	Opener knows he has a spade fit (at least 4-4) so he can include distribution points he should have 16-18 TP
3S		
1C	1H	Opener has 16-18 HCP because no known fit. He would need 6 card H suit to bid this.
3C		
1C	1H	Opener knows he has a spade fit (at least 4-4) so he can include distribution points he should have 16-18 TP
3H		

But what if he does not have a 6 card suit and no known fit. In this case he must have at least 5-4 in his longest suits (otherwise he would be balanced and have opened 1NT).

Opener will bid the longest suit first 5 card suit or better and then bid his second suit to show 4 cards

Eg2

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1H	1S	Opener has 5 H's and 4 maybe 5 C's
2C		
1S	1NT	Opener has 5 S's and 4 maybe 5 H's
2H		
1D	1H	Opener has 5 D's and 4 maybe 5 C's
2C		

A new suit by Opener is not forcing responder may pass if he thinks this is the best place to play. In the first example responder may only have 6 points and 4 clubs The contract of 2C is probably the best place. In the second example responder may have a minimum hand 2 spades and 2 hearts so he would take a preference to spades and bid 2S.

If opener wants to force responder to bid again he must jump over his barrier. His opening bid creates a barrier of the same denomination but one level higher. He cant go over this barrier unless he has 16+ points (or the opposition is bidding and he is in the pass out seat and wants to be competitive. More on this later.)

Eg3

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1C 2D	1S	Opener has 5 C's and 4 maybe 5 D's. His barrier is 2C and he has bid beyond it by bidding 2D. He therefore has 16-18 pts.
1H 2S	1NT	Opener has 5 H's and 4 maybe 5 S's. His barrier is 2H and he has bid beyond it by bidding 2S. He therefore has 16-18 pts.
1C 2S	1H	Opener has 5 C's and 4 S's. His barrier is 2C and he has bid beyond it by bidding 2S. He therefore has 16-18 pts.

This is called a REVERSE.

Note: To do a reverse opener has to have more cards in the lower suit. This will ALWAYS promise 16 -18 HCP but the converse is not true you may have the wrong shape to do a reverse but still have 16+ HCP . All of Eg2 may have more than a minimum hand