

# Fifth Chair



## Gambling 3NT

Using this convention, an opening bid of 3NT shows a long running minor, usually AKQxxxx. Its mere sacrifice is the natural 3NT opening, which can easily be shown in natural systems with a strong 2C opening and no-trumps rebid. The number of outside stoppers needed to open 3NT is up to partnership agreement. Many pairs use the gambling 3NT with no outside stoppers at all, since a hand such as Ax Ax Ax AKQxxxx occurs once in a blue moon. Some pairs even go so far as to open a long broken minor with 3NT.

The responses to Gambling 3NT are:

Pass: Deciding to wager on 3NT

4C: Inappropriate hand for 3NT; asking to play in opener's suit

4D: Natural or Gerber, depending on agreement. If natural, the 4NT response is Blackwood; if Gerber, 4NT is invitational.

4H/4S: Natural, signoff

4NT: Invitational or Blackwood, depending on agreement

5C: Asking to play in a suit game in opener's suit