

# Fifth Chair



## Responses to 1NT Openers Quiz

1NT is one of the best opening bridge because it makes life so easy on partner who knows that you have 15 to 17 HCP and a balanced hand.

What do you open with:

1. s: 42 h: AJ3 d: AKQ5 c: Q103

2. s: 42 h: AJ3 d: AKQ54 c: K103

Partner opens 1NT. What do you respond with

3. s: 73 h: K62 d: AKJ43 c: 832 ?

4 s: 53 h: KQ d: 854 c: AKJ1087 ?

5. Partner opens 2NT (20-21). What do you respond with

s: 53 h: KQ87 d: 854 c: AK109 ?

### ANSWERS

1. Open 1NT and don't listen to anyone who says that you must have all suits stopped. Consider your rebid nightmare if you open 1D and partner responds 1H. You are too strong for 1NT and too weak to rebid 2NT.

Besides if partner has strength where is it likely to be? (Yes many of with a keen eye called for a misdeal as you counted your cards carefully here. Only 12 cards, did you catch that?!)

2. Open 1D. 17 HCP and a good solid 5-card suit are worth 18 points. Yes, length points can be counted for no-trump contracts too. In no-trumps you need a source of tricks and a strong long minor is a decided advantage. Treat this hand as 18 points and rebid 2NT over any one-level response.

3. Raise straight to 3NT. Don't bother to show your minor. Let them guess what to lead. Bidding 3D suggests either slam interest or a fear of 3NT because of a singleton or void.

4. I would use Gerber to ask for aces and bid 7NT opposite three aces.

Nor would I disagree if you went straight to 7C. A long suit is magic.

5. Stayman first with 3C and worth only 6H with a heart fit or 6NT. Note the difference between this hand and the previous one.