



The original Roman Club system

Opening bids

- 1♣ - 12-16 HCP balanced or 21+ any shape
- 1♦ - 4+ suit (occasionally 3) with 11-20 HCP, unbalanced
- 1M - 4+ suit (rarely good 3) with 11-20 HCP, unbalanced
- 1N - 17-20 HCP balanced, may have 5 card major
- 2♣ - 11-16 HCP, either 4441 (any singleton) or 5440 (5 card suit a minor)
- 2♦ - 17-24 HCP, 4441 shape
- 2♥ - 11-16 HCP, 5+ suit with 4+ clubs
- 2♠ - 11-16 HCP, 5+ suit with 4+ clubs
- 2NT - 11-16 HCP, at least 54 in minors (genesis of the direct unusual no trump in many systems)
- 3♣ - 11-16 HCP with 6+ clubs, no other suit

Higher - normal preempts

All opening hands of balanced pattern (4432, 4333, 5332) opened 1♣ or 1NT.

Exception - Hands with a strong 5 card major and a weak doubleton were opened in the major

Openings other than 1♣ or 1NT show unbalanced hands, the second longest suit is opened with any 54, 55 or 65 hand. The lower ranking suit is opened with 55 pattern. When the second suit is clubs, one of the two level opening bids is used, because there are no canape sequences starting from a 1♣ opening. If opener bids and rebids a suit he shows 6+ length (rarely strong 5 for major suit). If opener bids two suits, the second longest is at least 5 cards in length (canape principle).

Responses to 1 club

- 1♦ - 0-7 HCP, or 8-11 with no 4+ major
- 1M - 8+ HCP, 4+ suit
- 1N - 12-15 HCP, balanced, not quite game forcing
- 2x - 12+ HCP, 5+ suit, four step asking bid (genesis of all later asking bids in Precision, etc)
- 2N - 16+ HCP balanced

Responses to 1D

- 1♥ - 0-7 HCP, or 8-11 HCP with hearts the primary suit
- 1♠ - 8+ HCP, 4+ suit
- 1N - 12-15 HCP balanced, game forcing
- 2♦ - 4+ support, 7-11 HCP
- 3♦ - usually 5+ support, game forcing

