

# 3. Responder changes suit

## ♥ Responder changes suit

It isn't always possible to make a limit bid. Sometimes you have to explore for a better fit. If you bid a new suit, you can't be precise about your hcp immediately. You may need to make more than one bid before you choose the best contract.

A bid in a new suit is forcing for one round. Partner has to keep the bidding open. A new suit bid shows 6 or more points.

Changing the suit is quite different from other bids you have learned because you don't show all your hcp straight away. Keep the bidding as low as you can to leave more room to explore for a fit.

- Show a suit at the 1 level if possible.
- Bid 1NT to show 6-9 hcp
- It keeps the bidding at a manageable level.

Partner opens 1♥ and you have the hands below.

♠ Q982      Bid 1♠. Keep the bidding as low as possible when changing suit.  
 ♥ 102  
 ♦ A65  
 ♣ A1076

♠ 982      1NT is the best bid as you don't have a very strong hand.  
 ♥ 102  
 ♦ A65  
 ♣ A10763

Confused? Just remember that a limit bid is the same suit or notrumps. Show your points with a limit bid. A new suit is not a limit bid. Keep the bidding low when you are changing suit.



## ♦ Opener's rebids after a limit bid

If the responder has made a limit bid, the opener simply calculates the combined strength of the two hands and decides whether to bid game or to pass.

♠ K8            1♣            3♣  
 ♥ J1076        ?  
 ♦ A65            Open 1♣ and bid 3NT. Your 16 plus partner's 10-12 equals 25.  
 ♣ AKJ7

♠ 98            1♥            2♥  
 ♥ AJ1076        ?  
 ♦ 65            Open 1♥ and then pass 2♥.  
 ♣ AKJ7            Partner only has 6-9

## ♦ Opener's rebid after a new suit

If the responder has changed suit then the opener must bid again.

- Support responder's suit if you can
- It's better to show a second suit of your own rather than rebidding your first suit.
- Last resort is to rebid your 1<sup>st</sup> suit

♠ 85            1♥            1♠  
 ♥ KJ1076        ?  
 ♦ A6            Open 1♥ and bid 2♣ after partner's 1♠ response  
 ♣ AQ43

♠ K872        1♥            1♠  
 ♥ KJ1076        ?  
 ♦ A5            Open 1♥ and bid 2♠ because you have found a fit  
 ♣ J3

♠ KQ72        1♥            1♠  
 ♥ KQJ76        4♠  
 ♦ AK5            Open 1♥ and bid 4♠  
 ♣ 4            This time you have a fit and enough hcp for game.

♠ K8            1♥            1♠  
 ♥ KJ10762        ?  
 ♦ A65            Open 1♥ and bid 2♥ after partner's 1♠ response  
 ♣ 43