

CONVENTIONS COURSE – Lesson 7

Jacoby 2NT

When was the last time partner opened 1♥ and you, as responder, bid 2NT? I hope that the answer is “NEVER!” as responder should always bid their 4+ card suit instead, ie 2♦, keeping the bidding low and more descriptive. So we have a special use for a bid of 2NT as responder when partner opens 1♥ or 1♠.....JACOBY 2NT. This bid shows:

- 1 A raise to 4 of the Major, showing 12+ points and 4+ card major support
- 2 2NT is forcing to 4♥ or 4♠ and asks opener to describe their hand further

Why Jacoby 2NT?

The beauty of Jacoby 2NT is that ANY strong hand bids 2NT and it gives the partnership much more space to investigate slam possibilities. In the old days, one had to just raise 1♠ to 4♠. The 4♠ bid could just show 7 Losing Tricks (8 or 9 points, or less) or a Balanced hand with 13+ points. Responder would still have to raise 1♠ to 4♠ with 16 or 17+ points and often miss a slam. Jacoby 2NT is the cure to these problems!

Say opener bids 1♥, what do you respond with:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
♠ KQ7	♠ 85	♠ K876	♠ 9862	♠ KQ973
♥ AQ87	♥ KJ86	♥ AJ1074	♥ KJ98	♥ AQ75
♦ Q742	♦ AQ874	♦ A76	♦ K3	♦ 82
♣ A6	♣ Q7	♣ 5	♣ A74	♣ A5

- (i) 2NT Jacoby! - showing a raise to 4♥ with 4+ hearts and 12+ points
- (ii) 2NT Jacoby – same as above
- (iii) 4♣ Splinter – more descriptive than Jacoby and showing a singleton or void ♣
- (iv) 3♥ 10 – 11 points – not strong enough for a game forcing 2NT Jacoby
- (v) 2NT Jacoby – better to tell partner about the ♥ fit rather than mention ♠s

Opener’s Response to the Jacoby 2NT

The 2NT Jacoby bid is 100% Forcing as it is an Artificial bid and asks responder for more information about their hand to see if Slam is viable. Opener rebids as follows:

- 1 Weak Hand – 7 Losing Tricks = bid 4 of the Trump suit (4♥ or 4♠), a sign off

All other stronger hands (6 Losing Tricks or less) bid in the following way and show slam interest:

- 2 15 – 19 points Balanced = bid 3NT
- 3 6+ Card Major = Rebid 3 of major
- 4 Singleton (or void) = Jump to 4 Level in singleton, a “Splinter”
- 5 Need help in 3+ card suit = Bid suit at 3 level, a Trial Bid for Slam

Jacoby in Action

Opener	Responder	O.	R.	
♠ KQ83	♠ A9	1♥	2NT*	* Jacoby
♥ AJ974	♥ K8532	4♣**	4NT	** Splinter Bid
♦ A95	♦ KQ7	5♥***	6♥	*** 2 of the 5 Key Cards, no Q♥
♣ 7	♣ 984	Pass		

Here Opener has only 6 Losing Tricks so jumps to 4♣ to show a singleton club. This is brilliant news for responder with length opposite shortage and no wasted honours. Responder uses RKCB and sails into 6♥ which should be an easy make on just 26 combined points!

Opener	Responder	O.	R.	
♠ AJ752	♠ KQ84	1♠	2NT*	* Jacoby
♥ K3	♥ A972	4♠	Pass	
♦ Q5	♦ J4			
♣ K852	♣ QJ4			

Opener has a bare minimum 7 Losing Tricks opposite the Jacoby 2NT so jumps to the trump suit at the 4 level which is a sign off, saying to partner “No interest in slam”

Opener	Responder	O.	R.	
♠ AK72	♠ Q6	1♥	2NT*	* Jacoby
♥ KQJ7	♥ A963	3NT**	6♥	** 15 – 19 pts balanced
♦ Q8	♦ K72	Pass		
♣ 842	♣ AKQ9			

Responder knows their side have at least 33 points between them but prefers 6♥ to 6NT and you can see why.....6NT would need clubs 3 – 3 yet in 6♥ you can trump the losing diamond.

Opener	Responder	O.	R.	
♠ KJ8652	♠ AQ94	1♠	2NT*	* Jacoby
♥ K8	♥ A972	3♣**	3♥***	** Trial Bid – help please
♦ AK	♦ 43	4NT	5♠	*** Ace Showing Cue Bid
♣ J63	♣ KQ7	6♠	Pass	

Opener has only 6 Losing Tricks so makes a Trial Bid of 3♣ asking for help in clubs. Responder has great help in clubs so cooperates by bidding 3♥, showing A♥. Opener uses RKCB and 5♠ shows 2 Key Cards with the Q♠. 6♠ is an easy make.

Appendix

- 1 If an opponent overcalls then 2NT from responder ceases to be Jacoby and goes back to being 10 – 12 points with a stopper in the opponents suit
- 2 However, if responder bids the overcaller’s suit, then that becomes Jacoby! Eg:

O.	Overcaller	R.
1♠	2♥	3♥ (a raise to 4♠ and 12+ pts)

- 3 Jacoby only works for the Majors, NOT the Minors