

Opening 1 NT

Opening 1NT – 12-14 Balanced

You must always check if you have a **1NT opener**, before you open 1 of a suit.

Open 1NT on all balanced 12-14 HCP hands no matter where your honours are placed.

A balanced hand contains:

- **no** void or singleton
- **one** doubleton at most
- **no** 5-card major
- may have a 5-card minor

Examples of balanced hands are:

- 4333
- 4432
- 3325 the 5-card suit **must** be a **MINOR** suit

1NT is a **limit bid**. Its shape and strength are known – a limit bid is **not** forcing.
This means that the responder is usually in charge. Opener rarely bids again.

Responses to 1NT Opening

Balanced hands

Pass	0-10	no Game possible
2NT	11-12	invite to 3NT
3NT	13+	bid Game

Unbalanced hands

2♣/2♦/2♥/2♠	0-10	5+ card suit – called a weakness take-out *
3♥/3♠	13+	game forcing with 5-card suit **
4♥/4♠	13+	game values with 6+ suit
5♣/5♦	16+	game values with 6+ good suit

* Responder does not have interest in game or any wish to play in notrumps.
 Opener **must pass**, even with support.

** Opener chooses which game to play.
 With 3 or 4 card support - they will bid the major game
 With only 2 card support - they will bid 3NT