

Reverses & Jump Shifts

An unforced rebid at the two - level or more in a higher ranking suit than bid originally. This is a strength showing bid normally 17+ HCP and the first suit will always be longer where 5-4, 6-4 or even 6-5 are possible distributions. Nowadays reverses are treated as forcing since opener may hold a powerful hand and the partnership owns at least a combined 23 HCP.

*A sequence of 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ is **NOT** a reverse because the bidding is at the one-level.*

Some partnerships who employ a 2/1 response as game-forcing agree that opener's reverse does not promise any additional strength beyond an opening bid.

Opener is simply bidding out his pattern on the way to game but I disagree with this treatment.

If opener reverses after a two-level response he should have 17+ HCP and the required distribution. The reverse then informs responder that they are in the slam zone with 30+ HCP.

W	N	E	S	South holds: a)	♠A	b)	♠QJ5
-	-	-	1♦		♥KQ107	or	♥A1096
P	1♠	P	2♥		♦AQ1083		♦AKQ54
					♣K98		♣J

W	N	E	S	c)	♠A986	d)	♠AKJ7
-	-	-	1♥		♥KQJ105	or	♥KQ10982
P	2♦	P	?		♦65		♦8
					♣K7		♣AJ

In a & b, South should rebid 2♥ since he owns the strength and length for a reverse.

In c, South must rebid the chunky five-card heart suit because he holds only 13 HCP.

A Flannery two diamond opening (or two hearts) showing 12-16 HCP with 5 hearts and 4 spades would work holding this hand.

In d, He reverses into spades with the intention of rebidding hearts next time to show 6-4 in the majors and a strong hand.

There is a combined 31 HCP (18 + 13) and the partnership is definitely in the slam zone.

There are two types of reverses one is strong and the other is distributional (6-5) Responder will not know which type has been promised until opener's third call.

W	N	E	S	or	W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♣		P	P	P	1♣
P	1♠	P	2♦		P	1♥	P	2♦

P 2♥ P 3♦

P 2♥ P 2NT

In the first example, opener has shown 6 clubs & 5 diamonds (a distributional reverse) not necessarily 17 HCP.

In the second example, he has promised 5 clubs and 4 diamonds with 17+ HCP, a spade stopper and undoubtedly heart shortness.

Responder will sometimes encounter problems when partner reverses and he holds a weak hand (6 or 7 HCP)

Accordingly, many partnerships have methods to put on the brakes after opener's reverse.

Responder's rebid of his suit at the two-level is neutral but forcing and promises at least a five-card suit.

The cheapest available bid which is either the fourth suit or 2NT reveals a weak hand

W	N	E	S
P	1♣	P	1♠
P	2♥	P	2NT is weak 6-7 HCP, denies five spades and opener must place the contract. Responder may pass any continuation by opener

W	N	E	S
P	1♣	P	1♥
P	2♦	P	2♠ South's two spade rebid is weak & denies five hearts but 2NT would be natural and positive.

The corollary is that other rebids by South such a 3♣, 3♦ or 2NT are game-forcing.

There is no such thing as a double reverse: 1♦ - 1♠ - 3♥

Three hearts could not be natural and functions as a splinter revealing 16-18 dummy points, four spades and a singleton heart.

Reverses by responder simply promise opening bid values and therefore are game-forcing.

JUMP SHIFTS by opener: This shows 19+ HCP, an unbalanced hand and is forcing to game since responder has promised 6 HCP.

N	S	N	S
1♦	1♠	1♥	1♠
3♣		3♦	

North holds: ♠10 ♥KQ ♦AKJ764 ♣AK109 or ♠AJ ♥AQJ83 ♦KQ1095 ♣K

Jump shifts by responder from an unpassed hand are often played as pre-emptive.

I prefer to play strong jump shifts so that 1♣ - P - 2♠ shows a strong hand with a solid suit:

♠AKJ1093 ♥AQ4 ♦K9 ♣J10 or a strong hand with good support for partner's suit:

♠AJ852 ♥KJ ♦Q4 ♣AQ104.

Responder will delineate his hand type at his second turn. The strong jump shift is only available over a minor suit opening if your partnership employs Bergen Raises.

Jump shifts from a passed hand can be used as fit-showing bids: 1♦ - 2♥ with ♠102 ♥KQ873
♦AJ98 ♣65

4. W N E S
P 1♦
2♣ P P ?

What action would you take with each of the following?

s)	t)	u)	v)	w)	x)
♠KQ109	♠K84	♠7	♠AJ	♠3	♠AQ98
♥J	♥AQ95	♥AKQ	♥K105	♥AKQ109	♥6
♦AQJ864	♦AJ1073	♦J10742	♦AKQ10842	♦AKJ976	♦KQ10872
♣A7	♣6	♣A1098	♣7	♣4	♣QJ

Answers

- a) *4♣ as a splinter disclosing a singleton club (not the ace), 20 dummy points and four-card spade support. The next move is up to partner.*
- b) *2♥ as a reverse showing 17+ HCP along with five diamonds and four hearts.*
- c) *3♣. The jump shift reveals 19+ HCP with five diamonds and four clubs. If partner offers a diamond preference, you will advance to 3NT. Your hand is elevated by the solidity of the minors.*
- d) *2♥ as a distributional reverse.
Your plan is to bid hearts a second time to show 6-5 in the red-suits.*
- e) *3♦. The jump rebid discloses 16-18 HCP with a good six-card suit but is non-forcing.*
- f) *3NT. The leap to 3NT promises a running diamond suit, a strong hand & spade shortness.*
- g) *2♠. The jump shift is game-forcing showing 19+ HCP with five clubs & four spades.*
- h) *3♠. This action is a splinter (one more than a jump shift) & shows 20 dummy points, a singleton spade & four-card heart support.*
- i) *2♦. A reverse, promising 17+ HCP with 5 clubs & 4 diamonds.*
- j) *2♥. The raise with 3 card support is better than rebidding 1NT with a doubleton spade. Partner should not assume that you own four-card support*
- k) *1NT. This time you should try 1NT with the pancake pattern and stoppers in the unbid suits.*
- l) *3♣. The jump rebid discloses 16-18 HCP and a strong six-card suit.*
- m) *3NT. You are committed to game because of the jump shift.
You hold a spade stopper and have no desire to play in a suit contract.
Without a spade stopper you would advance to 3♦ as a preference.*
- n) *3♦. Partner owns at least a five-bagger.
If he rebids 3♥ showing three-card support, you will advance to the major suit game.
If he rebids 3NT, you will be content.*
- o) *4♣. The raise implies 5 card support and a slam is in view if partner owns a spade control.*

- p) *3♥. This action tends to show a six-card suit and you are hoping to find partner with a doubleton.*
- q) *4♦. The jump in diamonds conveys a good hand with slam interest.*
- r) *4♥. This action reveals a self-sufficient suit that will play opposite a singleton or void.*
- s) *2♠. The reverse shows a powerful hand with longer diamonds than spades.*
- t) *Double. You should re-open with a takeout double since you own good support for the unbid suits.
You are not strong enough to consider a 2♥ which is a reverse.*
- u) *Pass. You should be happy to defend a club partscore.
Partner cannot hold much since he did not offer a negative double.
The opponents may own a spade fit.*
- v) *3♣. This action functions as a Western Cuebid asking partner to bid 3NT with a club stopper.
You are virtually guaranteeing 9 tricks provided partner can supply a club guard.
You promise a long & solid diamond suit with a good hand.
You would re-open with a double with support for the unbid suits.*
- w) *4♥. This action shows that you are 6-5 in the red-suits with a strong hand.
To bid any less risks missing a game or possible slam.
Partner will take a preference.*
- x) *2♦. Rebid the six-card suit.
This hand is not strong enough to reverse (2♠).
The club honours are likely without value.*