

# One of a Minor, One of a Major, Now What?

## Part I: Overview

You open 1m & partner responds 1M. There is no opposing bidding. Now what?

The chart below provides a “roadmap” for you to follow in selecting your bid.

### 1. If you have a balanced hand, bid NT:

1N	12-14; <b>may have 3-card support</b> [use <b>New Minor Forcing</b> to find out]
2N	18-19; <b>may have 3-card support</b> [use <b>New Minor Forcing</b> to find out]
3N	18-19; <b>running minor</b> ; < 3 spades; stoppers in the other suits

---

### 2. If you have an unbalanced hand *with support*, show your support:

2M	12-14; at least 3 of the major [use <b>Spiral</b> to find out what kind of raise]
3M	15-16; <b>at least 4 of the major</b>
4M	18-19; <b>at least 4 of the major; no singleton or void</b>
4 unbid m, 3S/1H, 4H/1S	17-19; <b>at least 4 of the major; singleton or void</b> in bid suit (“ <b>Splinter</b> ”)
4 your m	< 17; <b>at least 6 of your minor; at least 4 of the major</b> (it’s a good <i>playing hand</i> , but not a big hand in terms of HCP)

---

### 3. If you have an unbalanced hand *without support*, rebid your suit or bid a new suit:

2 your m	12-15; <b>at least 6 of the minor</b>
3 your m	16-17; <b>at least 6 of the minor</b>
<b>Lower suit</b>	12-16; natural (second suit)
<b>Higher suit</b>	17-20; <b>first-bid suit is longer</b> (or you’d open the second suit)(“ <b>Reverse</b> ”) [responder can use <b>Wolff Signoff</b> to describe his/her hand]

## Part II: Spiral

As I mentioned, opener can raise one of a major to two with three-card support. If responder has a minimum hand, responder passes; but if responder is interested in game, responder uses Spiral to find out whether opener has (1) **three- or four-card support** & (2) **a minimum or a maximum**. Spiral is *off* over interference. Here is how it works:

1m - 1M

2M- 2N (Spiral) asks opener to describe the raise.

Opener's responses to Spiral are as follows:

3C: I have **3-card** support & a **minimum**

3D: I have **3-card** support & a **maximum**

3H: I have **4-card** support & a **minimum**

3S: I have **4-card** support & a **maximum**

**Helpful Tip:** The more cards you have in responder's major, the higher you bid.

Therefore, minors show *three*-card support & majors show *four*-card support.

## Example Hands: Part I

**You open 1D, partner responds 1S. What do you bid?**

1.    xxx  
      KJxx  
      KQxx  
      Axx
2.    Qxx  
      KJxx  
      AQxx  
      xx
3.    Qxx  
      AQx  
      AQTx  
      ATx
4.    xx  
      AQx  
      AKQTxx  
      ATx
5.    Qxxx  
      AJ  
      AKJTxx  
      x
6.    Qxxx  
      AQJ  
      AKQTx  
      x
7.    xx  
      AKJx  
      AQJTx  
      Kx

## Example Hands: Part II

**You open 1D, partner bids 1S, you raise to 2S. Partner bids 2N (Spiral).**

**What do you bid?**

8.    Qxx  
      KJxx  
      AQx  
      xxx
9.    xxx  
      AQx  
      ATxx  
      ATx
10.   Jxxx  
      Kx  
      KQxx  
      AJTx
11.   xxxx  
      AJx  
      ATxx  
      Kx
12.   Axxx  
      Axx  
      Axxxx  
      x

## Answers to Example Hands

### Part I

1. 1N (balanced 13)
2. 2S (balanced 12, but why bid 1N with a doubleton club?)
3. 2N (balanced 18)
4. 3N (balanced 19 with running diamonds)
5. 4D (15 with 4 spades & 6 diamonds)
6. 4C (18 with 4 spades & a stiff club)
7. 2H (18 with longer diamonds than hearts)

### Part II

8. 3C (minimum with 3)
9. 3D (maximum with 3)
10. 3S (maximum with 4)
11. ? (minimum or maximum?)
12. 3S (even though it is only 12 HCP, it's a *great* playing hand, with first- or second-round control in every suit, so it's a *maximum* with 4)