

BBS — Brno Bridge System

This system is based on Ženíšek's ideas from the sixtieth, which he used with his partner František Leitner. Comparing with the systems **Precision** – **Lužánky** or **Primi** (also Ženíšek's bidding systems) this is a very simple bidding system, whose ideas and main bidding sequences can be written during a longer afternoon.

The list of openings

$3\clubsuit, 3\diamond, 3\heartsuit, 3\spadesuit =$ weak

$2NT = 21 - 22$ HCP, distributions 4333, 4432 or 5332 with a 5-card minor

$2\diamond, 2\heartsuit, 2\spadesuit =$ weak

$2\clubsuit =$ strong; manche forcing. With the distributions 4333 and 4432 at least 23 HCP. With a 5-card major suit at least 21 HCP.

$1NT = 16 - 18$ HCP, distributions 4333, 4432 or 5332 with a 5-card minor

$1\diamond, 1\heartsuit, 1\spadesuit = 11 - 15(16)$ HCP (this means 16 weak HCP), a 5-card suit

$1\clubsuit =$ the remaining possibilities. This means:

(a) 12 – 15 HCP with the distributions 4333 and 4432

(b) 11 – 15(16) HCP with either at least 6-card club suit, **or** at least 5-card club suit accompanied by another at least a 4-card suit

(c) (16)17 – 20 HCP (16 means very good 16 HCP) with a 5-card suit

(d) 19 – 20 HCP with the distributions 4333 and 4432

1. The bidding after the weak openings

- (a) The bidding after the openings $2\diamond, 2\heartsuit, 2\spadesuit$: The only manche forcing is the response $2NT(?)$, after which the opener has the following possibilities:
- (1) repeating the suit of the opening ($3\diamond, 3\heartsuit, 3\spadesuit$): not a good suit (minimum, i.e., usually a 6-card suit)
 - (2) a bid of another suit: The **A** or the **K** in this colour (the openings $2\diamond, 2\heartsuit, 2\spadesuit$ are bid with one suit, thus a bid of another suit does not announce another suit)
 - (2) $3NT =$ an announcement of a good suit
- (b) The bidding after the openings $3\clubsuit, 3\diamond, 3\heartsuit, 3\spadesuit$: As this opening guarantees at least a 7-card suit, the opener can make an attempt $3NT$ (after $3\clubsuit, 3\diamond$) with a some fit to the suit of the opening and additional values in other suits. After $3\heartsuit, 3\spadesuit$: $4\heartsuit, 4\spadesuit =$ an attempt of a manche. After all openings: $4NT =$ Blackwood.

2. The bidding after the opening 1NT

The partner's responses are based on the classical ideas:

- (a) pass = usually 0 – 6(7) HCP, without a 5-card suit
- (b) $2NT = (7)8 - 9$ HCP, without a 4-card major (if 7 HCP, then A and K)
- (c) $3NT =$ at least 10 HCP, without a 4-card major
- (d) $2\clubsuit =$ Stayman inquiry; usually at least 9 HCP; if only 7 HCP, then 5-4 in the majors. The opener's bids:
 - $2\diamond =$ without a 4-card major. In this case, the partner bids:
 - $2\heartsuit$ (or $2\spadesuit$) = 7 – 8 HCP with 5-4 in the majors, the announcement of

- the 5-card major
- 2NT = 8 – 9 HCP, without a 5-card major
- 2♥ (or 3♠) = 9 – 11 HCP in the majors, the announcement
of the 5-card major
- 3NT = at least 10 HCP, without a 5-card major
- 2♥ = a 4-card suit in hearts (a 4-card suit in spades is not excluded)
- 2♠ = a 4-card suit in spades (a 4-card suit in hearts is excluded)
- 2NT = the maximum 18 HCP without a 4-card major
- (e) 2♦ = Jacoby’s transfer bid to hearts (in the Czech bridge terminology, this transfer bid to hearts transfer is called “Texas”). **The opener:**
2♥ = accepting the transfer (accepting the transfer is the duty – of course, the opener can accept the transfer with a jump – see later; **the partner:** (1) pass = if his transfer is based on a weak hand with a 5-card suit in hearts; (2) a bid in another minor suit: announcing a strong hand with 5-5 in hearts and in the announced minor suit (usually at least 13 HCP – an attempt for a slam)
3♥ = accepting the transfer with a jump: the opener has the maximum of 18 HCP and a very good 4-card fit for hearts
- (f) 2♥ = Jacoby’s transfer bid to spades (in the Czech bridge terminology, this transfer bid to spades transfer is called “Texas”). **The opener’s bids** and the following bidding follow the same lines as in the preceding part (e).
- (g) 2♠ = Jacoby’s transfer bid to ♣
- (h) 3♣, 3♦, 3♥, 3♠ = at least a 5-card suit and 13 HCP; forcing to a manche (and an attempt of a slam)
- (i) 4♦ (or 4♥) = Jacoby’s transfer to 4♥ (or to 4♠)

3. The bidding after the opening 2NT

The partner’s responses are based on similar ideas as in the case of the opening 1NT:

- (a) pass = usually 0 – 3 HCP, without a 5-card suit
- (b) 3NT = at least 4 HCP, without a 4-card major suit
- (c) 2♣ = Stayman inquiry; usually at least 4 HCP; if only 3 HCP, then 5-4 in the majors. **The opener’s bids:**
3♦ = without a 4-card major. In this case, the partner’s bids:
3♥ (or 3♠) = 3 HCP with 5-4 in the majors, the announcement of the 5-card major;
4♥ (or 4♠) = at least 4 HCP with 5-4 in the majors, the announcement of the 5-card major
3♥ = a 4-card suit in hearts (a 4-card suit in spades is not excluded)
3♠ = a 4-card suit in spades (a 4-card suit in hearts is excluded)
3NT = the maximum 22 HCP without a 4-card major
- (d) 3♦ = Jacoby’s transfer bid to hearts (in the Czech bridge terminology, this transfer bid to hearts transfer is called “Texas”). **The opener:**
3♥ = accepting the transfer (accepting the transfer is the duty – of course, the opener can accept the transfer with a jump – see later; **the part-**

ner: (1) pass = if his transfer is based on a weak hand with a 5-card suit in hearts; (2) a bid in another minor suit: announcing a strong hand with 5-5 in hearts and in the announced minor suit (usually at least 9 HCP – an attempt for a slam) (3) $4\heartsuit$ = a good hand with a 6-card suit.

$4\heartsuit$ = accepting the transfer with a jump: the opener has the maximum of 22 HCP and a very good 4-card fit for hearts

(e) $3\heartsuit$ = Jacoby's transfer bid to spades (in the Czech bridge terminology, this transfer bid to spades transfer is called "Texas"). **The opener's bids** and the following bidding follow the same lines as in the preceding part (d).

(f) $2\spadesuit$ = Jacoby's transfer bid to \clubsuit

(g) $4\diamond$ (or $4\heartsuit$) = Jacoby's transfer to $4\heartsuit$ (or to $4\spadesuit$)

4. The bidding after the strong opening $2\clubsuit$

There are different ideas as to the first partner's response. One of the most stupid idea is based on announcing the partner's HCP strength as follows: $2\diamond = 0 - 2$ HCP, $2\heartsuit = 3 - 5$ HCP, $2\spadesuit = 6 - 8$ HCP, $2NT = 9 - 11$ HCP, etc. The stupidity can be illustrated by the following example: The opener bid $2\clubsuit$ with the hand

\spadesuit AKQJxx, \heartsuit AKJx, \diamond —, \clubsuit AKx

and the partner responded $2\spadesuit$ (an actual hand which I had and my partner used the scale of responses as introduced). I knew only that my partner had 6 – 8 HCP. It was a great probability that he had some HCP values in \diamond ; thus 3NT could be announced; however, with only 2 losing cards (one in diamonds and one in clubs) it would be a pity to stop the bidding on 3NT. Thus the natural bid (following the ideas of Acol to announce first the best suit) was $3\spadesuit$. Now, only good ideas of bidding allowed to choose the correct final bid, which was 3NT, because the partner had a singleton of spades and the spades in the oponents' hands were divided 10xxxx and x.

Not going in details, I think that the best scheme of answers is based on the following simple principle:

- (a) to answer $2\diamond$ with the strength 0 – 7 HCP
- (b) to answer 2NT with the strength at least 8 HCP and without a 5-card suit
- (c) to answer $2\heartsuit$ (or $2\spadesuit$, or $3\clubsuit$, or $3\diamond$) with the strength at least 8 HCP and with a 5-card suit

5. The bidding after the opening in a suit, i.e., after $1\diamond$, $1\heartsuit$, $1\spadesuit$

Not having 7 HCP, the partner can pass. If he has at least 3-card fit and 7 PCP (where PCP denotes "playing count points", where 1 PCP stands for a doubleton, 2 PCP stand for a singleton and 3 PCP stand for a chicane; and, of course, each HCP stands also for one PCP; it should be noted that in the case of a 4-card fit we count a singleton for 3 PCP and a chicane for 5 PCP) he can raise the suit of the opening, according the following rule:

- (a) **the 2nd level raise** = 7 – 10 PCP and a 3-card fit
- (b) **the 3rd level raise** = 11 – 13 PCP and a fit (if the fit consists only of three cards then it would be at least Txx, where T stands for a top-figure (i.e., A or

K or Q)

- (c) **the 4rd level raise** = 14 and more PCP and a fit (if the fit consists only of three cards then it would be at least Txx, where T stands for a top-figure)

If the partner has not a fit (or if the opening is $1\heartsuit$ and the partner expects more than $2\heartsuit$ or $3\heartsuit$) he has the following possibilities:

- (d) **one-over-one** = at least 7 HCP and a 4-card suite; a forcing for one round
- (e) **two-over-one** = at least (10)11 HCP and a 5-card suit; a forcing for one round. This answer can be given also in the case, when the partner has (after the openings $1\heartsuit$ or $1\spadesuit$) a weak 3-card fit xxx and only a 4-card suit in the answer two-over-one – he plans to jump in the second round of bidding to the third level of the suit of the opening.
- (f) **1NT** = 7 – 9 HCP, not having a fit, not having a possibility for one-over-one
- (g) **2NT** = 10 – 11(12) HCP, not having a fit; with a regular distribution
- (h) **3NT** = (12)13 and more HCP, not having a fit; with a regular distribution
- (i) **a new suit bid by a simple jump** = at least 18 HCP and at least a 5-card suit – an attempt for a slam (for example, $1\heartsuit - 2\heartsuit$, or $1\spadesuit - 3\clubsuit$)

6. The bidding after the opening $1\clubsuit$

This opening, owing to its different meanings, is a forcing for one round. The partner has the following possibilities:

- (a) $1\heartsuit = (1)$ the negative response announcing at the most 7 HCP; (2) extra strong hands with at least 17 HCP. (The partner expresses this possibility by a jump in NT (balanced hands) or in a suit). The opener has the following possibilities:

$1\heartsuit$ (or $1\spadesuit$) = a 4-card suit, a hand of type (a) or (b)

$1NT$ = a hand of type (d), i.e., 19 – 20 HCP, 4333 or 4432

$2\clubsuit$ = a hand of type (b) without a 4-card major suit (i.e., at least a 6-card suit of clubs or at least 5 clubs and 4 diamonds)

$2\heartsuit =$ free till April 17; **now:** an announcement of a strong three-suit hand 4441 (with a singleton in an arbitrary suit) with 16 – 20 HCP; in more detail see Remark (2)

$2\heartsuit$ (or $2\spadesuit$) = a hand of type (c), i.e., (16)17 – 20 HCP with a 5-card major

$3\clubsuit$ (or $3\heartsuit$) = a hand of type (c), i.e., (16)17 – 20 HCP with a 5-card minor

- (b) $1\heartsuit$ (or $1\spadesuit$) = a positive response guaranteeing at least a 4-card suit and 8 – 12 HCP; a forcing for one round
- (c) $2\clubsuit$ (or $2\heartsuit$) = a positive response guaranteeing at least a 5-card suit and 10 – 12 HCP; a forcing for one round
- (d) **1NT** = a positive response guaranteeing 8 – (9)10 HCP, without a 4-card major suit; not a forcing
- (e) **2NT** = a positive response guaranteeing 11 – 12 HCP, without a 4-card major suit; not a forcing
- (f) **3NT** = a positive response guaranteeing at least 13 HCP, without a 4-card major suit; not a forcing
- (g) **a new suit bid by a simple jump** = at least 18 HCP and at least a 5-card suit – an attempt for a slam (for example, $1\clubsuit - 2\heartsuit$, or $1\clubsuit - 3\clubsuit$, or $1\clubsuit - 3\heartsuit$)

- After positive responses $1\heartsuit$, $1\spadesuit$, 1NT , $2\clubsuit$, $2\diamond$ a bid in a new suit by a simple jump announces a hand of type (c), i.e., (16)17 – 20 HCP with a 5-card suit.
- After a positive response 1NT the opener's bid 2NT announces a hand with 15 HCP; the partner should bid 3NT with his maximum 10 HCP.
- The other rebids of the opener are again based on natural ideas.

Remarks: (1) It may happen that you opened $1\clubsuit$, your partner answered $1\diamond$ and you have 12 – 15 HCP and the distribution 4333 with a 4-card minor suit or the distribution 4432 with two minors. In this case your rebid should be a bid of your 3-card major suit ($1\heartsuit$ or $1\spadesuit$ – if you have both, then the better 3-card major). Your partner must count with this possibility and can pass only with a 4-card suit (or a longer suit) of your rebid. // If the bidding was $1\clubsuit$ – $1\diamond$, $1\heartsuit$ and you (as the partner of the opener) do not have at least four hearts but you have at least four cards in spades you should bid $1\spadesuit$. // If you do not have any 4-card major suit (and no 5-card minor suit) you must bid 1NT . // If you answered $1\diamond$ (after $1\clubsuit$) and the opener's rebid was $1\heartsuit$ or $1\spadesuit$ and you do not have a 4-card suit in the suit of the opener's rebid but you have a 5-card minor suit then bid it on the second level. // In addition, if you do not have a 4-card suit in the suit of the opener's rebid also no 5-card minor suit then you must bid 1NT . This is the weak point of the presented conception because the 1NT will be played by the player with the weaker hand. // The bidding sequences just described are necessary due to the bidding sequence $1\clubsuit$ – $1\diamond$, 1NT which announces the opener hand with 19 – 20 HCP and a distribution 4333 or 4432.

(2) There is one blind spot in the system just described: the opener's distributions 4441 (with the singleton in an arbitrary suit) and the strength beginning from 12 HCP and ending below 21 HCP (such strong hands are opened by $2\clubsuit$). In this case the opener must a little improvise (extemporize) and the partner must count every time with it. // (a) If the opener has 12 – 15 HCP and a 4-card diamond suit he can open $1\diamond$. // (b) If the opener has 12 – 15 HCP a singleton in diamonds he can open $1\clubsuit$. // (c) If the opener has 16 – 20 HCP and a singleton in an arbitrary suit he opens $1\clubsuit$ and if the partner answers $1\diamond$ the opener's rebid should be $2\diamond$ (till now this rebid has been free). The rebid $2\diamond$ does not guarantee a diamond suit, it announces the hand with a distribution 4441 and the strength 16 – 20 HCP. The partner with 0 – 5 HCP should bid economically his 4-card suit; if he has 6 – 7 HCP he should bid 2NT , which is his demand: "Opener, bid economically your distribution and strength!" The opener with 16 – 18 HCP bids his 4-card suit **above** his singleton. This means: $3\clubsuit = 1-4-4-4$, $3\diamond = 4-4-4-1$, $3\heartsuit = 4-4-1-4$ and $3\spadesuit = 4-1-4-4$. // If the opener has 19 – 20 HCP then there is at least 25 HCP on the line and the manche should be played. Just now I do not know the best remedy for this situation; however, I think that the best opener's rebid in this situation is 3NT , which only announces the opener's strength. The bidding depends now on the partner: he can pass (there is a certain risk in this decision) or he can bid his at least 4-card major suit (or a (good?) 5-card minor suit when he has no 4-card major). If the opener now bids the first close suit, he announces that he has a singleton in the partner's suit. This means that the opener's bid 4NT in the bidding sequence $1\clubsuit$ – $1\diamond$, $2\diamond$ – 2NT , 3NT – $4\spadesuit$, 4NT is not Blackwood but the announcement of the distribution 1-4-4-4. // (d) If the opener has a hand with at

least 21 HCP and a distribution 4441 he opens 2♣. After the negative response 2♦ his rebid in a suit usually announces a good (at least) 5-card suit; however, what to bid with a distribution 4441? In this poverty he can bid his 4-card major suit. There is also one additional possibility: the opener can jump by the bid 3♥ or 3♠ announcing by it that he has a singleton in the suit of the jump. (Think a little on other possibilities.)

7. The bidding of the defenders (interposing)

A. An interposing on the first level

Sometimes it is sufficient to have only 9 HCP. For example, after the openings 1♣, 1♦ or 1♥ we can say 1♠ with the hand

AQxxx, xx, xxx, Kxx.

If the partner has only **Kxx** in spades, then the opposers with balanced hands cannot to succeed in 3NT.

Some players like to interpose only with a 4-card suit. For example, my partner opened 1♦ and the first opposer bid 1♥ with

xxx, KQ10x, 10xxx, Ax.

I bid 2♣ with the hand

KQ, xx, xxx, KJ10xxx

and the second opposer said 2♥ with only 10 HCP and a 4-card fit containing the ace of hearts. After my 3♣ the second opposer raised to 3♥ which was successful after not very exact play from our hands.

Usually, the upper bound for an interposing on the first level is 13 HCP with a 5-card suit (and there is a lack of shortness in the suit of the opening bid – with the shortness in the suit of the opening bid and at least 12 HCP we prefer the “informative” **double**).

B. An interposing on the second level without a jump

The suit of the interposing bid is of a lower rank than the suit of the opening. It is recommended to give such an interposing with at least 11 HCP and a solid 5-card suit (or longer).

C. The informative double

With a shortness in the suit of the opening (usually a singleton) it is sufficient to have 11 – 12 HCP (the upper bound of HCP is unlimited; the stronger the hand, the weaker the requirement concerning the shortness in the suit of the opening).

If the player, after his informative double, jumps in his own suit in the second round of the bidding then he announces usually at least 17 HCP with a 6-card suit. (If his suit consists of seven cards then the requirement concerning the HCP is lowered. This is important mainly in the case of a jump in a major suit.) For example, we can double and then jump in spades if we have a hand of the type

AKJxxxx, x, AQ10x, x.

If the player, after his informative double, bids his own suit without a jump, he announces a hand with at least 12 – 13 HCP and a solid 5-card suit (or longer).

D. The interposing 1NT

The requirement concerning the HCP is 16 – 18 HCP. The hand must not contain a singleton and must contain a stopper in the suit of the opening. Usually the hand is balanced; however, from tactical reasons we can interpose with 1NT (after the opening 1♥) also with an unbalanced hand, as for example

Ax, KJx, xx, AQJxxx, Kx.

After the interposing 1NT the second opposer bids naturally, i.e., no Jacoby's transfers are valid.

E. The interposing by a simple jump in a suit

This type of interposing does not promise a strong hand (from the viewpoint of HCP); it guarantees only a solid suit (at least with six cards of the strength as, for example, AQJxxx – or better a 7-card suit AQJxxxx); the hand contains usually 11 – 12 HCP.

F. Special types of interposing

2NT announces usually a hand with at the most 11 HCP and at least two 5-card minors. The second opposer chooses either 3♣, or 3♦. Only with a strong hand he raises to 3NT.

I like to bid (as an opposer) 2♣ (after 1♣) or 2♦ (after 1♦) with a hand containing at least two 5-card majors (as AJxxx and KJxxx) and at the most 11 HCP.

G. An interposing after the preceding pass

Let us consider an example: East opened 1♦ and South did not bid with the hand

S: K875, A87643, 10, 106.

West bid 1 NT, North did not bid and East's rebid was 2♣. Now South interposed with 2♥ (**an interposing after the preceding pass with a promising distribution and not many HCP**). West did not bid and North (to a surprise of South) raised to 3♥. Three passes followed. This example appeared on GIB random hands, I was the South and West invited ♦3. The dummy appeared as follows:

N: Q2, K92, J842, KJ92.

To play 3♥ with 17 HCP on the line only, it is a courage. The hands of the opposers were as follows:

W: A96, J105, 8753, Q53

E: J1043, Q, AKQ9, A742.

I and the GIB defenders played in the following way:

01.	W	♦3	♦2	♦Q	♦2
02.	E	♥Q	♥3	♥5	♥K
03.	N	♦4	♦9	♥4	♦5
04.	S	♣10	♣3	♣9	♣A
05.	E	♠4	♠5	♠A	♠2
06.	W	♥J	♥2	♣2	♥6
07.	W	♣7	♣9	♣7	♣6
08.	N	♥9	♣2	♥A	♥10
09.	S	♠7	♠9	♠Q	♠3
10.	N	♣K	♦A	♠8	♣Q
11.	N	♣J	♠J	♠K	♦7
12.	N	♦6	♦K	♥7	♦8
13.	S	♥8	♦3	♦J	♦9

Just made. (An interposing after the preceding pass is often a very successful bridge weapon.)

8. The bidding of North when South opened and West interposed

We assume that the players on the line West – East bid a system similar to our system BBO.

A. South opened in a suit on the first level and West gave the informative double

The North's strongest bid is **redouble** which announces at least 10 HCP; as to the North's distribution, it is arbitrary.

North's bidding with hands having less than 10 HCP:

(a) **South opened 1♣:** (1) With 0 – 7 HCP and a regular distribution North can **pass**. (2) With 4 – 7 HCP and at least a 5-card suit North can bid this suit with a simple jump. (3) With 8 – 9 HCP and (at least) a 4-card major suit North can bid this suit on the first level. (4) With 8 – 9 HCP, without a major suit and with a regular (or semiregular) distribution North bids 1NT.

(b) **South opened 1♦:** (1) With a fit in diamonds and 8 – 9 HCP North can raise to 2♦. (2) With a fit in diamonds and 5 – 7 HCP North usually raises to 3♦ (a block). (3) **one-over-one** = 8 – 9 HCP, at least a 4-card major suit (with a distributional hand North can bid his major also with 6 – 7 HCP). (4) **2♣** = **two-over-one**, 7 – 9 HCP, at least a 5-card suit. (5) in other cases usually **pass**.

(c) **South opened 1♥ or 1♠:** (1) With a fit and 6 – 7 HCP North can raise to the second level. (2) With a fit and 8 – 9 HCP North can raise to the third. (3) With a good fit, a distribution and 9 – 10 HCP North can raise to the fourth level. (4) **one-over-one** = 8 – 9 HCP, at least a 4-card suite in spades. (5) **two-over-one** = 8 – 9 HCP, at least a 5-card suit. (6) in other cases **pass**.

B. South opened 1NT and West doubled

In this case West has usually at least 16 HCP. The North's **redouble** announces at least 7 HCP; the North's distribution is arbitrary. Other North's bids (usually

in a suit on the second level) denotes a hand with 0 – 6 HCP a a length in the suit bid.

C. South opened in a suit and West bid another suit on the first level

West **one-over-one** guarantees at least 8 HCP, **1NT** = 8 – 10 HCP, a regular distribution and a stopper in the West's suit, **2NT** = 11 – 12 HCP, a regular distribution and a stopper in the West's suit, **two-over-one** guarantees at least 10 – 11 HCP and a 5-card suit. Both one-over-one and two-over-one are forcing on one round. (It should be noted that the West's bid may be given with 9 HCP only.)

D. South opened in a suit and West bid another suit on the second level

There are two possibilities how to treat this situation: (1) The West's bid on the second level (as, for example, S: 1♦ W: 2♣ N: 2♠) guarantees 8 – 11 HCP and a 5-card suit. **It is not a forcing.** Only a simple jump (as for example, S: 1♦ W: 2♣ N: 3♠) is a forcing (here both for one round and for the game).

(2) The West's bid on the second level (as, for example, S: 1♦ W: 2♣ N: 2♠) guarantees at least 10 – 11 HCP and a 5-card suit. **It is a forcing for one round.**

E. South opened 1♣ or 1♦ and West bid 1♠

This situation occurs very often; thus we must discuss it. It happens that without West's interposing 1♠ North would bid 1♥. The remedy of the situation S: 1♣ (or 1♦), W: 1♠, N: ?? is the **negative double** of North: **N: double**. This double informs South that North has at least 8 HCP and a 4-card of hearts. (Some players on North informs by this double that North has also and at least a 4-card in the second minor suit. We decline from this convention.) This **informative double** is a semiforcing: South can pass if he has a very good 4-card in spades.