

**Rationale**

You are responder and hold this hand. The auction proceeds as follows

♠AKT65	1C	1S
♥A42	1NT	?
♦K7	How will you proceed?	
♣T43		

If you bid 3NT, you may miss a 5-3 spade fit.  
 If you rebid 2S, partner will pass!  
 If you rebid 3S, partner might expect a six card suit.  
 One bid which probably won't occur to you is to rebid 2D. Even if you haven't agreed to play the convention *New Minor Forcing (NMF)*, what can go wrong?  
 Sure partner will expect you to have a 4 card diamond suit and might raise them. In that case, you will rebid 3NT which should finish the auction.

Look on the bright side:-

- Partner knows you have 5 spades because with 4-4, you would not bid the higher suit first. He is well placed to give you a 3 card raise.
- 2D is forcing. "A change of suit by an unpassed responder is forcing" is a cornerstone to our bidding system.
- Partner is aware that you have 10+ HCP for your new suit at the two level.
- It leaves a response of 1S followed by responder rebidding 3S can be used as "forcing with a SIX card suit"
- If responder fails to use the New Minor Forcing convention and simply rebids his suit, it is weak and "to play".

1C 1H  
 1NT 2H Responder has failed to rebid 2D.  
 This means he has less than 10 HCP & 5 or 6 hearts.  
 We say that 2H "begs to be dropped". It is like a weak takeout of NT. With confidence that the bid will be dropped, responders will be happy to rebid 2H with as little as 5-6 HCP!

- If you and partner agree to play NMF, the bid must be alerted.

- If opener rebids in the other minor, NMF is clearly not available to you. (NMF is only a responder's convention). You're not beaten yet. You can rebid in the other major which will be 4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing. Again, opener will get the idea that you have 5 of your original major. Using the above hand again:-

1D	1S	Can you work out what torture
2C!	2H!	is going on here?
3H	3NT	

Lesson 15 says that 1D and rebid 2C can be 5-4 either way. Hence, the alert. 2H is 4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing but could be natural. Opener has raised the 4<sup>th</sup> suit below the level of 3NT because he holds 4 of them. See Lesson 10. It follows that opener holds 1444 or 0445 or 0454 shape.

Try bidding these hands. West is dealer.

♠QT4	♠AJ632	1C	1S
♥A54	♥K3	1NT	2D!
♦Q83	♦AT4	2S	4S
♣A543	♣987		

OK, 4S may not make and 3NT may be better.

♠AK7	♠T42	1D	1H
♥Q2	♥A9876	1NT	2C!
♦T842	♦AK6	3C <sup>1</sup>	3S! <sup>2</sup>
♣AJ32	♣Q3	3NT <sup>3</sup>	P

<sup>1</sup>2C could be genuine, so opener raises. If he held 3 hearts, he would prefer to bid hearts.

<sup>2</sup>4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing. Opener is showing a lot of minor cards. Responder is worried that the spades are wide open.

<sup>3</sup>With spades well held, opener's rebid is clear.

♠632	♠K654	1C	1H
♥Q2	♥AKT65	1NT	2S <sup>1</sup>
♦AQ8	♦76	2NT	3NT
♣KQT43	♣A5		

OK, you could rebid 3D. Yes, opener denied 4 spades when he rebid 1NT. However, this auction confirms that you have 5-4 and opener can rebid knowing that the spades are held. This way he knows that he must protect the diamonds without help from you.

♠AQ9	♠42	1D	1H
♥Q42	♥AKT65	2NT	3C!
♦AK73	♦Q43	3H	4NT
♣AJ4	♣K32	5C	5D
		5S	6H

NMF works fine here. However, the slam may be better played by the strong hand which is now on the table. It still has many chances.

♠742	♠T53	1C	1H
♥Q82	♥AJ764	1NT	2H
♦K52	♦8643	P <sup>1</sup>	
♣AK63	♣4		

<sup>1</sup>This pass should be automatic.

You only responded because you couldn't stand 1C, (if opener had rebid 1S, you were going to pass that too). This hand belongs to the opponents. Try not to go too many off. At least opener won't see your hand!

♠65	♠K72	1D	1H
♥K2	♥AJ8764	2C!	3H
♦KQ764	♦A85	4H	P
♣A952	♣4		

Not much point in showing a six card suit if opener won't raise you with two. An easy sequence

♠A75	♠62	1D	2C <sup>1</sup>
♥Q83	♥AK62	2NT	3H <sup>2</sup>
♦KQ76	♦85	3NT <sup>3</sup>	
♣K72	♣AQ843		

<sup>1</sup>Responder has sufficient values to show the hearts on the next round. So, he bids out his shape.

<sup>2</sup>Remember, opener wouldn't show a major unless he holds extra values (If you follow Lesson 7)

<sup>3</sup>Yes, a spade probably be led after this sequence.

As a general principle, it is best to bid out your hands for the partnership to make good decisions, rather than worrying about giving info to the opponents.