

Watson Bridge Index

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/bridge-index.htm>

Skipping Diamonds

From Section 39.10 of Two Over One Fourth Edition
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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/SkippingDiamonds.pdf>

W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1NT	all pass	1♣	P	1♦	P
				1NT	all pass		

East should not skip any four-card suit, including diamonds, to bid 1NT. His partner must be given the chance to bid 1NT first, so that any Notrump contract is right sided and played by the stronger hand.

However, East must skip a four or five-card diamond suit to bid a four-card major unless he also has a full opener. This is done in case there is a high preempt, and the opener will be able to better compete if he knows the major.

The only time a player responds 1♦ with a four-card major is when he has a full opener, or he has six diamonds and intends to rebid 2♦.

A diamond response requests that his partner skips any four-card major with a balanced 12 to 14 points to rebid 1NT. Since 1♦ denies a major unless a full opener, the 1NT bidder can keep his major holdings hidden and protected on the opening lead. Therefore, if he still bids a major over 1♦, his hand is not balanced.

1NT over 1♣ is best kept to 8 to 10 with no four-card diamonds, hearts nor spades. Responding 1NT over 1♣ with 6 to 7 not only puts 1NT in jeopardy because of the lack of 22 points but also because the lead of a major goes through partner's

majors. Without a four-card major and adequate club support, and with 6 to 7 HCP, East responds 1♦. He rarely may have three diamonds.

An Opener Opposite an Opener

An opener opposite an opener must get to a game or the four-level in a minor. Therefore, after 1♣-1♦-1NT, four-card majors are bid up the line in a game forcing auction.

W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1♦	P
1NT	P	2♥	P
3♥	P	4♥	all pass

West does not deny a four-card major, but East does if he does not have a full opener. However, East has four hearts and a full opener. 2♥ is 100% game forcing.

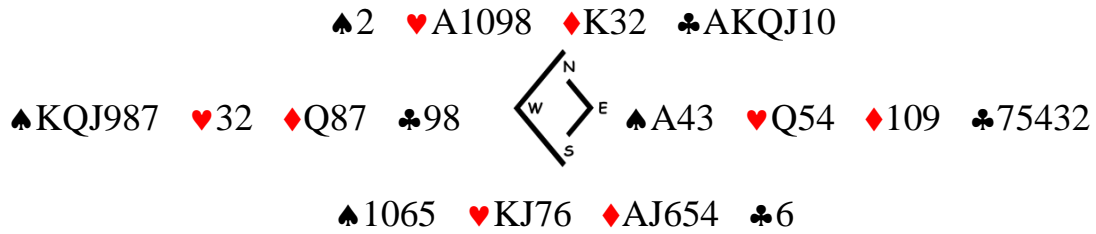
Do Not Invite with 10

Furthermore, 2NT becomes 11 to 12 when the opener has shown a balanced 12 to 14. 1NT, by the opener, is passed with 6 to 10.

W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1♠	P	1♣	P	1♠	P
1NT	all pass			1NT	P	2NT	

Example 39.7: Skipping Five Diamonds

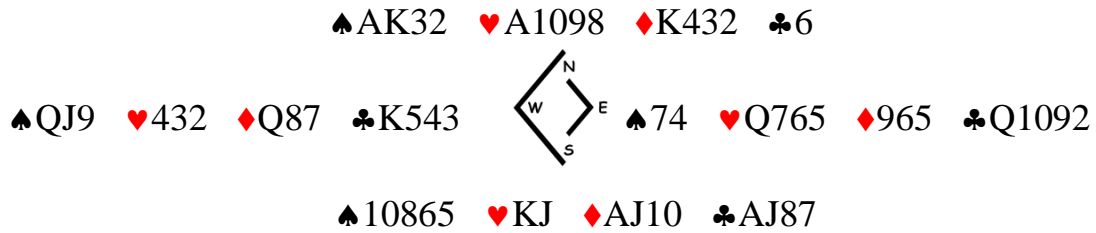
E-W vul.



	W	N	E	S		W	N	E	S
		1♣	P	1♦			1♣	P	1♥
	2♠	3♣	P	??		2♠	4♥	all pass	

Example 39.8: Four-Card Majors Up the Line

E-W vul.



	W	N	E	S
				1♣
	P	1♦	P	1NT
	P	2♥	P	2♠
	P	3♠	P	4♣
	P	4♥	P	5♦
	P	6♠	all pass	