

Jacoby 2NT & Splinters

The Traditional Treatment

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/Workshops/Jacoby2NT&Splinters.pdf>

In Standard American:

- | | | |
|----|----|--|
| 1♠ | 2♠ | 6-9 with three-card support |
| 1♠ | 3♠ | Limit 10-12 with four-card support |
| | | Is it HCP's or not? -Not!-you have a fit so use shortness. |
| | | Does partner have honours in your short suit? Hope Not! |
| 1♠ | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♠ | Limit 10-12 with three-card support |
| | | New suit at two-level shows 10+ and promises a rebid |
| 1♠ | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♠ | Still 10-12 but just a preference for Spades over Diamonds. Could be two Spades. |

The usual strong forcing major raise:

Partner opens 1♠ and you have support (3+ cards) and 13+ HCP's. Bid a new suit at the two-level over partner's major and then jump to game.

- | | | |
|----|----|--|
| 1♠ | 2♦ | |
| 2♥ | 4♠ | Game Forcing values never pre-emptive. |

A better auction to give room for possible slam exploration uses FSF

- | | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|
| 1♠ | 2♦ | |
| 2♥ | 3♣ | New Suit at three-level is GF |
| | | Fourth Suit is also GF |

3♦ 3♠

Direct Jump to game:

- Direct jumps to game are usually weak.
1♥ 4♥ shows: 5 card support
0-8 HCP's
singleton (when vulnerable)
could be four-card support with a void and 0-8 HCP's

This is usually being bid to go down. Therefore, with the boss suit, spades, one may venture only 2♠ (5-9) when vulnerable and no singletons.

In Competition:

- If opponents compete, cuebid is limit plus and jumps are weak (Law of Total Tricks, etc)

W	N	E	S	
	1♠	2♦	3♦	S has 10+ and 3 card support

W	N	E	S	
	1♥	2♣	3♥	S is weak with 4-card support (4cs)

W	N	E	S	
	1♠	2♥	4♠	S is weak with 5-card or 4cs and a void

Jacoby 2NT

12+ HCP (Actually any hand that would open in first or second seat)

Four-card major support

No singletons or voids (Splinters)

1♠ 2NT

3♦ Singleton or void in diamonds, 12+HCP outside of diamonds

1♠ 2NT

4♣ A good five-card suit that is a source of tricks

AKQxx, AKJxx, KQJxx, AQ10xx

One also has a stiff or void, but the suit is more important to one's hand.

Rebids after Jacoby:

By either partner:

- Jumps to game in the major are minimum (12-14)
- A bid of another game, 3NT (not to play ever) (15-17)
- A bid of three of one's major is 18+

- Other bids are cuebids showing first round control.
 - Responder cannot show another suit after responding 2NT
 - If you skip a suit, you are missing that control (Ace or void).

Simpler System of Rebids

- Jumps to game in the major are minimum (11-14)
 - Or opener has wasted values (King or Queen) in partner's singleton
- A bid of three of one's major is extra values (15+) and starts cuebidding
- A bid of 3NT can be keycard Blackwood but usually it is just extra values as well and asks partner to start cuebidding. Perhaps the person who bid 3NT wants to hear about Clubs.

The Coup de Grace

Note: With either:

Axxx, xxx opposite x, or
xxxx, xxx, etc opposite x

27 points are needed for slam. (mathematical fact-just as much as 33 is)

Check for keycards, then bid slam.

Remember:

- Blackwood (keycard or Standard) is not a slam finder. It just makes sure you are not in slam missing two aces.
- To use Blackwood, you must be in the slam ball park.
- Blackwood is not done with a void or a suit with two quick losers (worthless doubleton, etc).

Shortness Points

Declarer points	3	2	1	(void, singleton, doubleton)
Dummy points	5	3	1	(void, singleton, doubleton)

However, in actual practice, what is a singleton diamond worth in a 4♠ contract on a scale from very very good to very very bad? If:

You have 4 trump and partner has:

♦ Axxx	♦ KJxx	♦ QJxxx	♦ QJ10xxx	♦ AKQxx	♦ xxxx	♦ xx	♦ x
vg	vzb	vb	b	b	vg	g	b

You have 3 trump.	g
You have 2 trump or fewer	vzb
Opponent leads trump.	vb
Opponents lead a small trump from ♠ Axx and hold the Ace♦	vzb

Splinters

11-14 HCP

Any stronger and slam may be missed. One should not eat up room that is needed for slam exploration.

Four-card major support
singleton or void in the suit double jump-shifted into.

1♥ then 3♠, 4♣ or 4♦
1♠ then 4♣, 4♦ or 4♥.

"Warren, do not splinter with a hand with enough for Jacoby 2NT" Gard Hays, Veradale, Wa

Inference

Some feel that if partner opens One of a major and one has four-card support, one is obliged to immediately show this support through a limit raise, Jacoby 2NT or a splinter bid.

I disagree. Three things lead to slams where most may not suspect, but now, reading this, they should:

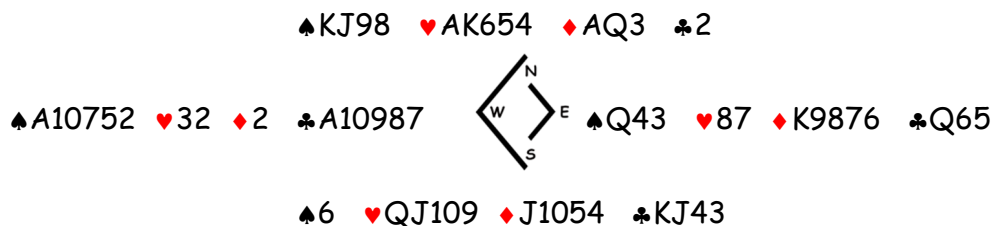
- A nine-card fit or better
- Shortness and no wasted values
- A double fit

Sometimes, one will forgo using Jacoby 2NT to find out about secondary fits. It is harder to investigate secondary fits after support has been shown because bids of the side suits now shows controls not length. The obvious exception is the following bidding:

W	N	E	S
1♠	P	2NT	P
4♦	P	4♠	All Pass

Board 1 Show a Singleton

North Dealer None Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1♥	P	2NT	P
3♣	P	4♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♥8

Analysis:

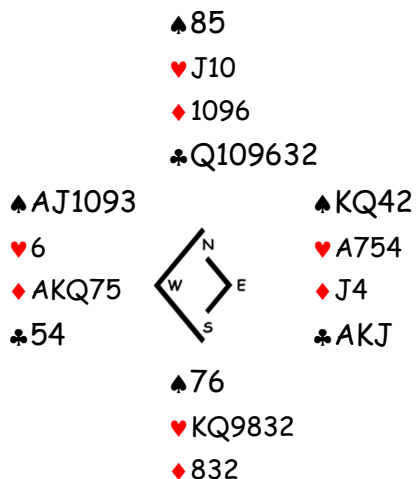
Jump to game when there is wasted honours opposite shortness.
Draw trump and play a small ♣ to dummy.

Result:

4♥= +420

Board 7 Strong Second Suit

South Dealer Both Vulnerable



♣87

	W	E	
12+ 5 spades	1♠	2NT	13+ HCP
strong side diamond suit (5+ cards)	4♦	4♥	Ace of hearts
minimum hand, to play	4♠	4NT	0314
two keycards without the Q♠	5♥	5NT	We have all the keycards and the Q♠
one king	6♦	7♠	

I have not shown North and South's bidding because the bids are all passes. Correct?

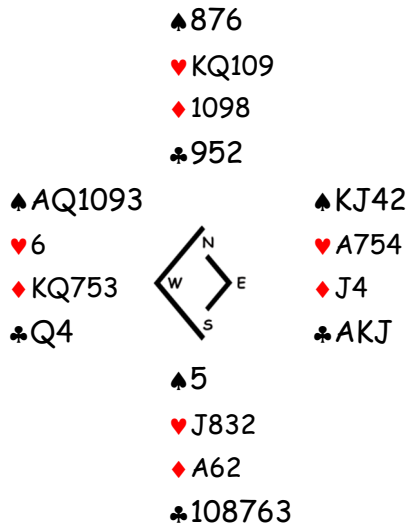
One should never use keycard Blackwood with a void or two quick losers in any suit (worthless doubleton, et cetera) because one needs to know which aces not how many. However, West has shown a strong five-card Diamond suit with his 4♦ bid.

Board 8

Slam Interest with Three of Major

West Dealer

None Vulnerable



	W	E	
	1♠	2NT	13+
singleton heart	3♥	3♠	18+ "start cuebidding aces P"
"no side-suit first round control, P"	4♠	5♣	1 st round Club control
2 nd round Diamond control	5♦	6♠	to play, missing an ace


Note:

The Blackwood convention (keycard or Standard) is not a slam generator. One can have all the Aces and even all of the Kings and game may still be a struggle if you have no long suit and no Queens or Jacks. To use Blackwood effectively, one must be in the Slam Ball Park and one is just checking that the opponents cannot cash two Aces to set the contract.

Board 9

North Dealer

East West Vulnerable

	♠---		
	♥10987		
	♦KQ9832		
	♣Q107		
♠KQ42		♠AJ1093	
♥A6542		♥KQ3	
♦4		♦A75	
♣A32		♣64	
	♠8765		
	♥J		
	♦J106		
	♣KJ985		

If West elects to use a splinter bid:

	N	E	S	W	
	P	1♠	P	4♦	13+
Rdbl = 1 st round ♦ control	Dbl	Rdbl	P	4NT	keycard ask
3 keycards	P	5♣	P	6♠	to play
	All Pass				

Notes:

- A double of opponent's splinter bid is not for a lead. It tells partner of interest to sacrifice in the suit.
- You categorically do not lead a suit the opponents have a void or singleton. It may set up tricks for discards.
- A redouble of any lead-directive or value-showing double shows 1st round control and a Pass is just letting partner redouble if he can.

However, West can evaluate his hand to 16 points, and even at 15 points, his hand is too strong to splinter. He should use Jacoby 2NT leaving more room for slam exploration.

	N	E	S	W	
	P	1♠	P	2NT	13+
3♠ = 15+	P	3♠	P	4♣	♣ first round control
♦ first round control	P	4♦	P	4♥	♥ first round control
	P	4♠	P	5♦	♦ second round control
					Skipped 5♣-no ♣ 2 nd round control
	P	5♥	P	6♠	♥ second round control
	All Pass				

Now, let's bid this example using a third way with Standard American and see where that gets us:

	N	E	S	W	
	P	1♠	P	2♥	
	P	4♥	P	4NT	0314 key card Blackwood
0 or 3 key cards	P	5♣	P	5♦	Queen ask
Yes ♥Q, no Kings	P	6♥	P	6NT	
	All Pass				

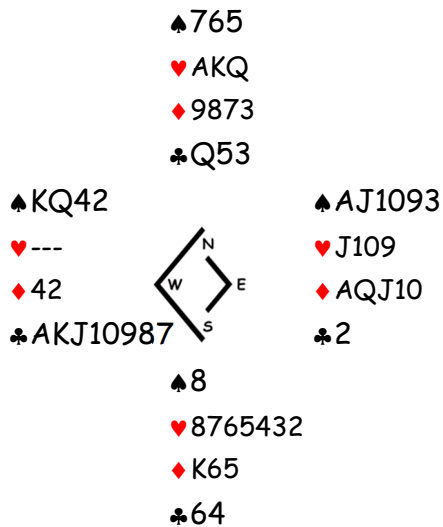
West can count 12 tricks, five Spades, five Hearts, two side Aces and no side Kings. One plays 6NT to avoid the distant possibility of a ruff on the opening lead. With one minor King, West would bid 7NT.

This example has shown three ways to get to the same place. Had a grand been available, only the secondary fit method finds it easily.

Board 10 Delayed Splinter

East Dealer

Both Vulnerable



	N	E	S	W	
		1♠	P	2NT	East is too strong to splinter (15+ points)
Club singleton or void	P	3♣	P	4♥	Void in Hearts and West knows East was too Strong to splinter.
	P	4NT	P	5♠	
We have 6 keycards	P	5NT	P	6♣	specific king
2 nd round ♦ control?	P	6♦	P	6♥	No. 6NT=Yes the King, 7♠=Yes a stiff.
	P	6♠	P	7♠	There has to be 7 here.
	All Pass				

If West is silly enough to try 7♣ not 7♠, does North double?

Of course not. You never double a contract that will go down when others are likely to make. If West bids 7♣, North is happy they are where they are and passes.

Board 11 Jacoby the Best

South Dealer

None Vulnerable

♠76
 ♥AKQ9
 ♦J76432
 ♣10

♠AJ1093 ♥10 ♦A105 ♣QJ32		♠KQ42 ♥J ♦98 ♣AK8765
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♠85
 ♥8765432
 ♦KQ
 ♣94

In Standard American:

N	E	S	W
		P!	1♠
P	2♣	P	3♣
P	4NT	P	5♠
P	6♠	All Pass	

In Two-Over-One Game Forcing:

N	E	S	W
		P!	1♠
P	2♣	P	3♥
P	4NT	P	5♠
P	6♠	All Pass	

Splinter showing ♥ shortness and 4 ♣'s
Two key cards with ♣Queen

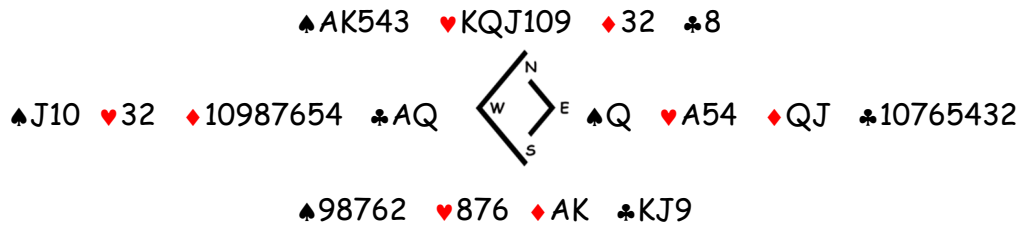
With Jacoby 2NT:

N	E	S	W	
		P!	1♠	
P	2NT	P	3♥	♥ shortness
P	4♣	P	4♦	
P	4♠	All Pass		

Jacoby 2NT may not even get the partnership to slam. Each have Heart shortness which is a duplication of assets. A Diamond loser, A Heart loser and a possible Club loser make game look tenuous.

Board 1 Internal not External Strength

West Dealer None Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
			P!!
1♠	P	2NT	P
4♥	P	4♠	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♦10

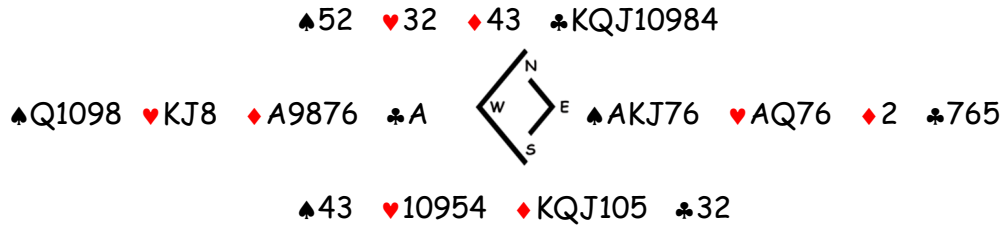
Analysis:

Preempts have points in the preempt suit not outside suits especially if weak.
 One shows a decent second suit at the four-level after Jacoby 2NT.
 Draw trump and set up ♥'s.

Board 2 Too Strong to Splinter

East Dealer

North South Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♠	P	2NT
3♣	4♦	P	4NT
P	5♣	P	5NT
P	6♠	P	7♠

All Pass

Opening Lead: 4♠

They have trump all sewn up so the lead gives nothing away. ♦King is fine but opponents have a singleton or void.

Analysis:

West is too strong to Splinter. Use Jacoby 2NT.

Also one does not Splinter with a singleton AKQ.

