LESSON 2: STUDENT NOTES

Opening 1 NT

Opening 1NT – 12-14 Balanced

You must always check if you have a 1NT opener, before you open 1 of a suit.

Open 1NT on **all** balanced 12-14 HCP hands no matter where your honours are placed.

A balanced hand contains:

- **no** void or singleton
- **one** doubleton at most
- **no** 5-card major
- may have a 5-card minor

Examples of balanced hands are:

- 4333
- 4432
- 3325 the 5-card suit **must** be a **MINOR** suit

1NT is a **limit bid**. Its shape and strength are known – a limit bid is **not** forcing.
This means that the responder is usually in charge and Opener may not bid again.

Responses to 1NT Opening

Balanced hands

Pass	0-10	no Game possible
2NT	11-12	invite to 3NT
3NT	13+	bid Game

Unbalanced hands

2♣/2♦/2♥/2♠	0-10	5+ card suit – called a **weakness take-out** *
2NT	11	invite to 3NT
3♥/3♠	12+	**game forcing** with 5-card suit **
4♥/4♠	12+	game values with 6+ suit
5♣/5♦	16+	game values with 6+ good suit

* Responder does not have interest in game or any wish to play in notrumps.
Opener **must pass**, even with support.

** Opener chooses which game to play.
With 3 or 4 card support - they will bid the major game
With only 2 card support - they will bid 3NT

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Play of the hand: Playing a side suit

Declarer Play – Finding those tricks

Count how many sure tricks you have and work out how many more you need.
Try and work out how to establish the extra tricks needed.
Establishing your longest and/or strongest suit is the most common approach.

Establish your longest/strongest suit

Contract 1NT by EAST – lead ♦Q by SOUTH

WEST	EAST
♠ AJ53	♠ 97
♥ Q43	♥ J65
♦ 943	♦ AK8
♣ K76	♣ A9843

Win ♦A and then play on your longest/strongest suit (clubs)
You will need to lose a club to establish the suit and generate 4 winners

Establish a side suit

Contract 4♥ by EAST – lead ♠K by SOUTH

WEST	EAST
♠ 832	♠ A96
♥ A3	♥ KQJ642
♦ A65	♦ J4
♣ KJ843	♣ Q2

Win ♠A, draw trumps and then play on your longest/strongest suit (clubs)
Playing the club suit allows you to discard a diamond loser

Play the honour from the short hand first

Does it matter how you play the honours as you establish a suit – answer is **yes**
In the example below – you **must** play ♣Q first, then cross over to the ♣K

Contract 3NT by EAST – lead ♠K by SOUTH

WEST	EAST
♠ 832	♠ A76
♥ 93	♥ AK72
♦ 865	♦ A1097
♣ AKJ43	♣ Q2

If you play ♣A or ♣K first, then cross back to the ♣Q, you will be cut off from dummy and will not be able to enjoy the club winners