



# Adventures in Bridge

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## ***This Week in Bridge***

### **(166) Responding to 1-Major with 5-card Support**

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Level: 1

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#### **General**

When partner opens a 5-card Major and we have 5-card support we often want to apply the Law of Total Tricks (LOTT) and jump to 4-Major, but we need to balance this with showing partner the values of our hand. We do this so that partner can judge whether to compete in the bidding or if slam is possible. This requires a delicate balance and careful selection of bids by Responder. Before developing this judgment, we must know our responding options when we have 5-card support, what each of these options show, and what else we should be considering to make our choice.

#### **Responder's Options with 5-card Major Suit Support**

As Responder we have many bids that show support for partner, but most promise fewer card support than 5. The key is to figure out how to use these options with 5-card support. The general rule is our extra trump are worth about 2 additional HCP.

- 1M - 2M
  - Constructive Raise, usually showing a good 7 to a bad 10 points with 3-4 card support. With 5-card support, use this vulnerable with 5332 distribution and about 6-7 HCP.
- 1M - 3M
  - Limit Raise, showing 10 to a bad 12 points and 4-card support. With 5-card support, use this with 5332 distribution and about 8-9 HCP.
- 1M - 4M
  - Preemptive Raise, showing about 0-9 HCP with 5-card support. When vulnerable you usually have shortness.
- 1M - Double Jump Shift\*

- Splinter, usually showing 11-14 HCP with 4-card support and shortness. With 5-card support use this with a good 9 to a bad 13 HCP.
  
- 1M – 2NT\*
  - Jacoby 2NT, usually showing 12+ points with 4-card support. With 5-card support and a balanced hand, use this with 13+ pts; with shortness, use it with a good 10+ pts.

### **Competitive Auction with 5-Card Support**

When RHO makes a takeout double or an overcall, the auction has become competitive and we may choose to jump to game a bit lighter or a bit heavier than normal, hoping to put the opponents to a guess without risking missing a slam, since slam is less likely when the opponents have shown values.

### **Conclusion**

When holding 5-card support for partner's Major suit opening, it can be difficult to describe your hand effectively. With practice and judgment, you will learn to re-evaluate these hands and carefully select the best description of the hand using your bidding tools. Preprocessing your options and having some agreements ready to help you describe these hands will help you with these bidding decisions.