

## Forcing Bids (New Minor Forcing and Fourth Suit Forcing)

(These bids can only be used by responder, not the opener)

### New Minor Forcing (NMF) **Alertable!**

- Partner opens **1 of a minor ...** indicating 12+ HCPs and no 5-card major
  - ✓ *as responder ... you bid 1 of your major ...* indicating 6+ HCPs and at least 4 cards in the major
- Partner responds **1 NT** with less than 15 HCPs (or **2NT** with 18 or 19 HCPs), denying 4 cards in your major suit
  - ✓ *as responder ... your second bid is (NMF) 2 of the unbid minor* indicating you have 5 cards in your major suit with at least 10-11 HCPs. This is an artificial bid and says nothing about your holding in the unbid minor.
    - You could hold AKQ or have a void
- Responses to NMF ***Partner must ALERT your bid as NMF!*** (i.e., my partner's bid is artificial asking about my major suits and forcing for one round)
  - with 4 cards in the other major, bid the other major
  - allows you to find a 4-4 fit in hearts if spades were bid and NMF signaled 5 spades
  - new suit is forcing for one round which still will allow you to show 3-card spades support with your next bid
  - without 4 cards in the other major, but 3-card support for partner's major, raise partner's major to the appropriate level including any distribution points to your HCPs
  - with neither of the above ...
  - with a "stopper" in the other major and the new minor suit (Note: NMF is artificial) bid 2NT over partner's 1NT (or 3NT over partner's 2NT)
  - without a "stopper" in both the other major and the new minor suit rebid your first suit
  - with an opening hand or better and neither of the above ...
  - must be in game and possibly slam! (at least 18 + 12 HCPs)
  - bid 3NT and a "stopper" in the other major and new minor suit (note: NMF is artificial)
  - If you don't have a stopper in both suits, bid the suit where you have a stopper at the 3 level (partner will convert to 3NT with a stopper in the other suit or raise one of the suits even if it may be a seven card fit)

### When NOT to use NMF

- with only 4 cards in your major suit ...
  - and a minimal hand, you would pass 1 NT
  - with no 6 card suit and 10 or 11 HCP, you would raise to 2NT (or 3NT if partner rebid 2NT) inviting game if partner is on a maximum for the NT bid
  - with 6 or more cards in your major suit (and a hand not suited for NT) rebid your major suit
- Don't use NMF in a competitive auction
- Partnership agreement to use or not if either partner is a passed hand

**Example:**

1:	S Kxx H AQJxx D xx C Ax	Partner 1C 1NT	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1H ???	LHO pass pass	A: 2D (NMF) <b>Partner must ALERT!</b>
2:	S AKQJx H Jxxx D xx C xx	Partner 1D 1NT	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1S ???	LHO pass pass	A: 2C (NMF) <b>Partner must ALERT!</b>
3:	S AJxx H Q10x D Axx C xxx	Partner 1C 1NT	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1S ???	LHO pass pass	A: 2NT (only 4 cards in the major inviting NT game)
4:	S 10xx H AQJxx D Ax C xxx	Partner 1C 1NT	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1H ???	LHO 1S pass	A: <u>Don't use NMF in competition</u> <b>pass</b> ; partner must have 1 or 2 "stoppers" in spades and your team must hold at least 22+ HCPs Your hand delivers at least 3 tricks
5:	S KJxxx H x D Qxx C xxxx	Partner 1D 2NT	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1S ???	LHO pass pass	A: 3C (indicating 5 spades and inviting game in spades with 3 card support or 3NT with a club stopper)
6:	S KJx H Qxx D AQxx C Jxx	Partner 1H 2C(NMF)	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1D 1NT ???	LHO pass pass pass	A: 2H
7:	S Qxx H Ax D KJ10xxx C xx	Partner 1H 2C(NMF)	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1D 1NT ???	LHO pass pass pass	A: 2D
8:	S KQxxx H AQxx D xx C Qx	Partner 1C 1NT	RHO pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1S ???	LHO pass pass	A: 2D (NMF); if partner responds 2H or 2S raise to game in that major; if partner bids 2NT raise to 3NT; if partner bids 3C bid ??????
9:	S KQJxx H xx D J C AQxxx	Partner pass 2H 3D	RHO pass pass pass	<b>YOU</b> 1S 3C ???	LHO pass pass pass	A: 4C shows 5/5 in hearts and diamonds in a hand not suited for NT