

Lesson #14

Reverses, "New Minor Forcing," "4th Suit Forcing," and Jump Shifts

What is a reverse?

A "reverse" occurs when Opener's rebid (2nd bid) is a higher-ranking suit than the first bid and a higher level than the Responder's response (but not a jump).

Example 1:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠*			

*a "reverse"

Example 2:

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦*			

A "reverse" shows 17-20 points (adding for distribution points) and is natural (does not need to be alerted). It is forcing for one round but not necessarily to game. However, the Responder now knows the Opener's strength and Responder may be able to take it to game based on the combined points. (Reminder: A reverse is not alertable.)

New Minor Forcing:

New minor forcing is used only by the responder and always as his second bid of the auction. It promises at least invitational (10+) strength (after a 1NT rebid) and shows some doubt about what the final contract should be. In most cases, the responder will have 5 cards in his major and be trying to decide if the hand should be played in his suit or in No Trump. (This bid is alertable.)

Example 1:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣!	

!"new minor forcing" **ALERT!**

Example 2:

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦!	

Opener must bid again. With 3-card support for the major, bid the major. Otherwise, bid something other than the major. Use judgment.

4th Suit Forcing:

Fourth Suit Forcing is used by the responder to establish a game force.

Example 1:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣!	

Example 2:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦!	

!"4th suit forcing" **ALERT!**

When three different suits are bid in a row, Responder can bid the 4th suit (artificially) to set up a game force. This should be **100% forcing** to Game. (This bid is alertable.) Please note the following:

- Only responder can use 4th suit forcing; never the opener.
- It has to be the 4th bid of the auction.
- Fourth Suit forcing is not used after a 1NT rebid by opener (new minor forcing is used).
- This is not used for 2/1, when game force has already been established.

The 4th suit bid says absolutely nothing about the suit. It could be three low cards (e.g. 542) or it could be AKQ. It could be a singleton. It could be a five-card suit. The opener bids naturally. If opener has the 4th suit stopped, he should bid NT. Both players assume the 4th suit is unstopped until one of the players bids NT.

Jump Shift:

A Jump-shift by opener is GAME FORCING. It shows a very big hand (e.g. 18-20 pts). It does not show a 16- or 17-count. (Not alertable.)

Example 1:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥**			

Example 2:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣**			

**Jump Shift.