

# JACOBY 2NT

Barbara Seagram & Linda Lee



PRACTICE YOUR BIDDING

JACOBY

2NT



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# The PRACTICE YOUR BIDDING Series

Jacoby 2NT  
Roman Keycard Blackwood  
Splinter Bids  
Stayman Auctions  
Jacoby Transfers  
Four-Suit Transfers  
Practice Your Slam Bidding (CD-ROM)  
Practice Your NT Bidding (CD-ROM)

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# section 1

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The purpose of this book is to help you and your partner practice the Jacoby 2NT convention and understand better how it is used. The book has been designed so it can be used either on your own or working with a partner. But while you will certainly get a lot out of it if you use it alone, it is especially good to use this book with your favourite partner to make sure that you are both on the same wavelength.

The first section of the book provides a refresher for the Jacoby 2NT convention. It has lots of examples but no practice exercises. Don't worry, you will get plenty of chance to practice in the rest of the book. For a more detailed explanation of Jacoby 2NT, and as a source of many other helpful conventions, you should refer to [25 \*Bridge Conventions You Should Know\*](#), by Barbara Seagram and Marc Smith. Because Jacoby 2NT is very often the start of a slam bidding auction, two other conventions are frequently used in our practice hands: cuebidding and Blackwood. It is critical that you understand cuebidding, so we've included an explanation of cuebidding here as well. You will also need to ask partner about Aces and Kings, from time to time. In our sample auctions, for demonstration purposes, we will use Roman Keycard Blackwood (1430 version), which is described in another book in this series. However, when you bid the hands just use your own favorite form of Blackwood, regular or Roman Keycard.

The final section of the book, 'Practice Hands', contains a set of forty pairs of North and South hands. You can print them out and use them with a partner to practice bidding (don't try to do more than about ten at one sitting — that's more than enough to think and talk about at one time). We have provided space beside each hand to

write down your auction; we suggest that you do this so you can refer to it when you are looking at the answers. You can also do this solo if you like: look at each hand in turn and write down the bid you would make at each step of the auction. Getting to the right spot is not the only goal; bidding the hand in the best way is another goal so, even if you see both hands, you will still need to work out the correct auction. When you have finished bidding the hands look at the sample auctions and final contracts suggested in Section 5. There may be more than one way to bid the hand, so don't worry if you don't duplicate our sequence exactly. Focus in particular on your use of Jacoby 2NT and make sure that you got that right.

There is an earlier section of the book, entitled 'Working Alone' which contains the same practice deals. In this section, we show you just one of the hands and ask you a series of questions about how to bid it as the auction develops. Working through these exercises will teach you a lot more about the convention, so even if you go through the practice deals with a partner, we suggest you go through the questions and try to answer them. This will help you to make sure that you understand the convention thoroughly.

A final warning: don't expect to be perfect. Some of these hands are hard. So if you are doing better at the end of the book than at the beginning, you are doing very well indeed.

# section

## HOW JACOBY 2NT WORKS



### *The 2NT Bid and Responses*

**Opener**

1♠ or 1♥

**Responder**

2NT

Jacoby 2NT is a conventional bid used to make a game-forcing raise of a major-suit opening bid. The purpose of this bid is to allow the partnership to commit to game in the major and to probe for a possible slam contract. Since the partnership has at least a nine-card major-suit fit and at least 26 points between the two hands you know you want to be in game. If you have 33 or more points between you, the partnership will usually want to get to slam. However sometimes you have the right magic between the two hands to make a slam even with fewer than 33 points, because of distributional values. You have singletons or voids in all the right places. Jacoby 2NT can help you in your quest to find out if this magic is there.

Look at the example auction above. Opener's first bid was one of a major. Responder responds 2NT (Jacoby) directly if his hand meets the following requirements:

- a) at least four-card trump support for partner's major;
- b) at least 13 dummy points in support of the major.

This bid is unlimited in strength and responder can have a very good hand.

Here are examples of hands suitable for a Jacoby 2NT response to an opening bid of 1♥:

a) ♠ A 2  
♥ 10 9 8 7 4  
♦ A Q 3 2  
♣ K 2

b) ♠ 9 2  
♥ A 9 8 7  
♦ A K Q 3  
♣ K Q 9

c) ♠ A Q 10 9 8  
♥ K Q 9 8  
♦ A 2  
♣ K 9

d) ♠ K Q J 9 8  
♥ K 4 3 2  
♦ A K Q 2  
♣ —

By contrast, here are examples of hands which are not suitable for Jacoby 2NT response to 1♥:

a) ♠ 9 3 2  
♥ 10 9 8 7  
♦ A Q 3 2  
♣ K 2

b) ♠ 9 2  
♥ A K 8  
♦ A K Q 3  
♣ K 9 8 2

c) ♠ 9  
♥ A 9 8 7 4 3 2  
♦ 3  
♣ Q 9 8 7

Hand a) is too weak for Jacoby 2NT. This hand is only worth a limit raise in hearts not a game force. Invite to game by bidding 3♥. Hand b) only has three trumps; using Jacoby 2NT promises four trumps. Bid 2♣ for now and support hearts later. Hand c) has a lot of offense but does not have enough points to qualify for Jacoby 2NT. Just bid 4♥ immediately.

After responder bids Jacoby 2NT, opener now shows responder more about his hand.

*If opener has an unbalanced hand\** he responds as follows:

- Responder bids his singleton or void at the three-level
- With a good quality second suit (at least five cards in length) he bids this suit at the four level. Obviously with another five-card suit, opener also has a singleton or void but it is more important to show partner the second suit.

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\* We're going to use the terms 'balanced' and 'unbalanced' here slightly differently from the way they are used when describing notrump-type hands. Here, an 'unbalanced' hand is one with at least one singleton or void, while all other hands will be described as 'balanced'.

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Look for more books  
in this series, and also the  
companion software package  
*Practice Your Slam Bidding*



## PRACTICE YOUR BIDDING

### JACOBY 2NT

With this handy little book, you can

- Learn a new convention, or extend your knowledge of it
- Learn and practice by yourself using the unique quiz format
- Practice with your partner using the specially selected example hands, and compare your results with the recommended auctions



**BARBARA SEAGRAM** is a master bridge teacher who owns and runs one of North America's largest bridge schools, in Toronto, Canada. Her previous books include the bestselling *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know* (with Marc Smith).

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