

Approach to loose minor openings and transfer responses

West	North	East	South
1C	Pass	1H (spades)	?

Double

1S

1NT

2C

2H

2S

2NT

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- The canonical problem is that two balanced 13-counts might pass throughout.
- Other problems occur when a hand with clubs and values cannot act immediately, and when it eventually does act, partner does not know whether it is full value or just balancing.

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“Standard Polish” defence to Polish Club is to double to show a Polish Club, e.g.

64 AJ73 AK5 Q942

or

64 AQ2 A5 KQJ976

would double a 1C opening.

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If you don't play this way, then fourth hand needs to act with a decent weak no trump. Hence:

- Double Like double of a Multi – decent weak no trump or very strong. In later auction, club bids are natural, spades are the only cue bid.
- 1S Distributional takeout of spades. In later auction, club bids are natural, spades are the only cue bid.
- 1NT 15-18 or so. You probably do not need “system on” since second hand didn't overcall or double.
- 2C Suggest natural, but if you play as two-suited OK.
- 2H Natural. But if you play double as hearts, you need to know what hands double and what hands bid 2H.
- 2S+ As you play over a 1S response. But if you play 2C as two-suited, you should probably play 3C as natural (and intermediate).

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If you do not play 2C as natural over a nebulous 1C, then you may need to show clubs after partner enters the auction.

West	North	East	South
1C	Pass	1H (hearts)	1S
Pass	?		

- 2C Natural, NF
- 2D Clubs, forcing (can't be diamonds because you didn't overcall)
- 2H UCB
- 2S Less than a 2H bid
- 2NT Natural
- 3C Four-card spade raise

- General principle: the cheapest "impossible" bid shows clubs and is forcing.

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Responding to second hand overcall

It is probably not worth giving up the standard UCB (or Hugh's new 2C advance) for the sake of being able to bid clubs naturally at the two level. However, it probably is worth playing:

West	North	East	South
1C	1S	Pass	?

- 2NT Clubs, weak or strong
- 3C Four-card spade raise