

WALSH STYLE

In Standard American responder “bids up the line” in response to a 1♣ opening when holding four or more diamonds. Playing Walsh style, when he has a weak hand, responder bypasses the diamonds in favor of bidding a four-card major. This is because auctions get out of control when opener and responder unveil a 4-4 major suit fit or opener bids NT along the way. For example, as responder you hold:

xx
KJxx
QJTxxx
X

And the auction proceeds:

1♣ 1♦
1♥ ??

How comfortable would you be bidding 2♥ with this hand and hearing another bid from partner? (They **will** lead a trump, you know!)

In Walsh, you bypass the diamonds and bid your 4-card major first. You can then pass partner’s raise **or** bid a **non-forcing** 2♦ if opener rebids 1NT over your major. For example:

KJxx
xx
QJTxxx
X

1♣ 1♠
1NT 2♦ **is not NMF. It describes a weak hand with 4 spades and 6 diamonds**

The corollary is that responder may initially bid diamonds and then reverse into a major holding only 13 HCP. This gives an excellent description of responder’s hand: For example:

xx
KQJx
AQJTxx
X

1♣ 1♦
2♣ 2♥ shows this kind of hand. You could even have 5 diamonds and bid up this way.

Using SA, you could not bid 2♥ with this hand and you would miss a slam if opener held as little as:

A xx
Ax
K
Axxxxx

New Minor Forcing (one round)

Note that we play Major Suit Check-back Stayman (see later section), so the conventional meaning of NMF is not quite the same.

The auction

1♦ 1♠
1NT 2♣ Is CBS

The auction

1♣ 1♠
1NT 2♦ Is Walsh, showing a weakish hand with 4♠ & 6♦

1♦ 1♠
2♦ 3♣ Is NMF (one round, asks for delayed spade support)

The auction

1♣ 1♥
1NT 2♣ Is CBS asking for either 3 hearts or 4 spades.
Note that opener with a 4=3=3=3 might not bid 1♠

Major Suit Check Back Stayman

Used in situations where responder bids one of a major and then wants to create a forcing situation when opener rebids 1NT. Responder **always** bids 2♣ to check back and create the force. Therefore, 1♣ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2♣ *does not show a weak preference for clubs*. It asks for delayed spade support or four hearts.

Therefore, an auction like:

1♦ - 1♠
1NT - 3♥

is *not forcing*, just invitational. If responder wanted to force, he would bid 2♣ over 1NT and then bid hearts at the three level.

Similarly,

1♥ - 1♠

1NT - 2♣ *is forcing*.

When responder really wants to play in clubs (non-forcing), he must jump to the 3 level, barring any further action by opener; e.g.

1♣ - 1♠

1NT - 3♣ (bar bid)

(You cannot show a preference for clubs at the 2 level).

Other jumps are invitational. So,

1♦ - 1♠

1NT - 3♣ is a **bar** bid (since responder didn't first force with 2♣)

Any bid by responder at the three level **following** checkback is forcing to game; e.g.

1♦ - 1♥

1NT - 2♣

(Note that opener may have 4 spades and a flat hand. *Alertable!*)

2♥ - 3♣ or 3♦

(Responder would bid 3♥ to invite).

Note that opener's *first responsibility* is to show delayed support when responder uses CBS. Thus, with: x x x A Q x x x x x A K x the auction would proceed

1♣ 1♠

1NT 2♣

2♣ *not 2♥*