



## 2NT fit after 1M (Maas)

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This Topic provides you with hands where you open with one in a major. Responder has fit with exactly a limit hand. The method described here, uses the 2NT bid to show this hand.

With a game forcing hand responder has to start with 2♣, or sometimes with 2♦/2♥, and support partners major later on.

The advantage of this method is that opener is very well placed to make his decision. The vast majority of the time he will just bid game. By bidding this way, you give the opponents no extra information.

In some cases, opener want to make a game trial and in some other cases opener wants to make a slam trial. Below we will give you a structure with these options.

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1♥	2NT	♥-fit, exactly limit	
		3♣ artificial game forcing*	
		3♦ artificial game trial	
		3♥ minimum	
		3NT suggestion to play	
		4♥ maximum	
		3♥ minimum	
		3♠ splinter, slam interest	
		3NT suggestion to play	
		4♣ splinter, slam interest	
		4♦ splinter, slam interest	
		4♥ to play	

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1♠	2NT	♠-fit, exactly limit	
		3♣ artificial game forcing*	
		3♦ artificial game trial	
		3♠ minimum	
		3NT suggestion to play	
		4♠ maximum	
		3♥ natural game forcing	
		3♠ minimum	
		3NT suggestion to play	
		4♣ splinter, slam interest	
		4♦ splinter, slam interest	
		4♥ splinter, slam interest	
		4♠ to play	

\*The 3♣ bid deserves further attention. Not only is it game forcing, but it's also a relay asking responder to further describe his hand. The schedule below is based on the principle: the lower, the better.

Notice: a hand with four card trump and a singleton would have been bid using a direct splinter over the 1M opening. That's the reason that hand type isn't mentioned here.

After Responder shows his hand, bidding can continue with cuebids if there's still room available.

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1♠	2NT	3♣ artificial game forcing	
		3♦ maximum with 4♠	
		3♥ maximum with 3♠	
		3♠ minimum with 4♠	
		3NT minimum with 3♠	
		4♣ splinter with 3♠	
		4♦ splinter with 3♠	
		4♥ splinter with 3♠	

**Maas**  
In the Netherlands we typically refer to this convention as 'Maas' after Anton Maas, former top player and longtime coach of the Dutch Open team.

- Alternatives**
- Some pairs use a wider range for their 2NT response. It then runs up to a minimal game forcing hand of 13/14 points. With those hands they will always bid game obviously. They want to maximize the number of auctions that go 1M-2NT-4M and at the same time they take away some pressure from their constructive bidding. If they start with 2/1 and support partners major later on, opener now knows responder has at least some slam interest.
  - 2NT Maas combines well with 2♣ game forcing relay, where you use a series of asking bids to find out about partners' shape and strength. This requires a lot of work obviously but might be worth it if you plan to play competitively.