PARTNER OPENED ONE OF A SUIT - BASIC METHOD

In the methods on this page hand evaluation is based solely on point-count and no artificial support bids are included.

Partner opened one of a major			
You have four-card support			
	0 - 4	Pass	
	5 - 9	Raise to two	
	10 - 12	Raise to three (invitational)	
	13+	Raise to four	

You have three-card support

	0 - 5	Pass	
	6 - (9)	Bid a four-card spade suit over 1♥	
		Otherwise raise to two.	or bid 1NT if totally suitable.
	(9) +	Change suit as below - show your support later. *	

You have less than three-card support

	0 - 5	Pass	
	6 - (9)	Change suit at the one-level *	Bid 1NT if no alternative.
	(9)+	Change suit *	

Note that any response in a new suit is played as forcing for one round in the basic method.
Note that a response of 1NT denies a four-card major which can be bid at the one-level.
Note that you will never make an immediate response of 2NT or 3NT to partner's opening one of a major.

Partner opened one of a minor			
	0 - 5	Pass	
	6 - (9)	Bid a new suit at the one-level *	
		or raise to two with four-card support.	Bid 1NT if no alternative.
	(9)+	Change suit - if available; *	
		or raise to three on four-card support or bid 2NT with 10 to 12;	
		or raise to a higher level on four-card support or bid 3NT or higher with 13+.	

*** Bidding a new suit**

You will normally hold 6+ points to introduce a new suit at the one-level;
you will normally hold 'rule of fourteen' to introduce a new suit at the two-level - that is ten points and a four-card suit or nine points and a five-card suit.

With a choice of suit bids available:-
choose your longer suit if you have one;
with two-four-card suits bid the lower-ranking first;
with two five-card suits bid the higher-ranking first.

**The methods on this sheet are sound enough in themselves, but,
it is strongly recommended that you should incorporate some major suit support bids sooner rather than later (see improvers' methods).**

**You may or may not wish at the same time to incorporate losing-trick count into your hand evaluation;
to modify your responding strategy when a passed hand;
and to modify your responding strategy when holding a five-card minor which can only be shown at the two-level and a four-card major which can be shown at the one-level.**