

Serious 3NT

Serious 3NT is a method for partnerships to explore for slam below game level when one or both have 'extra' values, but do not have strong enough values to commit to slam alone.

In a game forcing auction where you and your partner have bid and raised a major suit, a bid of 3S/3NT says "partner, given the auction, I like my hand". Failure to bid 3S/3NT and just make your cue bid says "partner, given the auction, here's my cue bid, but I don't like my hand".

Examples of auctions:

1S 2H

3C 3S

3NT – I like my hand please cue bid

4C, 4D or 4H – I have first round control here, but I don't like my hand

4S – I don't like my hand, I don't have any first round controls

1H 2D

3C 3H

3S – I like my hand please cue bid

3NT – I have first round control of Spades but I don't like my hand

4C or 4D – I have first round control here but I don't like my hand

4H – I don't like my hand and I don't have any first round controls

To like your hand you will either have extra values or a fit with partner's suit or a good distributional hand. Not liking your hand would be minimum flatish hands without fit with partner's suit.

You can also use this after Jacoby 2NT responses and you can use it at the two level also (2S/2NT) in game forcing auctions where you and partner have established your fit.

As in all cue-bidding auctions, if you bypass a suit you deny first round control in that suit.