

# GAZILLA MEETS GODZILLA



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Who is who?



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New conventions come and go. Very few are accepted unanimously by the general mass of bridge players, the many experts approve of others, but probably most of them are only used by the inventors.

Finding and trying out new ideas in our game is one of the things many of us love to do and one of the factors that makes bridge unique and different from any other game as far as I know.

In most of my books, I have tried to write for both experts and those not yet in that category. This book is no exception, even if many of you will think it is too much work to change your system. If you are ambitious, though, the field of bidding is where you always can do better because many good players are lazy and already think that they know best ☺

I think you already know about the Gazilli convention, whether you use it or not. If you don't use it you probably have your reasons, but if you do, and think it is a good part of your system, you will perhaps appreciate the ideas in this booklet.

In contrast to big brother Gazilli, Gazilla and Godzilla are used after the minor suit openings. The similarity is that we use all these conventions to handle both strong and normal opening hands with only one bid. However, I will give you more value for no money since I give you two conventions that fit together.

I want to thank my partner Björn for putting up with and considering trying out all my crazy ideas, and Peder Fredrikson for helping me write in a civilized way.

I wish you the best reading!

Mats

## GAZILLA MEETS GODZILLA

When practicing our new gadget on BBO, I asked my partner Björn: How long will it take before everybody plays like this?

He said: About 200 years, but it should only take one day!

That made me think that perhaps I should tell you about it. Gazilla is the little sister of Gazilli. That sounds like Godzilla, my partner said, giving me an idea for the name. After a long life at the bottom of the sea, perhaps even under a bridge, here comes Godzilla to meet the siblings.

Most new conventions are not universally accepted among bridge players, but it has happened at times. If we go back in time, there are Blackwood, Stayman, Jacoby, and the unusual 2NT. Sometimes we don't know for sure the origin of a new idea, but that doesn't matter much. Some conventions are named by, or after, the person who presents it to the broader public.

Before telling you more about Gazilla and the awakening of Godzilla, I will give you some insights about big brother Gazilli.

It seems like the Gazilli convention was first presented in 2010 by Leo Gazilli from Milan. In Sweden, we have the same convention by the name Häxan (The Witch), which to my knowledge was invented by the Swedish ladies Linda Långström and Catarina Midskog already 20 years before that. It is said that Sweden is a country of inventors, but we have been slow to learn international marketing. *(I have now learned that Gazilli was known in Italy already 1984).*

Gazilli isn't something everybody uses, but it is popular among expert players, at least in my part of the world.

The idea with Gazilli is to enable opener to describe good hands without having to start with a jump rebid. Leo Gazilli suggested it as a way to bid hands with about 16-17 HCP. The convention is used after a major suit opening and a one-level response which means the sequences 1♥-1♠ and 1Ma-1NT. Perhaps only the latter by some pairs.

The way we play Gazilli today is different as also stronger game-forcing hands are included, while most of the other bids show less than 16 HCP.

Opener	Responder
1♠	1NT
2♦/2♥	

Opener's rebid in a red suit is limited to 11-15 HCP; With a stronger hand opener rebids the Gazilli 2♣ bid and shows his strength in the next round.

As a consequence, the direct jump bids are only invitational. In that way, using the Gazilli convention is a bit similar to playing a strong club.

Opener	Responder
1♠	1NT
3X	

A jump in a new suit shows at least 5-5 and about 14-15 HCP, while a jump rebid in the opening suit shows something like a 7-card suit and a good opening hand.

When it comes to how Gazilli is used today there are several variants. The original, and the most common variation, is that 2♣ shows either 11-15 with four clubs or a strong hand. The rebid of the major is completely natural with a 6-card suit.

Opener	Responder
1♠	1NT
2♠	

Alternatively, a rebid of the major shows four clubs and a minimum hand, while one-suited hands are bid via Gazilli 2♣. The reason for that is the heart suit!

When the opening bid is 1♠, and responder has five hearts, we may need to find a 5-3 fit in hearts. The chances of finding opener with three cards in hearts are better when he has six spades than when he holds nine cards in the black suits.

The 2♠ bid preempts the heart suit, and therefore, my conclusion is as follows: It is theoretically better that the bid 2♠ shows nine black cards than just six spades. That is why I prefer to bid 2♣ having six spades, thereby leaving more bidding room for the heart suit.

The responses to the Gazilli 2♣ bid are more or less standard. With at least 8 HCP responder bids 2♦ while other bids are weaker. If the bidding has started 1♥-1♠, there are some differences though since responder then is unlimited.

A thought presented in my book '5-card Majors' involves this sequence:

Opener	Responder
1♠	1NT
2♣	2♦
2♥	

Playing Gazilli, responder's 2♦ establishes a game force if opener has the strong 16+ hand. I suggest that 2♥ here promises three *or* four cards, and that makes it easy both to find a 4-4 and a 5-3 fit in hearts. If opener has five hearts in the strong hand, he can jump to 3♥ after 2♦ to show 5-5.

What may come as surprising is that opener with only three hearts can be weaker than if he has four. I will soon explain why. When opener bids 2♥ he has either:

- 1♠-1NT; 2♣-2♦; 2♥ (Gazilli with 3 or 4 hearts)  
 a) 16+ HCP with four hearts  
 b) 14+ HCP with three hearts

The idea here is that when opener has six spades and three hearts, he can bid 2♥ with less than 16 HCP as we still can stop in 2♠. Also, if you don't like to always open 1NT with five spades, you can use Gazilli and rebid bid 2♥ with a balanced hand and three hearts. Look at this hand:

♠ AKJxx ♥ KJx ♦ xx ♣ Axx

You can see experts open this hand with 1NT every day. They do that because their system doesn't have a better way to describe the hand. If the result turns out badly, it will probably be duplicated at the other table, so who cares.

You have two small diamonds. I bet your instinct says: bid 1♠. If you want to beat the experts, start by bidding better. In the long run, it will make a difference.

If responder bids 2♥ over 2♣, that is a weak bid with five hearts and 5-7 HCP. With more strength responder should bid 2♦ also with a heart suit.

Opener	Responder
1♠	1NT
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♠
pass	
♠ AQxxxx	♠ xx
♥ Kxx	♥ Qxxx
♦ x	♦ Qxxx
♣ KQx	♣ Axx

With this hand opener can pass over 2♠. But what if we have a 4-4 fit in hearts? Is not responder taking a risk by not showing his support? The answer is no! When opener has four hearts, he will bid again as he always has 16+ HCP: With 11-15, he would have rebid 2♥ directly over 1NT. That explains why opener can be weaker with only three hearts when we use Gazilli.

However, this booklet is about Gazilla and Godzilla, so I will stop here. Gazilli is used after a major suit opening while we use the new conventions after a minor suit opening and a response in a major. That's four sequences in total.

When we open with a minor suit bid, we still need to show strong hands with our rebids. If partner responds with a major at the one-level, we can easily bid hands with 4-card support, but how about if we have three cards in partner's suit?

With minimum strength (11-14), how often do you raise a major with only 3-card support? We do it frequently when we have a reason. Opener can have this hand:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♥	
♠ Kxxx ♥ Axx ♦ AJxxx ♣ x	

I think most players agree with the raise of partner's suit with only 3-card support on a hand like this. To bid 1♠ and show the support later should show extra values. Take a look at this auction as an example of what can happen:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	2NT

Responder still can have five hearts, but opener cannot bid 3♥ now with a minimum hand because then our partner will have to bid 3NT without five hearts. What if we have 15 HCP or more and exactly 3-card support?

The standard solution is to bid another suit and show the support next.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1Ma
2♣	

Or we can make a reverse bid, as for example here:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1Ma
2♦	

A problem with the first sequence is that 2♣ is non-forcing. The reverse bid in the second auction is forcing, but 15 HCP is not considered as reverse strength. It may be difficult to stop in time with a minimum reverse opposite a minimal responder.

Godzilla and Gazilla together solve many of the problems in the natural system.

<p>Godzilla is a 'transfer raise' of partners major, showing 15 HCP or more  Gazilla is a way to bid other hands when the Godzilla bid now is busy</p>
--

I call the Godzilla bid a transfer since we bid the suit just below partner's major:

Opener	Responder
1 ♣/♦	1 ♥
2 ♦	

and

Opener	Responder
1 ♣/♦	1 ♠
2 ♥	

The Godzilla transfer raise shows precisely three cards in responder's major. We can exclude balanced hands with 15-17 HCP as we would have opened with 1NT with those hands.

The mission for Gazilla, is to replace the natural meaning of the bid that is reserved for the transfer raise. Therefore, the Gazilla bid is always a two- or three-way bid and forcing for one round. If you use both of these conventions, the Gazilla bid always denies 3-card support in responder's major.

Some of you probably use transfer responses at the one-level or open 1 ♣ with only two cards. That doesn't matter, you can still adopt these methods.

If your system doesn't have another way to bid balanced hands with 18-19 HCP, you can include them and make the Godzilla transfer with 3-card support. If you do, your normal 2NT-rebid will deny support in partner's major.

If you and your partner like to work with your system and find improvements, I am sure you already have some agreements that can be important here. One is how you use the following sequence:

Opener	Responder
1 ♣/♦	1 ♥
2 ♠	

If you play 1 ♠ as forcing, there is not much need to bid 2 ♠ with stronger hands. Instead, you can use this sequence to show something else. With these methods, I suggest that opener's jump to 2 ♠ shows a one-suited hand without 3-card support, in combination with Gazilli and Godzilla. The strength should be from 15/16 HCP and up. The jump rebid to the 3-level in your long suit can then be used as a distributional invitation with 14-15.

However, if you use 2 ♠ in another for you important way, you can include the strong one-suited hands in Gazilla - but it will take some work.

Since I can feel that you are both curious and somewhat doubtful, I will be kind enough to give you an overview. Then, if you think this isn't interesting enough, you can save time and energy and go back to what you did before.

This page summarizes opener's rebids if you use the combination of Gazilla and Godzilla. The rest of the book is about designing the continued bidding. I am sure, just as with every other convention in bridge, this is not the only version that will be played. Many of the auctions can be simplified, and experience from practical play will improve others.

From these tables, you will perhaps understand that Godzilla is the leading actor here, while Gazilla's assignment is to fill the vacancies and thus be a replacement.

1 ♣-1 ♥

1 ♠      Gazilla, less than 3 hearts and either:  
             a) 11+ with 5+ clubs and 4 spades  
             b) 15/16+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds  
 2 ♦      Godzilla with 15+ and 3 hearts  
 2 ♠      16+ with 6+ clubs and less than 3 hearts

1 ♦-1 ♥

1 ♠      Gazilla, less than 3 hearts and either:  
             a) 11-15 with 6 diamonds  
             b) 11+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 spades, or exactly =4144  
             c) 16/17+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs  
 2 ♦      Godzilla with 15+ and 3 hearts  
 2 ♠      16+ with 6+ diamonds and less than 3 hearts

1 ♣-1 ♠

2 ♦      Gazilla, 16+, less than 3 spades and either:  
             a) 16+ (reverse strength) with 5+ clubs and 4 hearts/diamonds  
             b) 16/17+ with one-suited 6+ clubs  
 2 ♥      Godzilla with 15+ and 3 spades

1 ♦-1 ♠

2 ♣      Gazilla, less than 3 spades and either:  
             a) 11+ with 6+ diamonds  
             b) 16+ (reverse) with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs/hearts  
 2 ♦      11-15 with 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs  
 2 ♥      Godzilla with 15+ and 3 spades

A comment: The 2 ♦ rebid after 1 ♠ shows both minors and a minimum hand, but an alternative rebid can with some hands be 1NT. Anyway, that is the prize you pay for playing Gazilla, but not a significant loss.



## THE GODZILLA TRANSFER RAISE

Opener shows at least 15 HCP, balanced or unbalanced, and precisely a 3-card support in partner's major. The unbalanced distributions must include a singleton or a void. The other hands are the balanced hand with 18-19 and the semi-balanced distribution 6-3-2-2. Here is an example of responder's bids after a Godzilla raise:

1♦-1♠; 2♥ (15+ with 3 spades)	
2♠	5-8 with 4 spades, 5-7 with a longer suit
2NT	GF, asking
3♣	At least invitational with diamond support
3♦	5-8 with 4 spades and good diamond support
3♥	GF, natural, often 5-5
3♠	About 8-9, invitational with 5+ spades
4♣/♥	Splinter bids, setting spades as trumps

In modern bridge responder may be very weak for his response, but I think 5 HCP is some kind of minimum. Opener has at least 15, and responder should invite to a game with 8-9 HCP, and with more, we usually will end up in a game. Let us look at some hands where responder is weak (5-8 HCP). Say the bidding has started:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	

With a 5-card suit responder can bid a natural 3♠ as a game invitation:

♠ KJxxx ♥ Qxx ♦ 10x ♣ Kxx

With a better diamond fit, I think even less than 8 HCP can do:

♠ KJxxx ♥ xx ♦ QJx ♣ xxx

With a weaker hand with five spades, or up to about 7-8 HCP with only four cards in the major, responder should rebid his suit. We can stop at the two-level if opener has a minimum. With the following hand responder has to sign off with 2♠.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
♠ QJxx ♥ xx ♦ Jxx ♣ Kxxx	

If opener passes, we will play in a 4-3 fit but at a comfortable level.



With the next hand, responder is pleased to have an alternative:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	3♦
♠ Qxxx ♥ Qx ♦ Kxxx ♣ xxx	

After the transfer raise, responder knows that opener has a good hand and at least five cards in the opening suit. With only four spades and good diamond support, responder can show his support instead of rebidding his 4-card suit.

The same goes for the next hand:

♠ Qxxx ♥ x ♦ Kxxxx ♣ xxx

If we are going to play in a part-score, 3♦ should be just as good as 2♠, and if opener has the right values, we can bid and make a game in diamonds.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	3♦
3♥	5♦
♠ KJx	♠ Qxxx
♥ AK10x	♥ x
♦ AQxxx	♦ Kxxxx
♣ x	♣ xxx

If opener over responder's 3♦, decides to bid out his distribution, we can bid the diamond game. Responder can see the good fit when he learns that opener has short clubs. Without the spade Jack the game will be much worse, but that is how judgment comes into play.

After the same start of the auction, what should opener do over 3♦ with this hand?

♠ A10x ♥ x ♦ AQ10xx ♣ AKJx

Just as 3♥ after 3♦ shows heart length, 4♣ shows the opposite, length in clubs and short hearts. With other hands, opener can bid 3NT or even the ambiguous bid 3♠ that has no agreed meaning. I would guess that opener has 6-3-2-2 with extra values, or even short hearts, looking for 3NT.

However, most of the time, responder will rebid his major suit with a weak hand. He can have five cards in his suit, but he will have only four more frequently.

### *Responder is weak*

The following table shows opener's alternative bids when holding a three-suited hand after responder's negative 2♠. I will get back to more balanced hands later on.

1♦-1♠; 2♥-2♠ (5-8 if 4 spades, 5-7 if 5 spades)	
3♣	16/17+ with 3+ clubs, short hearts
3♦	15-16/17 with 6 diamonds (can be 6322)
3♥	18+ with 3+ hearts

I almost forgot. Opener can, of course, also pass!

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
pass	
♠ Q9x ♥ x ♦ AK10xx ♣ AQxx	

Instead of rebidding 2♣, as in the standard system, opener can use Godzilla to show support directly over 1♠. Here, we stopped at the two-level as responder is weak and opener has a minimum.

If opener bids again with a three-suited hand, he shows more about his distribution. That is a principle we apply whether responder is weak or not. We don't know if opener has three or four cards in the third suit, but he is always short in the unbid, fourth suit and that makes it easy for responder to judge the fit.

One of the reasons for us as opener to bid again is that responder still can have five spades. If we think that just a good fit, like a King and a Queen in the right suits, is enough for a game, we can bid again. We should indeed avoid the 3-level when we can stop at the 2-level, but that mainly concerns balanced hands where we value our hands with only HCP. The bonus for a game makes a difference here.

In the following examples, I will primarily discuss what will happen when opener bids on and responder only has four cards in his major.

If responder has worthless honors opposite opener's shortage, that is obviously not so good, but if he doesn't, we have a good fit. However, that also depends on us having a trump suit to play. We can appreciate the stopper in opener's short suit if we have nowhere to go except to play in no trumps.

Let us look at some hands now. Here, opener has extra values:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♣	
♠ KQx ♥ x ♦ AK10xxx ♣ Axx	

The 3♣ bid here is a little optimistic. We may go overboard, but we also may find a reasonable game. Partner needs to have a few valuable cards only. Having six diamonds instead of 5-4 in the minors allows more optimism, especially if we can stop at the 3-level. If partner bids 3♦, opener will give up and pass.

What if partner raises clubs and opener only has three, like in the last hand. Should he then bid 4♦ to confess that the club bid was only semi-natural? An example of how the bidding then may go:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♣	4♣
4♦	5♦
♠ KQx	♠ Jxxx
♥ x	♥ Jxx
♦ AK10xxx	♦ Qx
♣ AKx	♣ Q10xx

I don't think this is a good auction. When opener bids 4♦ above, we don't know if he has extra values or not. Opener could have the same hand as in the last example, without the King of clubs. Perhaps he just wants to escape from the club contract.

We seldom have a slam after the negative 2♠. Therefore, we should bid as natural as possible. It is better to decide that responder needs 5-card support to raise a minor suit bid that only promises three cards. If we agree on that, opener doesn't have to think about a rescue action. With one more small club instead of a small red card, responder can raise to 4♣ in the example above. Opener can then raise to game with extra values.

However, we need to find a 4-4 fit another way since opener can have four clubs if he has 5-4-3-1. Suppose responder can bid fourth suit with only four clubs to solve the problem.

Let us see how that works:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♣	3♥
3♠	4♣
4♦	5♦

Opener can rebid clubs with four or diamonds with six. Those bids show no extra values. As opener here has a better hand, he takes a detour via the ambiguous 3♠ to return the ball to responder. After 4♣ he can show his sixth diamond and indirectly then extra strength, and responder bids 5♦.

When responder uses the fourth suit, it is a forward-going bid showing maximum or a good fit (like not much values in partner's short suit) and that should mean that 3NT is out of the picture. Anyway, I want you to remember opener's 3♠ bid. Since we always have three spades as opener, we can use 3♠ as fifth suit!

We can also stop after fourth suit. I think this is a good auction:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♣	3♥
4♣	pass
♠ AQx	♠ Jxxx
♥ x	♥ Jxx
♦ AK10xx	♦ Qx
♣ Axxx	♣ Qxxx

Opener has a minimum for bidding 3♣ over 2♠, and then must rebid his clubs after the 3♥ bid. Responder, having a good fit in the minors, is tempted to raise to game anyway, but since this is my book, I told him to pass! If responder has a less good fit with this distribution, I think he should make a preference to 3♦.

The following hand is stronger, and opener bids 3♣ with 6-3-3-1:

♠ KQx ♥ x ♦ AK10xxx ♣ AKx

If partner tries to sign off with 3♦, opener should bid one more time. Perhaps we only need a heart-stopper to make 3NT. Opener can have 5-4-3-1 or 6-3-3-1 here. He can make bids like 3♥ or 3♠ to give partner one more chance, but where is the logical clue to decide which bid should show which distribution?

It beats me, so please let me know if you find it!

All of opener's bids in a new suit after responder's negative bid are forcing and a reverse bid (a bid above 3mi) often leads to a game.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♥	
♠ KQx ♥ AJxx ♦ AKJ10x ♣ x	

Opener has 18 HCP and should bid again over 2♠. By bidding 3♥, showing three or four hearts and short clubs, opener bypasses 3♦. If responder can't do better than bidding 3♠ or making a preference to 4♦, opener may give up and pass.

When opener bid hearts, responder may want to raise to 4♥ and show a 4-card support. After 3♥ there is no fourth suit available. It is not a big problem, because if responder has four hearts he will always have five spades. With 4-4 in the majors he will respond 1♥. Should responder raise hearts, we as opener can convert to 4♠.

What about if opener's hand is a minimum hand with heart length?

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♦	
♠ KQx ♥ Axx ♦ AK10xxx ♣ x	











Opener can pass or bid 3♦. The hand is not good enough to bid 3♥ and bypass 3♦. As we discussed earlier, even if opener is limited, he could have bid 3♣ en route to 3♦ with short hearts, as the club bid is below diamonds. Therefore, 3♦ is often short clubs (or 6-3-2-2) if that matters to responder (who will usually pass anyway with only four spades).


Usually, when opener describes his hand, he will have three or four cards in the third suit. But how about the following hand after the same auction?

♠ KQx ♥ AJ ♦ AKJxxxx ♣ x

As opener we are looking for a game in spades, diamonds, or no trump. I think we can bid 3♥ also with this hand to show the club shortness. Our heart length doesn't matter much since responder has five spades if he has four hearts.

Bidding a suit on only two cards is unusual, but as it can happen, the situation can also be this:

Opener	Responder
1 	1 
2 	2 
3 	4 
 KQx  x  AK10xxxx  AQ	

As agreed, the direct raise to 4  shows 5-card support. This is a hand where we can allow opener to make a rescue bid to escape from the 5-2 fit.

As the attentive readers have observed, responder doesn't very often tell opener if he has minimum and maximum. Responder has up to now presented a weak hand with 5-8 HCP, but perhaps opener wants to know more precisely?

We don't have room for everything to be perfect. Our approach here is that opener shows his approximate strength and distribution, so responder can suggest at what level we should play. The reason is that responder is better placed to judge the fit.

Some bridge players overbid strong hands and that is an easy mistake to do when you see all the honors in your own hand. Playing Godzilla, the strong hand often has to be disciplined and let partner player decide.

### *Responder has hearts - what's the difference?*

If responder's suit is hearts much is the same but not everything. As the Godzilla bid now is 2♦, we have an extra bid at the 2-level. After 2♦, and a negative 2♥, opener can bid 2♠ with three or four. Both of us can bid spades at the 2-level.

Responder's 2♠ shows at least 4-4 in the majors and 8 HCP or more. If responder has four spades when bidding the negative 2♥, he is weaker.

Here are opener's rebids after the negative response:

1♦-1♥; 2♦-2♥ (5-8 if 4 hearts, 5-7 if 5 hearts or 4-4 in majors)	
2♠	16/17+ with 3+ spades, short clubs
2NT	Balanced 18-19 or 17+ with 6-3-2-2
3♣	16/17+ with 3+ clubs, short spades
3♦	15-16/17 with 6 diamonds
3♥ (3NT)	GF with 6-3-2-2

I have now included the balanced hands above to show you I haven't forgotten them. However, let us begin by looking at what happens when opener has a three-suited hand with spade length.

If opener's 2♠ always could promise a 4-card suit, life would have been easier, but you know by now that we prioritize to show where our shortage is.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	
♠ KQxx ♥ AQx ♦ AK10xx ♣ x	

Opener here has 18 HCP and bids again after 2♥. The 2♠ bid is forcing, but we still can stop in a partscore. With the same distribution and minimum strength (15-16), opener often passes over 2♥. This auction is similar to where we raise 1♥ directly with 11-13 and four spades and three hearts. We may play in the wrong suit but hopefully at the right level.

♠ KQx ♥ AQx ♦ AK10xxx ♣ x

According to our principles, opener should bid 2♠ also with this hand, denoting short clubs and values for another bid. So, now, what should responder do if he has four spades? Actually, this is not a problem as long as responder considers that 2♠ here doesn't promise more than three spades, but always shortness in clubs.



Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	?
♠ Jxxx ♥ Kxxx ♦ Qx ♣ Jxx	

Even with four spades, responder shouldn't raise the spade suit directly. Instead he can find out if there is a 4-4 fit or not. The important question for responder to ask himself here is, as I see it: Is 3NT an alternative contract or not?

If responder has a decent stopper in opener's short suit he should bid 2NT. If not, he should prefer bidding fourth suit, in this case 3♣. The bid 3♣ is not the usual forcing-to-game fourth suit. Responder is already limited, and whether we have a game or not depends on what opener has. With the hand above, where responder has Jxx in clubs opposite a singleton, 3NT is out of the picture, and responder bids 3♣ to both give and get more information.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	3♣
3♠	
♠ KQxx ♥ AJx ♦ AK10xx ♣ x	

After the fourth suit bid or 2NT, opener completes the picture of his distribution. We have already discussed the principles after responder's fourth suit bid. In the auction above, opener shows four spades and a minimum for not passing over 2♥. If opener has an even stronger hand, he can bid responder's major, as the fifth suit, as in the next hand:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	3♣
3♥	3♠
4♠	
♠ AQxx	♠ Jxxx
♥ AQx	♥ Kxxx
♦ AK10xx	♦ Jx
♣ x	♣ Jxx

It takes some time, but we get there eventually.

When opener doesn't have four spades, he always has six diamonds:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	3♣
3♦	
♠ KQx ♥ AJx ♦ AK10xxx ♣ x	

Opener has shown his distribution in full when he rebids diamonds and now has to trust his partner to make the right decision. With a better hand, opener has to find another bid. Perhaps to bid 3♥, again the fifth suit, and bid diamonds next or take his chances on a pass if responder bids 3NT.

What about bidding 4♣? Or is that a void? As you understand, these methods will grow on you when you suggest using them and start discussing these matters with your partner. If you still have a partner then!

Next, let us look at a hand where responder has values in clubs and can play 3NT if opener is strong. Bidding 2NT doesn't deny four spades.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	2NT
♠ Qxxx ♥ Jxxx ♦ xx ♣ KJx	

Responder has a weak hand and not a good fit opposite short clubs, but as 2♠ is forcing he has to bid again. He has a good stopper in clubs and should bid 2NT.

A good stopper in the suit where opener is short can be either good or bad but generally speaking, having values in the short suit is more often bad. If opener is interested in playing 3NT, though, he can appreciate values in clubs, and with the following hand opener will gladly raise to 3NT:

♠ AJx ♥ Axx ♦ AKJ10xx ♣ x

When opener has a hand like the next one, he will be sceptical to a notrump game:

♠ AJx ♥ KQx ♦ AQxxxx ♣ x

With a minimum and not a very good diamond suit, he has to bid 3♦.

Responder's 2NT neither promises nor denies four spades, but we can find the 4-4 fit eventually also after 2NT.

Opener often has both a fourth and a fifth suit bid available (responder's major). Those bids also sometimes can give responder a hint about what opener wants.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	2NT

In this particular situation opener can choose from 3♣ and 3♥ as forcing bids to torment partner. But how should we use them? When responder bids fourth suit, it is a forward going bid, often with a good fit. Is it not the same for opener?

Perhaps being overly theoretical, I think there is a different logic here. The lower bid, 3♣, allows our partner to make a preference to 3♦.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥
2♠	2NT
3♣	3♠
pass	
♠ KJxx	♠ Qxxx
♥ AQx	♥ Jxxx
♦ AQxxx	♦ xx
♣ x	♣ KJx

If we move a small spade in responder's hand to the diamond suit, we may make 3♦ but probably not 3NT. Responder should then bid 3♦ and opener can pass.

In practical play we will often bid game when close to it and have a 4-4 fit in a major, at least when the alternative is playing at the three-level. After 2NT, though, we usually don't have a good fit in a suit contract, and making 3♠ may be hard enough.

If opener has only three spades it doesn't matter how many spades responder has. Opener then has six diamonds and can bid either 3♦ or 3NT to play there. If none of those bids suits him, he can bid 3♥ whatever that should mean. I hope you tell me if you work it out, and I can torture my partner by bidding it!

Depending on which our suits are, we have more or less bidding space left after the Godzilla transfer and responder's negative response. The worst case is this:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠

I will soon get back to the 2NT bid from opener, but even if it shows 18-19 HCP it is not forcing. If opener has 5-4-3-1 he will have to pass with a minimum, but with six clubs, he can bid 3♣ even with minimum and a good suit. The disadvantage is that opener can have 6-3-3-1 with shortness in any of the two red suits, and also 6-3-2-2. That makes it difficult for responder to judge the fit if he wants to bid again.

We haven't talked much about hands where responder has five or more spades. When opener shows extra values by bidding again, responder can often bid a game in spades, but after 3♣ here he should be more careful.

If responder thinks 3NT is possible, he can bid a new suit to show a stopper. With the next hand, responder has a club fit and can venture 3♦ to perhaps find 3NT:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♣	?
♠ Qxxx ♥ xx ♦ K109x ♣ Qxx	

With better hands opener shows his distribution. Here is an example:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♦	5♣
♠ KQx	♠ Jxxx
♥ x	♥ xxx
♦ AJx	♦ Kxx
♣ AKxxxx	♣ Qxx

Without an alternative, opener may have to overbid a little, and a hand with the distribution 6-3-3-1 is usually better than a hand with 5-4-3-1 and the same honors. If responder has a less fitting hand though, we will probably go down both at the four-level and in 3NT.

When we, as in this situation, bid reverse on the 3-level, we can have three or four cards in the suit. As a reminder, I repeat that responder can raise hearts with 4-card support (as that indirectly shows five spades) but he should have 5-card support to raise diamonds.

Again, this time, we are so lucky that we are able to bid fourth suit with 3♥ if we have only four diamonds.

Here is a summary of the rules we follow to find a trump suit:

How to show support when opener shows a 3+ suit after a negative bid:

2♠	Both the natural 2NT and 4th suit can include 4-card support
2♠-2NT	Opener can bid 4th suit to ask for spade support Opener can bid 5th to show he is unsure of 3NT
2♠-4th suit	Opener bids natural bids with a minimum Opener can bid 5th suit with extra values, or to ask for spades
3mi	Responder can raise with 5-card support Responder can bid 4th suit with 4-card support
3mi-4th suit	Opener bids natural bids with a minimum Opener can bid 5th suit, if available, with extra values Opener can rebid 3NT when he doesn't want to advance to the 4-level, or perhaps with a honor singleton in his short suit
3♥	Raise with support if you want to

The above sounds very complicated, but if you study the examples most of the rules are logical when they arise.

### ***How about voids?***

We haven't talked about voids yet. When I invented Godzilla, one of my ideas was to use opener's 2NT bid after the negative response to show hands with a void. That is because we don't open strong balanced hands with a minor suit.

However, I have come to my senses now. After the negative rebid of a major, we aim for a game and not a slam. Having an artificial way to show a void in opener's hand is overdoing it. Should responder show a perfect fit, perhaps opener can bid one step more with the void later on.

That is why we, even if we don't have a strong balanced hand, use 2NT in a natural way with semi-balanced hands.

***Opener has a balanced or semibalanced hand.***

Using Godzilla, the jump to 2NT after 1-over-1 in a major doesn't include hands with 3-card support. At least that is a possibility.

With a 6-3-2-2 opener has three possible bids. He can rebid his minor at the 3-level as a non-forcing bid, he can raise partner's major(!), or he can bid 3NT. If you want, you can make it four bids by bidding 2NT, pretending it is a balanced hand.

It is possible to avoid showing shortage when you have a singleton King or Ace. Thus, if you agree on that principle, 6-3-2-2 may be a 6-3-3-1 with a high singleton honor.

After the negative response we can easily show our balanced hand:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠
2NT	

2NT has the same meaning independently of which minor and major is bid.

As I have mentioned, we open 2♣ with 18-19 and a balanced hand, and for us, 2NT always resembles 6-3-2-2. Therefore, here we play 2NT as forcing to at least 3♣. We don't think we have to be able to play in exactly 2NT.

When the balanced 18-19 hand is still in the picture, I guess that opener can have only three or four cards in the opening suit. There is, however, not much need for any conventional responses after 2NT as opener already has shown support and responder has a weak hand.

If responder only has four spades, he usually will pass or raise to 3NT. With a very weak hand, instead of passing, responder can bid opener's suit with support or the unbid minor with something like 4-6 to improve the contract.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠
2NT	3♦

This should be natural and probably a long weak diamond suit.

If responder has five spades, he bids 3 or 4♠ to play. I think there is the possibility to use 3♥ (the unbid major) to suggest 3NT as an alternative contract. Sometimes, it is easier to take nine tricks than ten when a 5-3-3-2 hand meets 4-3-3-3.

### *Responder has a better hand*

We have covered the negative response. When responder has a game-forcing hand, one choice is to continue with 2NT as a relay bid to clarify opener's distribution.

Let us first look at some other possibilities:

Opener	Responder
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♠

Responder shows (at least) 4-4 in the majors and invitational values or better. 2 ♠ is forcing, often with a balanced hand or 4441, but responder can have five hearts.

Holding a stronger hand with four spades, responder can bid either 2 ♠ or 2NT. If opener has an unbalanced hand, he is short in spades or the unbid minor. Therefore, responder should prefer the notrump bid only with some kind of stopper in that suit if 3NT is an alternative contract. When the auction begins in this way, we both continue with simple natural bids.

After the 1 ♦ opening we have an extra option. Responder can then bid 3 ♣ to show at least invitational values and diamond support. Responder can have:

Opener	Responder
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 ♣
♠ xx ♥ KQxx ♦ Kxx ♣ Jxxx	

Bidding 2NT with two small spades is not very tempting when you can make another bid. If opener has three spades it could be dangerous to play 3NT from the wrong hand. Opener will, of course, more often be short in clubs, but we don't know that yet. Responder can bid 3 ♣ also with a stronger hand if he has support and doesn't like to bid notrumps.

With 5-5 in two suits responder can bid a new suit at the 3-level (except for 3 ♣).

Opener	Responder
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♥
♠ AQxxx ♥ KQxxx ♦ x ♣ xx	

We have already found a 5-3 fit in spades, but a 5-4 fit in hearts can sometimes be safer or make a better game or slam.



### *The 2NT asking bid*

We always have one major and one minor unbid suit. We start by straighten out if opener has a short suit. The bids from 3♥ and up show three-suited hands with shortness in a minor. We then show our distribution right away, and if we have a short major, we start with 3♣.

1mi-1Ma; 2U-2NT (GF, asking)	
3♣	Short major, responder can ask again
3♦	Type 6-3-2-2 or the strong balanced hand
3♥	Short minor, shows a 5-4-3-1
3♠	Short minor, shows a 6-3-3-1 or a 7-card suit
3NT/4♣	Void minor, shows a 6-4-3-0 with 15-17/18+
4♦	If possible 5-5-3-0 (otherwise 7-3-3-0) with 18+

After 3♣ responder often bids 3♦ to ask again. He will then get the same responses from 3♥ and upwards. I will soon get back to the unbalanced hands.

### *Opener is balanced or semi-balanced*

With a balanced or a semi-balanced hand, opener response to 2NT is 3♦. After opener's 3♦, responder has a few options. If he just wants to know if opener is balanced he can bid 3♥ to ask.

Other options for responder over 3♦ are to bid 3NT another game. Since opener can have extra values, directly bidding a game shows a minimum hand or a bad fit.

Here are the rebids after 3♥ in a table:

1mi-1Ma; 2U-2NT: 3♦-3♥ (ask for strength and type)	
3NT	18-19 HCP, balanced
3♠	15-17 with 6-3-2-2 (or a singleton honor)
4♣/♦	18+ with 6-3-2-2 (or a singleton honor)

We have no special agreements after these bids, but over the 4-level bids responder can bid 4NT to sign off with shortness in opener's long suit or minimum values.

Responder does not always ask for extra strength this way. We now use the 3♠ bid to set our major suit as trumps. In the next auction 3♠ sets hearts as trumps:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♦	2NT
3♦	3♠

If you use the non-serious 3NT, you can use it here, if you don't you can just bid the way you usually do.

There are only two possible trump suits in this situation. One is responder's major, and the other is opener's minor. If responder bids 4♣ after 3♦ in the above auction, that is a strong slam try in clubs since responder didn't bother to check opener's strength.

Here opener shows a minimum:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♦	2NT
3♦	3♥
3♠	

Opener shows 6-3-2-2 and minimum, but he can also have 6-3-3-1 with an Ace or a King singleton. The way to name hearts as trumps now has to be 4♦.

A paranthesis:

If you don't include the strong 18-19 balanced hand in Godzilla, you can improve the scheme after 2NT a little. This is our changes:

After 2NT, responder's 3♠, shows 6-3-3-1 with 15-17 HCP while 3♦ shows either a stronger hand with 6-3-3-1 or any 6-3-2-2.

The continuation after 3♦ is as follows:

1mi-1Ma; 2U-2NT; 3♦ (6-3-3-1 with 18+ or any 6-3-2-2)

3♥

Asking for clarification

- 3♠ with 18+ and 6-3-2-2
- 3NT with minimum with 6-3-2-2 and 3♠ with more
- 4♣ with 18+ 6-3-3-1, singleton in minor
- 4♦ as 4♣ with singleton in the major

3♠

Sets Ma as trumps, asking

- 3NT no singleton
- 4♣ singleton in minor
- 4♦ singleton in major

### *Responder has alternative bids*

When opener bids 3♣ after 2NT, denoting shortness in the unbid major, responder often bids 3♦ to relay out opener's distribution, but he doesn't have to do that.

With some hands, responder already knows which suit we will play of opener's minor or responder's major. If you want, you can include the options that I suggest here as they sometimes make life easier.

#### Responder's alternative bids after 2NT-3♣

3♦	Asking again
3♥	Suggest opener's minor as trumps
3♠	Sets opener's major as trumps
3NT	To play

The 3♥ bid can be used as a mild slam try as we still can stop in 3NT.

Let me say a few words about what happens next when responder uses any of these alternative bids: Opener's short suit is already known. As we play, opener's 3NT is now the most negative bid, while a rebid of the short suit shows a void. You can, if you want, also use the serious/non-serious convention after 3♠ here.

All pairs have their slam technique, so I leave the rest up to you.

One example of how responder may think:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2NT
3♣	?
♠ AQx	♠ K10xxx
♥ x	♥ Qx
♦ AJxx	♦ Kxx
♣ AQJxx	♣ Kxx

Whether opener has 5-4-3-1 or 6-3-3-1 can, of course, matter, but if responder is of a simple nature, he can bid 3♠ to set the trumps. Thereby he gives opener a chance to express his thoughts about a slam in the spade suit. If opener's clubs or spades are meager, we should probably stop in a game.

As you probably understand by now, I don't consider playing matchpoints. If you do Godzilla will now and then help you to find a good major suit game on a 4-3 fit.

### *Opener reveals his distribution*

Here, again, we look at how opener shows different distributions, whether directly or delayed.

Showing the distribution after the relay:

3♥	Shows a 5-4-3-1
3♠	Shows a 6-3-3-1 or a 7-card suit
3NT/4♣	Shows a 6-4-3-0 with 15-17/18+
4♦	Shows 5-5-3-0 and 18+ (only possible after 1♦)

If responder has a good hand with only four cards in his major, he often wants to know opener's exact distribution before deciding where to go. Then, he uses the 2NT as a relay bid.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2NT
3♣	3♦
3♠	?
♠ KQx	♠ A10xx
♥ x	♥ Jxx
♦ AJx	♦ Kxx
♣ AQJxxx	♣ Kxx

Opener shows 6-3-3-1 (or better) with short hearts. Responder then has a superb fit and sets the trumps by bidding 4♣. We should reach the good slam.

In the next hand, we again have a good fit.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	2NT
3♣	3♦
3♥	3♠
3NT	5♣
♠ KQx	♠ A10xx
♥ x	♥ Jxx
♦ A10xx	♦ Kxx
♣ AKxxx	♣ Qxx

Opener shows =3-1-4-5 by bidding 3♥. When we have only eight trumps together, opener needs to have extra strength to make it a good slam. Responder's 3♠ over the 3♥ bid asks for extra strength. To that question, opener's 3NT says no (15-17) while bidding 4♣ would say yes (18-20). Of course, 17 good can say yes, just as 18 can say no. You are the boss. This time opener says no, and we stop in 5♣.

Here is problem hand in the methods:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	2NT
?	
♠ AQx ♥ - ♦ AQJxx ♣ AQxxx	

The 5-5-3-0 is not a part of the normal 3-level responses to 2NT. The only bid left is 4♦ which I think is a too much with only 15 HCP. Therefore, we have decided that 4♦ shows about 18 HCP or more. What should we do then, if we have the same distribution with less strength?

The good thing is that, since we have a short major, our first bid is 3♣. Responder has some alternative bids and doesn't always use the relay. But if he does, opener has to bid 3♥, and show the hand as 5-4-3-1 for now.

How should responder make a slam try after opener has revealed his distribution? When it comes to slam bidding, one important factor is: which suits are possible trump suits. If there are only two possible trump suits, it is a small problem, and if there are three possible suits, it is a bigger problem. Let us look at a few hands where responder is interested in a slam.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♦	2NT
3♠	?
♠ AJx	♠ Kxx
♥ AJx	♥ KQxx
♦ x	♦ Qxx
♣ AKxxxx	♣ Qxx

When opener's short suit is in a minor, he shows his distribution directly over 2NT. In this auction, it can only be hearts (if responder has five or more) or clubs. For sure, responder can see that he only has four hearts, but his partner doesn't know that!

Since 3NT is a natural bid, we have to use 4♣ as a (natural) slam try in clubs, and 4♦ as an artificial way to tell partner that hearts are trumps. In this case, responder can bid 4♣ if he wants to make a slam try in clubs.

Next, a more difficult situation:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♦	2NT
4♣	
♠ AJx	♠ KQxxx
♥ AQxx	♥ KJxx
♦ -	♦ Qx
♣ AKxxxx	♣ xx

When opener shows 6-4-3-0, there is very little space below game. The good thing about many of these situations is that we don't need bids to invite a slam. We already know opener's distribution and 15-17 (if opener bids 3NT) or 18+ after 4♣.

Whenever we have three possible trump suits, and you already are at the 4-level, we need to decide how to handle it. It is the same problem when opener has 5-4-3-1 and responder asks if opener has a minimum (3NT) or extra strength (4♣). We want to tell opener what suit we are going to play, but how should we do it?

If you still are patient and have room for more ideas, there is a way to handle this problem too! Responder must be able both to stop in a game and move on towards a slam after setting the trump suit.

My idea is to use transfers to set the trump suit. After 4♣, we can use 4♦, 4♥ and 4♠ to set the three possible suits. A transfer to opener's short suit sets the trump suit you cannot transfer to. Often that suit will be clubs.

If opener's bid is 3NT, you can use 4♣ too, or perhaps bid 4♣ as a last-train bid if you prefer that. Last-train means that you let partner decide if we should bid a slam or not. If you want to know how that works in this case, opener's 4♥ is a negative response while 4♦ accepts. After 4♥, responder bids the game (or passes). After 4♦, 4♥ sets responder's major, 4♠ opener's minor while 4NT is RKCB with the remaining suit as trumps.

If you think much of this is too much to handle, but you still want to try Godzilla, you can simplify the methods. For example, you can bid natural or semi-natural bids after 2NT, instead of the artificial steps, or skip the void-showing bids. You can, of course, play the parts you like and ignore the rest.

## 2S AS A ONE-SUITED MINOR

The way I see it, a vital part of these methods is opener's 2♠ rebid after 1♥. If we include strong one-suiters in the Gazilla 1♠, the subsequent auction will be more crowded and less efficient.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♠	

Opener's 2♠ here shows about 16+ with at least 6-card clubs and denies three cards in hearts. If responder is weak, we often stop in 3♣. The jump to 3♣ over 1♥ is a distributional invitation with about 14-15 and usually a 7-card suit.

Independent of which of the minors opener has, responder's rebids are in principle the same. If the opening bid is 1♦, the minor suit bids are reversed.

1♣-1♥; 2♠ (16+ with 6+ club, not 3 hearts)	
2NT	Forcing for one round
3♣	A weak bid
3♦	A relay bid
3♥	GF with 6+ hearts
3♠/4♦	A splinter bid, often only a mild slam try
3NT	To play
4♣	A strong slam try, opener should cue-bid

Responder's preference is weak, and as the fit in opener's long suit is important, I don't want to put a HCP limit. Let us look at a few hands.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♠	3♣
♠ Jxxx   ♥ KJ9xx   ♦ Qxx   ♣ x	

Is it evident that responder has to bid the negative 3♣ with a bad fit and a weak hand. We know that opener doesn't have three or more hearts. With the same point count, a hand with a club honor looks much better. If responder has the next hand, we can often make 3NT.

♠ Jxxx   ♥ J9xx   ♦ Qxx   ♣ Kx

Bidding games when having a long suit shouldn't be too scientific. A small mistake in defense or just the wrong lead can give us the contract even if a perfect defense would beat it.



### Responder bids 2NT

The 2NT bid after 2♠ is forcing and promises at least invitational strength. When responder has honors in the unbid suits, he often rebids 2NT. We also can use the 2NT bid as a prelude to a slam try to check opener's reaction.

These are opener's rebids:

1♣-1♥; 2♠-2NT (Forcing, at least invitational)	
3♣	About minimum and seldom good clubs
3♦/♠	A singleton, usually 7 clubs
3♥	A singleton, extra values and may be a strong 6-3-3-1
3NT	Accept

If opener has six clubs and three hearts, he will use Godzilla. That is why he will have seven clubs when he has a singleton in an unbid suit.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♠	2NT
3♣	pass
♠ AKx	♠ Jxxx
♥ xx	♥ K9xx
♦ Kx	♦ Qxx
♣ AQxxxx	♣ Jx

Opener can raise to 3NT with only a little extra with good clubs, but I think opener should reject the invitation here because of the meager club suit.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♠	2NT
3NT	
♠ AKx	♠ Jxxx
♥ x	♥ A9xx
♦ Kxx	♦ Qxx
♣ AQJxxx	♣ 9x

The reason to show a singleton is to avoid 3NT and instead play game or slam in the minor. Showing shortness in responder's suit is dubious without a very good hand, since we otherwise may unnecessarily give away information.

### *Other bids after 2S*

If you want to use any bids in a different way than we do you can, of course, make changes as you please.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♠	3♦

Responder's 3♦ can be just a way to avoid playing 3NT from the wrong hand. Usually responder has a fit in clubs, but weakness in the other major or diamonds. It can be a hand like this:

♠ xx ♥ AQxxx ♦ Qxx ♣ Jxx

Opener can bid 3NT if he covers both unbid suits. Otherwise, he can show a stopper if 3NT is in the picture. (3♠=stopper; 3♥= stopper in the unbid minor).

♠ AKJ ♥ Kx ♦ x ♣ KQ10xxxx

With a hand like the above, I would as opener just bid 5♣.

The next hand shows another possibility:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
2♠	3♠
♠ x ♥ AKxxx ♦ xxx ♣ Jxxx	

Responder can make a splinter bid in spades or the unbid minor (at the 4-level) when he has a good 5♣ bid. There is a danger in doing that, as it gives opponents a hint about what to lead, but it also gives us a chance to find a good slam.

If partner has this hand, we can make a grand slam in clubs, but already bidding 6♣ should give a decent score:

♠ AJx ♥ x ♦ Axx ♣ AKxxxx

## THE GAZILLA REBIDS

As you have noticed from the summary, the Gazilla bid varies depending on what suits we have bid. We use 1♠ after responder's 1♥, and 2 of the unbid minor when the response instead was 1♣, but only after the opening bids 1♣ or 1♦.

I will start with the Gazilla 1♠ after the 1♥ response over a minor suit opening.

Because 2♦ after the start 1♣-1♥ is a Godzilla raise, we cannot use 2♦ as a natural reverse bid. The whole idea with Gazilla is to replace the Godzilla bid. Therefore, we must include those reverse hands in the 1♠ rebid, if this should work!

Here is again what opener can have after the opening bid 1♣:

1♣-1♥; 1♠ Gazilla, less than 3 hearts and:

- a) 11+ with 5+ clubs and 4 spades
- b) 15/16+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds

As a general rule, using a bid with several meanings, it is best for partner to assume that partner holds the weakest of the alternative hands. Statistically, when we have this auction, opener will have the hand with spades and clubs in most cases.

This is a summary of responder's rebids in a table:

1♣-1♥; 1♠ (Gazilla, forcing)	
1NT	Up to 10(11) with a stopper/length in diamonds (not 4 spades)
2♣	A normal weakish preference (5-9/10)
2♦	A two-way fourth suit bid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 4 spades, weak or invitational (5-12 HCP)</li> <li>b) GF without 4 spades</li> </ul>
2♥	8-11 with 6+ hearts
2♠	GF with 4 spades
2NT/3♣	Natural, invitational bids
3♦	GF with 5-5
3♥	GF or Strong invitation with 6 hearts (what you are used to)

Responder's weak preference bid 2♣ usually holds less than 10 HCP, depending on the distribution since responder instead can bid 3♣ with an invitational hand.

As you can see, we can apply our usual responses to a natural 1♠ rebid with one exception only; The fourth suit, here 2♦, is either the typical game-forcing hand or a hand with spade support with less than game-forcing strength.

Even if responder's other bids are more or less standard, we may have to discuss how to rebid as opener with the different hand types.

### *The natural responses to Gazilli 1S*

Many of the auctions after opener's Gazilli bid are so logical that it should be almost insulting to give you example hands. Instead, I now and again try to add some additional information and a few comments.

The responses 2♣ and 1NT are limited and deny four spades.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	1NT/2♣

After 1NT, opener passes with most minimum hands. If he bids again, these are his options:

1♣-1♥; 1♠-1NT (5-11 with a diamond stopper)	
2♣	either 5 clubs with 15-16 or 6 clubs 11-14 (always 4 spades)
2♦	15-16, NF with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds
2♥	17+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds
2♠	17+ with 4 spades 5+ clubs
2NT	Invitational, 17-18, usually with 4 spades
3♣	15-16, NF with 4 spades and 6 clubs

With six clubs opener prefers to play the part-score in his long suit. With only 5-4 in the black suits and extra values, he can bid 2♣ to give responder a chance to show maximum for 1NT.

The reason for having 2♦ as a non-forcing reverse bid is that diamonds often is our best spot after 1NT (as the notrump bid indicates some diamond length). Therefore, we instead use the 2♥ bid, artificially, as a forcing reverse with diamonds, but even then we can still stop in a part-score.

After the weak preference to clubs, some rebids are unchanged, but not these:

1♣-1♥; 1♠-2♣ (5-9/10 with 2+ clubs)	
2♦	17+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds
2♥	15-16, non-forcing with =4-2-2-5 or =2-2-4-5
3♣	An unspecified invitational bid

The difference is; When responder makes a preference to clubs instead of bidding 1NT, 2♦ cannot be our best contract. Therefore, 2♦ is a forcing bid.

We use 2♥ as a limited bid with a 5-4-2-2 hand. If you raise an eyebrow here, I can understand it: Do we not open 1NT with these hands? I don't always do that. With two small cards in a suit or a suit-oriented hand, I prefer to bid naturally.

To stop at the 2-level with a minimal reverse hand, we can bid 2♥ with a doubleton to suggest an alternative contract if responder is weak. We do that with four spades or four diamonds since both suits are out of the picture as trump suits. However, it is probably best not to have two small hearts. This is a possible auction:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♥	4♥
♠ Axxx	♠ Jxx
♥ Kx	♥ AQ10xx
♦ xx	♦ xx
♣ AKJxx	♣ Qxx

After the limited 2♥ bid, responder knows opener's distribution. Playing in 3NT seems to be a difficult project if opener doesn't have any help in hearts, and if he does, a game in that suit looks better.

After other responses to 1♠ the continuation is as natural as possible.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2NT/3♣

Responder assumes that opener has the hand with clubs and spades when making his rebid. Therefore, 2NT doesn't promise a stopper in spades and opener can rebid clubs as a suggestion to stop in 3♣. When opener has both minors and 16+, he should show his diamonds (unless, of course, he has a good spade-stopper himself).

How about these bids?

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♥/3♦/3♥

As in the standard methods, responder can rebid hearts with six hearts and 8-10/11 HCP, and you can play the jump rebid to 3♥ the way you are used to, whether it is a stronger invitation or forcing to game.

The same goes for a jump to 3♦ (the fourth suit), but we use it as a game-forcing bid to eliminate those hands. As you will see later, we then can rebid diamonds after the fourth suit bid as a *repeated* fourth suit. It will soon be chrystal clear!

### *Responder has four spades*

When responder has spade support the system says: Responder should bid 2♠ with a game-forcing hand and 2♣ with less. When in doubt, responder should look at the fit in opener's suit.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	?
♠ AQxx ♥ QJxxx ♦ x ♣ Qxx	

Responder should bid 2♣. He should consider both the diamond fit and his honors in the other suits. When playing on a 4-4 fit, a singleton in partner's suit is usually not a good fit unless we have another suit that can produce tricks.

The problem with bidding 2♣ with values for a game opposite a minimum hand is that we then, as you will soon see, have to bid 4♠ in the next round.

With marginal values for a game and a lousy fit, responder can bid 2♣ followed by 4♠ if opener has spades. By doing that, we say, partner, even if you have a good hand, I have no perfect hand for a slam.

Let us look at a couple of other hands, which both are worth a direct 2♠ bid:

♠ KQxx ♥ AQJ10x ♦ x ♣ xxx

Not a good fit but the heart suit can be helpful even if partner doesn't have a fit.

♠ KQxx ♥ Axxxx ♦ Q10x ♣ x

Not much HCP, but with the excellent fit this is a hand for 2♠. The layout can be:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♠
♠ AJxx	♠ KQxx
♥ x	♥ Axxxx
♦ AKxxx	♦ Q10x
♣ KQx	♣ x

We don't even have a good fit in clubs but the diamond fit makes the difference. What should opener do after 2♠? That brings us to the next chapter.

## Responder bids 2S

Responder's raise to 2♠ is a game-forcing raise of opener's presumed hand with clubs and spades. To also cater to the other hands opener can have after 1♠, let's look at the alternatives for opener when he doesn't have spades.

All these rebids show the reverse hand with a diamond side suit:

1♣-1♥; 1♠-2♠ (GF with 4 spades)	
2NT	15/16+ with 5 clubs and 4 diamonds
3♣	15/16+ with 6 clubs and 4 diamonds
3♦	15/16+ with 6-5
3NT	A minimum hand (15-16) with =2245

These rebids leave room to investigate. Even though responder doesn't have four diamonds very often, as he already has shown 4-4 in the majors, he can have the distribution =4441, but more often he has some club support.

Opener needs to differentiate between five and six clubs, mainly for slam purposes. If responder has a doubleton honor opposite a 6-card suit, that often makes a good trump suit.

When opener has four spades, our primary goal is to clarify opener's strength:

1♣-1♥; 1♠-2♠ (GF with 4 spades)	
3♥	17+ with or without a short suit
3♠	11-13 with a short suit
4♣	14-16 without shortage
4♦/♥	14-16 splinter
4♠	11-13 without shortage

Over 3♥, the idea is that 3♠ asks and 3NT then denies a singleton. After the bids that promise a shortage, next bid asks which the short suit is.

We show short suits in steps when partner asks, if you prefer natural splinter bids that works too. For us, steps 1-2 show lowest-highest singleton and steps 3-4 show a void the same way.

We have a lot of bidding space after 3♥, and responder can bid 3NT to show that his raise was marginal and that no singleton will make him very happy.

1♣-1♥; 1♠-2♠; 3♥ (17+ with or without a short suit)	
3♠	Asking (3NT=no, otherwise steps)
3NT	Minimum for 2♠



### ***Responder bids fourth suit***

Let us look at how the special fourth-suit bid works.

Opener	Responder
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦

With the fourth suit bid, responder either has a game-forcing hand *without* spades or up to invitational values *with* four spades. Responder can be very weak if he has spades since the 1 ♠ bid is forcing.

This is how opener rebids after 2 ♦:

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠-2 ♦ (a special fourth-suit bid)	
2 ♥	11-13 or 17+ with 4 spades
2 ♠	14-16 with 4 spades
2NT	15-17 Non-forcing with 5(+) clubs and 4 diamonds
3 ♣	Almost GF with 6 clubs and 4 diamonds
3 ♦	GF with 5 clubs and 4 diamonds
3 ♥	GF with =2146
3 ♠	GF with =1246

Opener must bid either 2 ♥ or 2 ♠ with four spades. All the bids from 2NT and up shows 15+ with diamonds. If you don't want to use the 3 ♥/♠ bids, you can play 3 ♣ as game-forcing.

Both opener and responder have made a two-way bid, and we need to clarify what they have. After the fourth suit bid, the situation is one of the following:

- *we both have four spades*

Opener has 11-20, responder 5-11/12

- *opener has spades but responder doesn't*

Opener has 11-20, responder has about 12+

- *opener doesn't have spades but responder does*

Opener has 15+ but responder only 5-11/12

- *none of us have spades*

Opener has 15+ and responder 12+

All of that to give you an idea of what we must be prepared to handle! On the other hand, it will not be difficult at all.

### *We both have four spades*

When responder has a weak or invitational hand, he bids 2♦, fourth suit after 1♠. Opener then bids 2♥ or 2♠ to show four spades. The idea here is that the 2♥ bid shows either a minimum or a strong hand while a direct 2♠ is a hand in-between.

After 2♥ responder assumes the 11-13 hand. With spade support, he bids the suit at the appropriate level. Usually that will be a sign-off or an invitation.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
2♥	2♠

Opener's 2♥ shows 11-13 or 17+ HCP. When responder signs off with 2♠, opener should bid again with 17 HCP or more. We have found our trump suit, and now we just have to bid to the right level. Opener can have this strong hand:

♠ KJxx ♥ x ♦ AKQxxx ♣ Ax

With this hand, I think opener even can make a slam try after the invitational 3♠.

There is a reason for using 2♠ as a game-forcing raise, instead of bidding fourth suit with support. The auction we want to avoid is that opener has the strong 17+ hand and responder has values to bid game.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
2♥	4♠

If the fourth suit bid wasn't strictly limited when holding spade support, opener would have a problem deciding if to bid again with 17+.

Since responder can have many hands without spades, we should be able to show those hands after 2♥. We cannot afford any artificial bids to show a good spade raise. The following auction is much easier to handle:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♠
3♥	

Responder forces to game with spades and opener shows a 17+ hand. We have a lot more bidding space after that auction.

### *Opener has spades but responder doesn't*

When responder doesn't have four spades all bids are game-forcing and reasonable natural with one exception: Responder's 3♦ is fourth suit again.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
2♥	3♦
♠ KJx ♥ AQxxx ♦ xxx ♣ Kx	

With no natural bid available, responder must ask opener for help. Since 2♦ wasn't really a fourth suit bid, 3♦ now is. With something like 5-5 in the red suits and a good hand, responder would have jumped to 3♦ directly after 1♠.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
2♥	2NT
3NT	
♠ AQxx	♠ Jx
♥ x	♥ Kxxxx
♦ Kxx	♦ Axx
♣ K10xxx	♣ AQx

Responder has five hearts, but that is not important since opener never has 3-card support. Responder has a minimum for a game-force. Should he bid 3NT over 2♥?

I don't think 3NT would be a good bid, though. Both 2NT and 3♣ are better with a stopper like Ace third in diamonds and club support. Opener can have this hand:

♠ AQxx ♥ Ax ♦ x ♣ K10xxxx

Opener will pass over 3NT with this hand, but we can make 6♣ if responder has the hand above. We are better placed if responder bids 2NT or 3♣. After 2NT we rebid clubs and, after 3♣, we can bid a semi-natural 3♥. Opener can also have this:

♠ AKQx ♥ Ax ♦ xx ♣ KJxxx

A club slam is around the corner, but opener will have a difficult time after 3NT. After both 2NT and 3♣, he can bid 3♦ as fourth suit and see what happens.

### Opener doesn't have spades

We are still talking about responder's 2♦ bid that can either be weak (with spades) or game-forcing. If opener doesn't have four spades, he has reverse strength with four diamonds. All the bids above 2♠ show that type of hand. Here they are again:

1♣-1♥; 1♠-2♦ (a special fourth-suit bid)	
2NT	15-17 Non-forcing with 5(+) clubs and 4 diamonds
3♣	Almost GF with 6 clubs and 4 diamonds
3♦	GF with 5 clubs and 4 diamonds
3♥	GF with =2146
3♠	GF with =1246

Here is an example. Opener has a spade stopper and 2NT looks very natural.

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
2NT	
♠ KJx   ♥ x   ♦ AJxx   ♣ AKJxx	

However, the 2NT bid doesn't promise a spade stopper as responder's 2♦ is not the standard game-forcing fourth suit. If responder is weak, he has four spades.

My previous advice is still valid: when partner's bid can have several meanings, it is best to assume the weakest hand. If responder is weak, we should stop in a part-score. As opener's hand is well described that shouldn't be a problem. Even if 2NT technically is non-forcing, responder can bid a minor with support.

If responder has a better hand, he often knows enough about opener's hand to place the final contract. If he bids 3♥, that shows six hearts, while 3♠ is just some kind of forcing sound.

If responder has a good hand with support in a minor we should be close to a slam, and bidding 4 of a minor should set the suit for slam purposes. After 2NT and a slam try, opener's 4NT is natural without good slam values, and in that case he will have a good spade stopper.

I say 3♣ is only almost game-forcing. If responder weak with both majors, and no fit at all, he can pass.

Let us leave responder's special fourth suit bid for now.

## *Gazilla after 1D-1H*

Let us now look at the difference when the bidding starts:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	

As I mentioned before, the Gazilla bid should handle the hands that we can't bid because of the Godzilla transfer, here 2♦. That's why the normal hand for 2♦ is a must to include, but we have taken the opportunity to also handle hands with diamonds and clubs that are too strong for a natural 2♣ rebid. Opener can have:

1♦-1♥; 1♠ Gazilla, less than 3 hearts and:

- a) 11-15 with 6 diamonds
- b) 11+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 spades or exactly =1444
- c) 16/17+ with 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs

In total, that means 1♠ is either four spades, six diamonds, or about 17+ with clubs. In all the cases without three hearts. Some additional comments:

With hand a), the one-suiter, opener has the option to rebid 3♦ after 1♥ with 14-15 (and often a 7-card suit) as a distributional invitation. With 16+ we jump to 2♠.

With hand c) there are also alternatives. We can bid a natural 2♣ with 11-16 or make a jump to 3♣ with 5-5 and about 14-16 HCP.

Compared to the club opening, the main difference between the 17+ hands with both minors is that we can have 5-5 in the minors after the diamond opening bid.

This is what responder's rebids look like in a table. Most of them are the same as after 1♣ with reversed minor suits:

1♦-1♥; 1♠ (Gazilla)	
1NT	Up to 10(11) with a stopper/length in diamonds (not 4 spades)
2♣	A two-way fourth suit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 4 spades, weak or invitational</li> <li>b) GF without 4 spades</li> </ul>
2♦	A normal weakish preference
2♥	8-11 with 6+ hearts
2♠	GF with 4 spades
2NT/3♦	Natural, invitational bids
3♣	GF with 5-5
3♥	GF or Strong invitation with 6 hearts (what you are used to)

When the opening bid is 1♦, the special fourth suit bid is 2♣:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣

Opener's rebids are much the same as after 1♣, when the fourth suit bid was 2♦. We now have an extra bid, 2♦, for opener to show the one-suited hand. Let's repeat opener's bids for your convenience:

1♦-1♥; 1♠-2♣ (a special fourth-suit bid)	
2♦	11-15 with 6 diamonds
2♥	11-13 or 17+ with 4 spades
2♠	14-16 with 4 spades
2NT	Non-forcing with 5(+) diamonds and 4+ clubs
3♣	Almost GF with 5 diamonds and 4(+) clubs
3♦	GF with 6 diamonds and 4 clubs
3♥	GF with =2155
3♠	GF with =1255

I don't want to waste your time by talking about bids we have already discussed. The new auction to talk about here is then:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	

That is like 1♦-1♥; 2♦ in your natural system. As a bonus: Responder either has four spades or a game-forcing hand, but not both. That can be useful information in the continued bidding.

We generally use 2NT as forcing for one round when partner has promised a 6-card suit. To find the right game or slam, we can bid 2NT with a balanced invitational hand and stronger hands. If opener rebids diamonds, we can stop there.

This is not a part of Gazilla, but if you are interested, these are our rebids after 2NT:

After 2NT forcing on 2mi (showing a 6-card suit)	
3mi	A minimum
3X	Extra values and a singleton in the bid suit
3NT	A maximum, or a very good suit

### *Gazilla 2C after 1D-1S*

This part of Gazilla resembles Gazilli and uses the same 2♣ bid. As I think some players already are using something like this, and thus won't say that I am the one who invented this bid. To me, that doesn't matter, I just want to tell you about it.

Here is what 1♦-1♠; 2♣ shows:

- a) 11+ with 6+ diamonds
- b) 16+ (reverse strength) with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs or 4 hearts

After the 1♠ response we don't have an additional way to show 16+ one-suited hands (like we have by bidding 1mi-1♥; 2♠). Therefore, opener can also have that hand. However, as before, we can make a jump rebid to 3♦ directly over 1♠ to make a distributional invitation with about 14-15 HCP.

Opener can not make the natural 2♣ rebid here with a minimum hand and both minors. With that hand we have to either bid 2♦ or 1NT, and I will soon come back to that auction. If we have 5-5 in the minors and about 14-15 with good suits, we can jump to 3♣.

Here are the responses to Gazilla 2♣:

1♦-1♠; 2♣ (Gazilla)	
2♦	5-10/11 doesn't promise any length in diamonds
2♥	GF, fourth suit
2♠	8-11 with 6 spades
2NT	Forcing one round, at least invitational
3♣	Forcing one round, at least 5-4 but often 5-5.
3♦	Invitational, assuming partner has 6-card diamonds
3♥	Invitational with 5-5 (with GF 2♥+3♥)

After 2♣, responder frequently bids 2♦ and the bidding start is this.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♦

Opener will usually pass with the one-suited diamond hand and 11-13. With 14-15 he can raise to 3♦ as a mild invitation.

This is how opener's rebids are organized:

1♦-1♠; 2♣-2♦ (limited values)	
2♥	16+ with 4 hearts (reverse hand)
2♠	16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs or 6 diamonds
2NT	16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs or 6 diamonds
3♣	Almost GF with 5-5 in the minors
3♦	14-15 with 6 diamonds
3♥	GF with =1255
3♠	GF with =2155

All the 16+ bids are forcing for one round only. There is a reason why we have designed two bids (2♠ and 2NT) with the same meaning instead of using one for both minors and one for the one-suited hand.

The reason is the heart suit. We only bid 2NT with a stopper in hearts as we often with minor suit hands will play in 3NT. Moreover, 2NT can sometimes, but not so often, be the distribution =1444 and 15+ HCP.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♣
?	
♠ A	♠ Jxxxx
♥ xx	♥ 10x
♦ AKQxx	♦ xx
♣ KJ10xx	♣ AQxx

Opener doesn't have the values for 3♣ after 2♦. Without a heart-stopper, he must bid 2♠. That shows either both minors or long diamonds. Responder's preference to 3♣ isn't forcing. Perhaps opener will bid again and we will find 5♣. With the one-suited hand opener often bids 3♦, also that non-forcing. If opener wants to make a forcing bid after the preference, he can bid any of the majors.

If responder wants to make a forcing bid after 2♠, he can bid 2NT to find out more about opener's hand. 2NT is forcing for one round. If you can handle more of my scientific creativity, we here use the Lissabon convention as a way for opener to accept an invitation. With a minimum opener shows what he has with 3♣ or 3♦.

With maximum we can use artificial bids, as the major suits both are out of the picture as trump suits. The Lissabon convention means that club relates to hearts or vice versa. It follows that diamonds then is the counterpart to spades.



Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♠	2NT
?	
♠ x	♠ Qxxxx
♥ Qx	♥ Kxx
♦ AKQxx	♦ xx
♣ KQJxx	♣ Axx

Opener has extra values but is not happy with bidding a negative 3♣ or raising to 3NT. Using Lissabon, he can bid 3♥ to accept the invitation and show 5-5 and thus give responder a mandate to place the game.

This is what opener can do after 2NT, the Lissabon bids 3♥ and 3♠ included:

1♦-1♠; 2♣-2♦; 2♠-2NT (forcing)	
3♣	Minimum, often only 5-4
3♦	Minimum with 6 diamonds, often a weak suit
3♥	GF with 5-4 (usually 5-5) in the minors (hearts relate to clubs)
3♠	GF with 6 diamonds, not suitable for notrumps
3NT	Accept with either hand

Let us also look at opener's reverse with hearts:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	

The reverse bid is forcing to at least three of opener's minor. As mentioned, this is like bidding 2♥ over 1♠, but we are a little ahead. With six spades and 8-11, responder would have rebid the suit after 2♣. In addition, opener has denied 3-card support in spades. That is also why responder can use 2♠ in an intelligent way in the auction here:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♠
♠ AJxx   ♥ Qxx   ♦ xxx   ♣ Jxx	

If responder has a club-stopper, he should bid 2NT over the reverse, but without a stopper, he can use the 2♠ bid if his hand is too good for a non-forcing preference. As long as we are below 3♦, we can still stop in that contract. Responder can bid 2NT or 2♠ with a minimum as with stronger hands. What should responder do with this hand after 2♣?

♠ AQxx ♥ xx ♦ Kxx ♣ Qxxx

As always, we should assume partner has the weakest of possible hands, 11-15 with six diamonds. We have two bids to choose from with invitational hands: 2NT and 3♦. I think 3♦ stands out with this hand because of the weak hearts.

What if opener doesn't have the expected hand? As long as we are below 3NT, opener's rebids after 3♦ are only semi-natural. Logically then, 3♥ from opener asks for a club stopper while 3♠ would imply heart weakness. If opener has slam ambitions with strong reverse hands he always has 5+ diamonds and has to find a way to proceed.

As 2NT from responder is forcing, he can use it as an alternative to bidding fourth suit as game-forcing. After 2NT, the only negative bid is 3♦.

After fourth suit by responder, we have to use artificial rebids by opener:

1♦-1♠; 2♣-2♥ (4th suit GF)	
2♠	16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs or 6 diamonds
2NT	16+ semi-natural, Often 4 clubs, can be =1444 with 15 HCP
3♣	16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 hearts
3♦	11-13 with 6 diamonds
3♥	6-5 with hearts
3♠	14-15 with 6 diamonds

The bidding space is not enough for us to only use natural rebids. Most of them are quite descriptive, but also here we use 2♠ as a two-way bid.

After 2♠ a natural continuation works fine. If responder makes a preference to 3♣, opener bids 3♦ to deny clubs and show six diamonds. Responder's 2NT is forcing for one round, and as before we can use Lissabon with a maximum.

I have added the 3♠ bid to show a better hand than 3♦ does. Opener has 11-15 when he bids 2♣. If we could not differentiate between minimum or maximum, responder would more often have to worry about inviting a slam or not.

### *Opener's rebid 2D, both minors*

Among the few things we have to change to use Godzilla and Gazilla is that we after 1♦-1♠ cannot bid a natural 2♣ with a minimum. Therefore, the solution to bid 2♦ with both minors and minimum hands is a part of Gazilla.

There is an alternative bid, though. The 1NT rebid after 1♠ doesn't promise a balanced hand, as we must do that with =1444. Therefore, we can bid 1NT also with hands like =1354 and =2254 if we prefer that to 2♦.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
?	
♠ xx   ♥ xx   ♦ AQJxx   ♣ KQxx	

With this hand, I can't see any reason not to show my suits with 2♦, but if the King in clubs was a heart King, I would consider 1NT. Since we after 2♦ have to play either 2♦ or 3♣ in most cases when partner is weak, I think the notrump bid can be the best choice if either of my suits is bad.

After 2♦, responder has to bid at the 3-level to play a part-score in clubs. That is also why we have no obvious way to raise clubs with an invitational hand.

What we do to solve this dilemma is to use a two-way fourth suit bid.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♦	2♥
2♠	3♣
♠ Qx	♠ KJxx
♥ xx	♥ Jxx
♦ AKxxx	♦ Qx
♣ QJ10x	♣ Axxx

Responder has a perfect hand for bidding 3♣ over a natural 2♣. Since that now is impossible, 2♥ from responder shows either the standard game-forcing hand or an invitational hand with club support. All bids after that, except 3♣ from both hands, lead to a game. I don't think we need more agreements than that.

I will stop there as the continued bidding for the remainder is what you are used to doing after the auction 1♦-1♠; 2♣.

### *Gazilla 2D after 1C-1Ma*

The idea to use the reverse bid 2♦ as a Gazilla-bid is not my own, but stealing is not a serious crime when it comes to bridge conventions. I often exchange systems with friends and noticing that Simon Ekenberg had this idea, I decided to borrow it from him.

However, the 2♦ bid has to show only good hands, since we bypass opener's suit at the 2-level. Just as with all other Gazilla rebids, we have to handle the bid that is busy doing Godzilla, in this case 2♥. I have used the opportunity also to include the strong one-suiter with clubs.

This is again how it looks in summary:

1♣-1♠	
2♦	Gazilla, less than 3 spades and either: a) 15/16+ (reverse) with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds or 4 hearts b) 16/17+ with one-suited 6+ clubs
2♥	Godzilla with 15+ and 3 spades

The bidding is already at a relatively high level for a three-way bid. The reason it works is that opener always has a good hand. We have to use some special bids to handle the continued bidding. Here is what responder can do after the Gazilla bid.

1♣-1♠; 2♦ (Gazilla)	
2♥	A two-way bid a) Any hand with 4 hearts b) At least 8 HCP otherwise
2♠	8-11 with 6+ spades
2NT	Also two-way a) weak (5-7) with a diamond preference (4+ diamonds) b) GF with good club support
3♣	A weak hand with a club preference (2+ clubs)
3♦/♥	GF with 5-5 and decent suits
3♠	GF with a good 6+ spade suit

A few comments on the responses:

- If responder bids 2NT or 3♣, he doesn't have four hearts.
- After 2♠, 8-11, I think both 3♣ and 3♠ should be non-forcing.
- As responder's two-way 2♥, can be weak with hearts, opener should cater to the possibility that responder has that hand.
- Regarding the two-way 2NT, opener has to assume that responder has the weak hand. If opener bids 3♣ after 2NT, he doesn't have diamonds.

If the bidding starts like this:

Opener	Responder
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2NT
3 ♣/♦	

Whatever responder does after the minor rebid here, except passing, he shows the stronger hand with club support.

It isn't over yet. This is the most frequent response to the Gazilli bid:

Opener	Responder
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥

Responder's 2♥ is containing a lot of different hands, and we still have to clarify what opener has. I will explain how we reason to build up the methods.

First a summary of the rebids that opener can make:

1 ♣-1 ♠; 2 ♦; 2 ♥ (4 hearts or 8+ HCP)	
2 ♠	17/18+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds or only 6+ clubs
2NT	15-16/17 with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds
3 ♣	16-17 with 6+ clubs
3 ♦	17/18+ with 5+ clubs and 4 hearts
3 ♥	15-16/17 with 5 clubs and 4 hearts
3 ♠	GF with 6 clubs and 4 hearts
3NT	18-19 with a suitable hand and =2245

I think you recognize the way we arrange the rebids. The most problematic hands are minimum hands with six clubs or both minors. Perhaps opener wants to stop opposite a weak hand and a marginal invitation. I think we have to earmark 2NT and 3 ♣ for those hands and they are both non-forcing.

If responder has less than 8 HCP he has four hearts and therefore, we don't have to worry about stopping in 3 of a minor when opener has four hearts.

As you can see in the table above, opener has several bids to show a hand with clubs and hearts. We can bid 3 ♥ with a minimum, 3 ♦ with a stronger hand, and with a game-forcing hand and 6-4, we can bid 3 ♠ to show our hand.

That leaves us with the strong 18+ hands, with either long clubs or a two-suiter with the minors. Those hands we can put in the remaining bid 2 ♠.

We can look at a few auctions to see what should happen next:

Opener	Responder
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	?

Responder's 3 ♣ here should try to stop the train. Since 1 ♠ nowadays can be very weak, there probably is no fit if responder also has four hearts. With hearts and a better hand, responder often bids 3NT, or 2NT to find out what hand opener has.

Opener	Responder
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♥
2NT	?

Responder can pass with a weak hand and both majors. With an invitational hand, he has to consider the alternatives. Sometimes, to play in 2 or 3NT is just as bad as playing the contract in a minor at the 3-level.

If responder bids 3 ♥ he can have 5-5, but not very good suits, but in principle the bid is a fourth suit bid. If responder bids 3 ♠, I guess that he has 6-4 in the majors. With a fit and strength for a slam try, responder can jump to 4 of a minor.

With other hands responder sometimes have to take a qualified guess based on the information he has: Opener has 15-17 with five clubs and four diamonds.

The end:

Even if this a short book, I hope it is important. Maybe to you and definitely to me. When you design bidding methods the real test will come when you play them. Writing about them is another way to find out where you have made mistakes. Luckily for us, I have been able to improve a few things already.

The perhaps most important part of Gazilla is that it never includes 3-card support in the bid major. Therefore, opener can often bid responder's major as an extra bid or even a 'fifth suit' bid to describe opener's hand.

I don't think you should use either Gazilla or Godzilla when the opponents have overcalled in a suit. Some auctions will then be confusing. Whether to use it after take-out doubles from opponents is up to you. Suppose the opponents enter the bidding at a later stage. In that case, we have to content ourselves by using the information we already have, and cooperate as well we can thereafter.

I close this book and hope you have got some ideas from it! I advice that you, apart from the bids covered here, use the methods you already have.

*Godzilla (after a club opening, reversed minors), examples*

1♦-1♠; 2♥	(15+ with 3 spades)
2♠	5-8 with 4 spades, 5-7 with a longer suit
2NT	GF, asking
3♣	At least invitational with diamond support (only after 1♦)
3♦	5-8 with 4 spades and good diamond support (as 3♥ after 1♣)
3♥	GF, natural, often 5-5
3♠	About 8-9, invitational with 5+ spades
4♣/♥	Splinter bids, setting spades as trumps

1♦-1♠; 2♥-2♠	(5-8 if 4 spades, 5-7 if 5 spades)
2NT	17+ with type 6-3-2-2
3♣	16/17+ with 3+ clubs, short hearts
3♦	15-16/17 with 6 diamonds (can be 6322)
3♥	18+ with 3+ hearts
3♠ (3NT)	GF with 6-3-2-2

1♦-1♥; 2♦-2♥	(5-8 if 4 hearts, 5-7 if 5 hearts or 4-4 in majors)
2♠	16/17+ with 3+ spades, short clubs
2NT	17+ type 6-3-2-2
3♣	16/17+ with 3+ clubs, short spades
3♦	15-16/17 with 6 diamonds
3♥ (3NT)	GF with 6-3-2-2

1♦-1♥; 2♦-2♥; 2♠	(16/17+ with 3+ spades, short clubs)
2NT	Natural, club-stopper, can have 4 spades Opener can bid 4th suit to ask for spade support Opener can bid 5th to show he is unsure of 3NT
3♣	Fourth suit, can have 4 spades Opener bids natural bids with a minimum Opener can bid 5th suit with extra values, or to ask for spades

1♦-1♥; 2♦-2♠	(4-4/5 in majors 8/9+)
2/3NT	Natural and non-forcing, 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs
3♣	GF with 5-5 or 5-4 in the minors
3♦	Non-forcing with six diamonds
3♥	GF with six diamonds
3♠/4X	4-card spade support

1mi-1Ma; 2U-Ma; 3Omi (16/17+ with 3+ Omi, short OMa)

4mi            5-card support

3OMa        4th suit, often 4-card support

Opener can bid 5th suit, if available, with extra values

Opener can rebid 3NT when he doesn't want to advance to the 4-level, or perhaps with a honor singleton in his short suit

Lissabon from opener, after 2NT Inv+

When opener has both minors (5-4, 5-5, 6-4)

Natural non-forcing bids in the minors

3♥ accept related to clubs, 3♠ accept related to diamonds



*Godzilla relays (the way we use them)*

1mi-1Ma; 2U-2NT (GF, asking)

- 3♣ Short major, responder can ask again
- 3♦ Type 6-3-2-2 or 18+ 6-3-3-1
- 3♥ Short minor, shows a 5-4-3-1
- 3♠ 15-17 Short minor, shows a 6-3-3-1 or a 7-card suit
- 3NT/4♣ Void minor, shows a 6-4-3-0 with 15-17/18+
- 4♦ Special case, shows 5-5-3-0 with 18+

Responder's alternative bids after 2NT-3♣

- 3♦ Asking again
- 3♥ Suggest opener's minor as trumps
- 3♠ Sets responder's major as trumps
- 3NT To play

1mi-1Ma; 2U-2NT; 3♦ (6-3-3-1 with 18+ or any 6-3-2-2)

- 3♥ Asking for clarification
  - 3♠ with 18+ and 6-3-2-2
  - 3NT with minimum with 6-3-2-2
  - 4♣ with 18+ 6-3-3-1, singleton in minor
  - 4♦ as 4♣ with singleton in the major
- 3♠ Sets Ma as trumps, asking
  - 3NT no singleton
  - 4♣ singleton in minor
  - 4♦ singleton in major

Showing the distribution after the relay:

- 3♥ Shows a 5-4-3-1
- 3♠ Shows a 6-3-3-1 or a 7-card suit (15-17 as we play)
- 3NT/4♣ Shows a 6-4-3-0 with 15-17/18+
- 4♦ Shows 5-5-3-0 and 18+ (possible after 1♦) otherwise 7-3-3-0)

Setting a trump suit:

- 2 suits      4mi natural, other minor sets the major
- 3 suits      4♣ last train: 4♦ accept and 4♥ no accept
  - After 4♥: responder bids our game
  - After 4♦: 4♥ sets major, 4♠ sets minor, 4NT sets 3rd suit
  - 4♦ sets hearts, if short hearts clubs
  - 4♥ sets spades, if short spades clubs
  - 4♠ sets diamonds, if short diamonds clubs

*Gazilla 1S*

1C-1Ma; 1NT good 13-16 bad lovar 45 i lå mot hjärter

1 ♣-1 ♥

1 ♠ Gazilla, less than 3 hearts and either:  
 a) 11+ with 5+ clubs and 4 spades  
 b) 15/16+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds  
 2 ♦ Godzilla with 15+ and 3 hearts  
 2 ♠ 16+ with 6+ clubs and less than 3 hearts

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠ (Gazilla, forcing)

1NT Up to 10(11) with a stopper/length in diamonds (not 4 spades)  
 2 ♣ A normal weakish preference (5-9/10)  
 2 ♦ A two-way fourth suit bid:  
 a) 4 spades, weak or invitational (5-12 HCP)  
 b) GF without 4 spades  
 2 ♥ 8-11 with 6+ hearts  
 2 ♠ GF with 4 spades 12 HCP or good fit  
 2NT/3 ♣ Natural, invitational bids  
 3 ♦ GF with 5-5  
 3 ♥ GF or Strong invitation with 6 hearts

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠-1NT (5-11 with a diamond stopper)

2 ♣ either 5 clubs with 14/15-16 or 6 clubs 11-14 (always 4 spades)  
 2 ♦ 15-16, NF with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds  
 2 ♥ 17+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds  
 2 ♠ 17+ with 4 spades 5+ clubs  
 2NT Invitational, 17-18, usually with 4 spades  
 3 ♣ 15-16, NF with 4 spades and 6 clubs

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠-2 ♣ (5-9/10 with 2+ clubs)

2 ♦ 17+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds  
 2 ♥ 15-16, non-forcing with 4225 or 2245  
 3 ♣ Invitational  
 Other As after 1NT

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠-2 ♠ (GF with 4 spades) OP don't have spades

2NT 15/16+ with 5 clubs and 4 diamonds

3 ♣ 15/16+ with 6 clubs and 4 diamonds

3 ♦ 15/16+ with 6-5

3NT A minimum hand (15-16) with =2245

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠-2 ♠ (GF with 4 spades) OP has spades

3 ♥ 17+ with or without a short suit

3 ♠ 11-13 with a short suit

4 ♣ 14-16 without shortage

4 ♦/♥ 14-16 splinter

4 ♠ 11-13 without shortage

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠-2 ♠; 3 ♥ (17+ with or without a short suit)

3 ♠ Asking (3NT=no, otherwise steps 1,2,3,4)

3NT Minimum for 2 ♠

1 ♣-1 ♥; 1 ♠-2 ♦ (a special fourth-suit bid)

2 ♥ 11-13 or 17+ with 4 spades

2 ♠ 14-16 with 4 spades

2NT 15-17 Non-forcing with 5(+) clubs and 4 diamonds

3 ♣ Almost GF with 6 clubs and 4 diamonds

3 ♦ GF with 5 clubs and 4 diamonds

3 ♥ GF with =2146

3 ♠ GF with =1246

Comment: Rebid of the 4th suit is 4th suit again

### Reversed minor suit bids after 1D-1H; 2S

1 ♣-1 ♥; 2 ♠ (16+ with 6+ club, not 3 hearts)

2NT Forcing for one round

3 ♣ A weak bid

3 ♦ A relay bid (0-1-2-3)

3 ♥ GF with 6+ hearts

3 ♠/4 ♦ A splinter bid, often only a mild slam try

3NT To play

4 ♣ A strong slam try, opener should cue-bid

1 ♣-1 ♥; 2 ♠-2NT (Forcing, at least invitational)

3 ♣ About minimum and seldom good clubs

3 ♦/♠ A singleton, usually 7 clubs

3 ♥ A singleton, extra values and may be a strong 6-3-3-1

3NT Accept

*Different after 1D opening*

1♦-1♥

- 1♠ Gazilla, less than 3 hearts and either:  
 a) 11-15 with 6 diamonds  
 b) 11+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 spades, or exactly =4144  
 c) 16/17+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs
- 2♦ Godzilla with 15+ and 3 hearts
- 2♠ 16+ with 6+ diamonds and less than 3 hearts

1♦-1♥; 1♠ (Gazilla)

- 1NT Up to 10(11) with a stopper/length in clubs (not 4 spades)
- 2♣ A two-way fourth suit  
 a) 4 spades, weak or invitational  
 b) GF without 4 spades
- 2♦ A normal weakish preference
- 2♥ 8-11 with 6+ hearts
- 2♠ GF with 4 spades
- 2NT/3♦ Natural, invitational bids
- 3♣ GF with 5-5
- 3♥ GF or Strong invitation with 6 hearts (what you are used to)

1♦-1♥; 1♠-1NT (up to 10-11 length or stopper clubs)

- 2♣ 14-15 with 3+ clubs
- 2♦ 11-14 with 6 diamonds
- 2♥ 16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs
- 2♠ 17+ with 4 spades (often 6-4 or 6-5)
- 2NT Invitational, 17-18, usually with 4 spades
- 3♣ Almost GF with 5-5
- 3♦ 14-15, Invitational with six diamonds

1♦-1♥; 1♠-2♦ (preference, up to 9/10)

- 2♥ About 16-17 with =2254 or 15-17 with =4252
- 2♠ 17+ with 4 spades (often 6-4 or 6-5)
- 2NT Invitational, 17-18, usually with 4 spades
- 3♣ F1 with 5-5 or 5-4 in the minors
- 3♦ 13-15 Invitational with six diamonds (pass with less strength)

1♦-1♥; 1♠-2♣ (a special fourth-suit bid)

2♦ 11-15 with 6 diamonds\*  
 2♥ 11-13 or 17+ with 4 spades  
 2♠ 14-16 with 4 spades  
 2NT Non-forcing with 5(+) diamonds and 4+ clubs  
 3♣ Almost GF with 5 diamonds and 4(+) clubs  
 3♦ GF with 6 diamonds and 4 clubs  
 3♥ GF with =2155  
 3♠ GF with =1255

1♦-1♥; 1♠-2♠- (GF with 4 spades) OP doesn't have spades)

2NT Natural with 5(+) diamonds and perhaps also 4+ clubs  
 3♣ 5 diamonds and 4(+) clubs  
 3♦ 6 diamonds, good suit

1♦-1♥; 1♠-2♠ (GF with 4 spades) OP has spades

3♥ 17+ with or without a short suit  
 3♠ 11-13 with a short suit  
 4♦ 14-16 without shortage  
 4♣/♥ 14-16 splinter  
 4♠ 11-13 without shortage

\*After 2NT forcing on 2♦ (showing a 6-card suit)

3mi A minimum  
 3X Extra values and a singleton in the bid suit  
 3NT A maximum, or a very good suit

*Gazilla 2C*

Here is what 1♦-1♠; 2♣ shows:

- a) 11+ with 6+ diamonds
- b) 16+ (reverse strength) with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs or 4 hearts

1♦-1♠; 2♣ (Gazilla)

- 2♦ 5-10/11 doesn't promise any length in diamonds
- 2♥ GF, fourth suit
- 2♠ 8-11 with 6 spades
- 2NT Forcing one round, at least invitational
- 3♣ Forcing one round, at least 5-4 but often 5-5.
- 3♦ Invitational, assuming partner has 6-card diamonds
- 3♥ Invitational with 5-5 (with GF 2♥+3♥)

1♦-1♠; 2♣-2♦ (limited values)

- 2♥ 16+ with 4 hearts (reverse hand)
- 2♠ 16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs or 6 diamonds
- 2NT 16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 clubs or 6 diamonds
- 3♣ Almost GF with 5-5 in the minors
- 3♦ 14-15 with 6 diamonds
- 3♥ GF with =1255
- 3♠ GF with =2155

1♦-1♠; 2♣-2♥ (4th suit GF)

- 2♠ 16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs or 6 diamonds
- 2NT 16+ semi-natural, Often 4 clubs, can be =1444 with 15 HCP
- 3♣ 16+ with 5+ diamonds and 4 hearts
- 3♦ 11-13 with 6 diamonds
- 3♥ 6-5 with hearts
- 3♠ 14-15 with 6 diamonds

**Gazilla 2D**

1 ♣-1 ♠

2 ♦ Gazilla, less than 3 spades and either:  
 a) 15/16+ (reverse) with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds or 4 hearts  
 b) 16/17+ with one-suited 6+ clubs

2 ♥ Godzilla with 15+ and 3 spades

1 ♣-1 ♠; 2 ♦ (Gazilla)

2 ♥ A two-way bid  
 a) Any hand with 4 hearts  
 b) At least 8 HCP otherwise

2 ♠ 8-11 with 6+ spades

2NT Also two-way  
 a) weak (5-7) with a diamond preference (4+ diamonds)  
 b) GF with good club support

3 ♣ A weak hand with a club preference (2+ clubs)

3 ♦/♥ GF with 5-5 and decent suits

3 ♠ GF with a good 6+ spade suit

1 ♣-1 ♠; 2 ♦; 2 ♥ (4 hearts or 8+ HCP)

2 ♠ 17/18+ with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds or only 6+ clubs

2NT 15-16/17 with 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds

3 ♣ 16-17 with 6+ clubs

3 ♦ 17/18+ with 5+ clubs and 4 hearts

3 ♥ 15-16/17 with 5 clubs and 4 hearts

3 ♠ GF with 6 clubs and 4 hearts

3NT 18-19 with a suitable hand and =2245