Responses to 1 No Trump Opening Bid
More Precise and Advanced Bidding

In order to understand this lesson, you should feel confident using using Stayman and Jacoby Transfers in response to 1 No Trump. (The S & J Way in Lesson 2)

Reminder: If you or your partner opened the bidding in a suit and one of you responded 1 No Trump, none of this applies. That is not an opening bid of 1NT.

Review of Responses to a 1 No Trump opening bid:

1) With fewer than 8 points and no 5-card major, PASS.
2) With a 5-card major (any points, even 0 points), use Jacoby Transfer.
   With 5 or more hearts, bid 2♦ – partner will say “transfer” and bid 2♥.
   With 5 or more spades, bid 2♥ – partner will say “transfer” and respond 2♠.
3) With 8 points or more and a 4-card major, use Stayman. Bid 2♣ asking partner to bid his/her 4-card major if s/he has one. With no 4-card major, partner will bid 2♦ which means “I do not have a 4-card major.” After Partner responds to 2♣, you have to decide what to do. With a fit in a major, you will pass or bid at the 3 level with 8-9 points and 4 level with 10+ points. With no fit in a major, you will bid 2 NT with 8-9 points and 3 NT with 10+ points.
4) With 8+ points and a long minor suit (at least 6), bid your minor suit at the 3 level (non-forcing).

More bids and strategy:

1) What should you do if you have 8+ points with 4 cards in one major and 5 in the other?
   Bid 2♣, (Stayman). If partner bids 2♦ (no 4-card major), bid your 5-card major next. Be sure to jump if you have points for game or slam. Your partner can pass your bid.
2) If your partner bid 2♥ in response to Stayman and you do not have 4 cards in hearts, bid 2NT next. Partner will then know that you had 4 cards in spades. Opener’s bid of 2♥ in response to Stayman does not deny spades. Opener’s bid of 2♠ denies hearts.
3) If your partner’s 1 NT opening bid was doubled by opponent, you can still bid 2♣ as Stayman.
4) If opponent bid a suit after your partner’s 1 NT opening bid, Jacoby transfers are off.

What should you do if the opponent overcalls your partner’s 1 NT opening bid? You can still do the following:
   1) Double 2♣ or 2♦ as Stayman.
   2) Double 2♥ or 2♠ to tell partner you have 4 of the other suit.
3) Bid suit at 2 level showing 5 cards in that suit (non-forcing). Jacoby transfers are off after an intervening bid so you must bid your suit to show 5 cards.
4) Bid suit at 3 level showing 5 cards and forcing. You must have at least 10 points to do this.
5) Bid 2NT (8-9 points) or 3NT (10+ points).

Jacoby Transfers Revisited

What do you do after you have transferred Partner/Opener into 2♥ or 2♠ using Jacoby? Realize that Opener could have just 2 cards in your major. Your next bid will show strength.

With 0-7 points – Pass
With 8-9 points – bid 2 NT.
   With 15 pts, Opener will pass with 2 cards in the major or bid 3 level of major with 3 cards or more in that major.
   With 16-17 pts, Opener will bid 3 NT with just 2 cards in the major or bid the 4 level of the major (game) with 3 or 4 cards in that major suit.
With 10+ points – bid 3 NT. (Opener now has the option of bidding the major at game level if s/he has 3 cards in that major.)

If you used Jacoby and partner (opener) has a maximum No Trump hand (17 points) and 4 of that major, partner can jump one level to super-accept the transfer. (E.g. 3♥ or 3♠.) You can still pass if you have few points or you can bid to game with more points (e.g., 6+).