

Kaplan Interchange

Improve Your Bidding

By Ron Lien

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Although this convention may have been created by Granville in England, many players refer to it as the Kaplan Interchange. Marshal Miles, American Grand Life Master, teacher, and writer; advocated for general adoption of this convention for many years. It wasn't until 2018, six years after his passing, that it was added to what is now the Open Chart.

What do you currently rebid with the following hand after 1♥ – 1N; ?

♠Kxxx ♥KJ10xx ♦Jx ♣Ax

Have you ever had trouble deciding what to rebid after 1♥ – 1♠ with this hand?

♠xxx ♥KJ10xxx ♦Kx ♣AQ

The Kaplan Interchange switches the meaning of 1♠ and 1N after a 1♥ opening. This convention is a useful alternative to Flannery, freeing up 2♦ for other hands. It solves the opener's rebid problems with the first hand above, and now a 2♣ rebid promises 3+ cards. In the second hand above, 1N shows 5 spades and avoids the rebid dilemma.

1♥ – 1♠ shows 0-4 spades with a forcing notrump or a game force (GF) and less than 4 spades.

1♥ – 1N shows 5+ spades with unlimited values.

Auction after 1♥ – 1♠; 1N

1N is forcing and promises 4 spades or an unbalanced hand with 16+.

2♣ is a relay with 8+.

2♦ 4+ minor, GF

2♥ 11-15 with 4 spades

2♠ 4 spades, GF

2N 6 hearts, GF

2♦ shows a spade preference.

2♥ strong hand, 5/6 hearts, forcing one round

2♠ preference

2♥ shows a heart preference.

2♠ shows 0-1 heart, 3 spades, minors or 6+ diamonds, and can be passed.

2N asks hand type

3♣ both minors (54 or 55)

3♦ 6+ diamonds

2N shows 12-13, good stoppers in the minors, and less than 3 hearts. The other rebids after 1♥ - 1♠ are whatever you currently play.

Rebids after 1♥ - 1N

1N is forcing, unlimited, and shows 5+ spades.

2♣/2♦ Natural, denying 3 spades; may be 3 clubs

2♥ Natural, 6+ hearts

2♠ Natural, 3 or more spades (Some choose to bid with only 2 spades.)

Other rebids are whatever you currently play.

Let's look at a few example hands:

Opener: ♠Kxxx ♥KJ10xx ♦Jx ♣Ax

1. 1♥ - 1♠; 1N - ?

As responder you hold one of the following hands.

♠Axxx ♥xx ♦xxx ♣Kxxx

Bid 2♦ with a spade preference and pass 2♠.

♠Axxx ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣Kxxx

Bid 2♣ with 8+ and continue with 2♠ over 2♥.

♠Axxx ♥Ax ♦Qxx ♣Kxxx

Bid 2♣ with 8+ and bid 4♠.

♠Axx ♥x ♦xxxxx ♣Kxxx

Bid 2♠ with 3 spades and less than 8.

2. 1♥ - 1N - ?

As opener you hold one of the following hands.

♠Axx ♥KJ10xx ♦xx ♣Kxxx

Bid 2♠ with 3 spades.

♠Jx ♥AK10xxx ♦x ♣Axxx

Bid 2♣ with six 6-4, not 2♥.

♠Kx ♥AQxxx ♦QJx ♣xxx

Bid 2♣ or 2♠ depending if you agree with partner to raise with Ax or Kx.

♠Jx ♥KQ10xxx ♦Qxx ♣Ax

Bid 2♥ with 6 good hearts and only 2 spades.

The Kaplan Interchange involves advanced treatments allowed only in Open and Open+ events. Be sure to mark your convention card and alert properly. Thoroughly discuss applicable auctions, including passed hand bids, before playing these treatments with your regular partner.