REVERSE BIDDING

Suppose you have 5-4 shape

Your plan will be to open one of the 5-card suit and rebid in the 4-card suit.

♠	7 5	Open 1♦
♥	Q 3	planning to rebid 2♣ over any one of 1♥, 1♠, or 1NT.
♦	A K 8 6 4	
♣	Q J 5 2	

Sometimes you just aren't strong enough to follow the plan.

You don't want to be at the three-level with twelve points facing partner's six - this will happen if your second bid is higher than two of your first suit.

♠	7 5	2♦ is higher than 2♣.
♥	Q 3	If the bidding goes 1♣ (1♥) 2♦ partner will have to go to
♦	Q J 5 2	3♣ just to find the best fit.
♣	A K 8 6 4	You are not strong enough for this.

A rebid which might force partner to the three-level is a reverse bid.

You should have extra strength to make such a bid:-

at least 16 points if partner's first response was at the one-level;
at least 15 points if partner's first response was at the two-level.

After a one-level response a reverse bid is forcing for one round.
After a two-level response a reverse bid is game-forcing.

If you aren't strong enough to reverse then you will have to rebid your first suit.

Always plan your opening bid and your rebid before you make your first bid.

♠	7 5	Not strong enough to reverse.
♥	Q J 5 2	Open 1♦.
♦	A K 8 6 4	If partner responds 1♥ you will raise to 2♥.
♣	Q 3	If partner responds 1♠ or 2♣ you will rebid 2♦.

♠	7 5	15 points. Open 1♦.
♥	Q J 5 2	If partner responds 1♥ you will raise to 2♥.
♦	A K 8 6 4	If partner responds 1♠ you will rebid 2♦.
♣	A J	If partner responds 2♣ you will rebid 2♥ (game-forcing).

When you make a non-reverse bid in a new suit you might hold anything from about 11 up to 18 points.

Partner must try to find a further bid when holding 8 or 9 (or an excellent 7) points so that a game contract will not be missed.

♠	Q 5	Seventeen points.
♥	A K 8 6 4	Open 1♥.
♦	Q J 5 2	If partner responds 1♠ or 2♣ you will rebid 2♦.
♣	A J	Partner must bid again with 8 or 9 points.