Trial bids - Summary Sheet

You open one of a suit and partner raises to the two-level

What do you do next?

Partner's bid is limited

With 16 points or less (or no better than 7-loser) you **pass**.
With 19 points or more (or 5-loser) you bid game (or force to game).
With 17 or 18 points (or 6-loser) you make a trial bid.

Your suit is a major

If your major is only 4-card then you hold the strong balanced hand.
Bid 2NT showing 17 or 18 points in a balanced hand,
or 3NT showing 19 points in a balanced hand.
In either case partner can correct to the with 4-card support and a bit of shape.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	A T A K J 3 Q J T 5 K 9 4	You open 1♥ and partner raised to 2♥. Bid 2NT showing a balanced hand of 17 or 18 points, usually with just 4 hearts.

If your major is 5-card or longer then with 17 or 18 points (or 6-loser) make a **trial bid** in a new suit promising a 5-card major, 17 or 18 points, and inviting partner to choose between 3 and 4 of the major.

Type of trial bid

Various types of trial bid are available – you must agree which style you are playing with your partner.
Recommended is a natural style in which the trial suit is a good quality 4-card suit.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	A K 9 6 5 A 9 J 2 Q J 8 2	You opened 1♠ and partner raised to 2♠. You have a 6-loser hand. Bid 3♣ – forcing and natural in principle – showing a holding in clubs and inviting partner to choose between 3♠ and 4♠.

Responder's rebid

With 6 (or 5) points responder will usually sign off at the lowest level, passing 2NT or bidding 3 of the major.
With 9 points responder will usually bid game – either 3NT or 4 of the major.
With 7 or 8 points responder must choose between the same options, depending on whether or not partner's trial bid has improved or weakened his holding.

Your suit is a minor

With 17 or more points any bid in a new suit will be forcing, showing a stop with a view to a contract in no trumps.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	K 6 5 A Q K Q 7 5 2 A 3 2	You opened 1♦ and partner raised to 2♦. Bid 2♥ promising 17 or 18 points and at least a stop for no trump purposes.