Splinter bids, Jacoby 2NT and 1st-round controls - Summary Sheet

Partner opens one of a suit and you have 4-card support and game-going values

What do you do next?

Partner's suit is a major

You will hold something like 13 points or a 7-loser hand.

Splinter bids

If you also hold a void or singleton then make a double jump in your short suit.
e.g. 1♠ – 4♣ promising 4 spades, game-going values and at most one club.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	A A K J 3 Q J T 5 K 9 4 2	Partner opened 1♥. Bid 3♠, agreeing hearts and forcing to game with at most 1 spade. You will probably make a further slam-try in the subsequent auction.

The Jacoby 2NT

An immediate jump to 2NT agrees partner's major, forces to game and denies a side-suit shortage.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	A K 9 5 A 9 J 6 2 Q J 8 2	Partner opened 1♠. Bid 2NT agreeing spades, forcing to game, and denying a side-suit shortage.

What next

After either of the above bids opener should bid his cheapest 1st-round control.
This way valuable information can be exchanged below the level of game and below the level of 4NT.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	K T 6 5 A Q A Q 7 2 K 3 2	You opened 1♠ and partner bid 2NT. Bid 2♦ showing your 1st-round control in diamonds and denying a first-round control in clubs.

Your suit is a minor

The 2NT Jacoby raise does not exist facing partner's one of a minor.
Splinter bids still apply, but you should in general start by searching for a major suit or no trump contract.

There are many variations on the methods outlined above, some of which will be recommended in due course, but these methods offer an excellent starting point, and are considerably better than bidding 4NT whenever you have thoughts of a slam.

So what happened to the natural bids?

The direct jump to game
By using these bids you release an immediate jump to game as a pre-emptive measure, typically on 5-card support in a weak hand.
A natural balanced 2NT
This bid was never necessary, and should never have been introduced to you.
If you are good enough for such a bid and you do not have 4-card support for partner then you will have a natural change of suit response available.
You can still bid a natural 2NT on your next bid.