

Standard American Yellow Card (SAYC), revised 2003

Opening	Characteristics	Resp.	Meaning	Continuation
1♣	3+ cards, 11-21 hcp	2NT 3NT	13-15, GF 16-17	
1♦	4+ cards or 4432, 11-21 hcp	as to 1♣		
1♥	5+ cards, 11-21	1♠	4+ spades, 6+ pts, usu. no ♥ support	
		1NT	6-10	may be passed
		2NT!	Jacoby: raise, 13+	3♣/♦/♠ shortness, 4♥ min, 3NT med, 3♥ max
		3♥	limit, 10-12, 3+ hearts (preempt over X)	
		3NT	15-17 hcp, balanced, 2 card support	
4♥	usu. 5+ hearts, shortness, <10 hcp			
1♠	5+ cards, 11-21 hcp	cf. to 1♥		
1NT	15-17 hcp	2♣	non-forcing Stayman, usu. 8+ hcp	2♦/♥/♠ (2♥ with both majors); responders 3♣/♦ slam interest
		2♦!	Jacoby transfer to hearts	2♥, or 3♥ with max.
		2♥!	Jacoby transfer to spades	2♠, or 3♠ with max.
		2♠!	transfer to 3♣/♦	resp. rebid 3♦ signoff
		3♣/♦!	inv. to 3NT with 6+ card suit	
		3♥/♠	6+ card suit, slam interest	
		4♣	Gerber, asking for aces	4♦ = 0 or 4, 4♥ = 1, etc
4NT	natural, invites 6NT			
2♣	strong artificial, 22+ or playing equiv.	2♦	artif., may be waiting	
		2♥/♠, 3♣/♦	natural, GF, 5+ cards, 8+ pts	
		2NT	balanced, 8+ hcp	
2♦/♥/♠	6+ (or 5) cards, 5-11 hcp; usually no major side suit	2NT	forcing, game interest	with min. (5-8 p): rebid the suit with max.: new suit (shows A/K) or 3NT or 4 of minor (shows 4-5 cards with at least Q)
2NT	20-21 hcp	3♣	Stayman	
		3♦/♥!	Jacoby transfer	3♥/♠
		4♣!	Gerber	
		4NT	inviting to slam in NT	
3NT	25-27 hcp	4♣!	Stayman	
		4♦/♥!	Jacoby transfer	4♥/♠

Notes

- open the higher of longer (at least 5 cards) suits of equal length
- with 4-4 minors, open 1♦
- notrumps openings show a balanced hand but may contain a five-card suit (minor or major)
- fourth suit may be artificial ("4th suit forcing"), except in 1♣-1♦-1♥-1♠, which is natural
- after 1♥-1♠-1NT, responder's 2♣/♦ is non-forcing

Defensive bidding

- overcalls show 8-16 hcp, 5+
- take out doubles up to 4♥
- The only forcing response is a cuebid of opener's suit
- Michaels cuebid
- 1NT overcall shows 15-18 hpc
- Jumps overcalls are preemptive
- Cappelletti over 1NT (dbl - 15-17 hcp balanced, 2♣ - one-suited hand, 2♦ - majors, 2♥ - 5+ hearts and 4+ minor, 2♠ - 5+ spades and 4+ minor)

Competitive bidding

- Bids mean the same things without the intervening bid
- Negative doubles up to 3♠
- Support doubles

Other conventions

- Jacoby transfers
- Fourth suit forcing
- Gerber
- RKCB
- Splinter after 3♠

SAYC Default Carding	
Carding	High discard encourages, Low discourages
Suit-leads	4th best, Kqx, Qjx, Jtx, T9x, kJtx, kT9x, qT9x, xXx, xXxx, xXxxx, aKx
NT-leads	4th best, aKjx, aQjx, aJt9, aT98, Kqjx, kQt9, kJt9, kT98, Qjtx, qT98, Jt9x, T98x, xXx, xXxx, xXxxx
Discards	o/e (Italian discarding)