

Bridge Theory for the Practitioners

Amit Chakrabarti

40. 2/1 Game Force for a Serious Partnership, Part III

Our next 2/1 sequence is 1M – 2D i.e. 1S – 2D or 1H – 2D. **This bid guarantees 5+ Ds and a GF hand. Responder might have an exactly 4-card S suit when the opening bid is 1H.**

Our structure of opener's rebids is somewhat different from the "standard" 2/1 structure. These are some of the main differences:

- a) Opener would not bid 2N just because she has a minimum balanced hand.
- b) Opener would not raise responder's minor with a minimum hand unless there is a massive fit.
- c) Opener would not bid a new minor suit unless she has extra values or 5-5 in shape.
- d) Opener would rebid 2M as a "catch-all". This bid does not guarantee a 6-card suit.

Section 1. 1S 2D (2D over 1S promises 12+ hcps and 5+ Ds; denies 4+S)

I. Opener's Rebid after 1S – 2D

- 2H = 4+ Hs; **any strength. Any other rebid denies 4 Hs.**
- 3D = a) 3+Ds and extra strength; good 15+ hcps or
b) 5Ds any strength.
- 3C = (5+ Cs, any strength) or (4+Cs and extra strength; good 15+ hcps); typically denies a D fit.
- 2N = either 12-14 or 17-19 balanced stoppers in every suit. NT right sided.

Note the sequence below:

1S 2D

2N 3N

Pass = I have the weaker variety

4N = I have the bigger hand variety and this is quantitative invite to 6N.

- **2S = does NOT guarantee 6+ Ss --- several possibilities:**
 - Exactly 5Ss; not suitable to rebid 2N; may be minimum may be bigger
 - Might have a side 4 card suit if minimum 12-14
 - Might have 6+ Ss. A 3S rebid is special (see below).
- 3S = 6+ Ss; Solid suit AKQxxx; and some extras 16+ hcp. Trump is set.

II. Responder's second bid: General Guidelines

- 3D = 6+ Ds
- 4S = min hand with 3 Ss
- **3S by responder shows slam interest with 3 Ss over opener's rebid of 2S/2N/3C/3D**
- **3H by responder shows slam interest with exactly 4 Hs over opener's rebid of 2H.**
- 3N = Min hand 12-15 with 5 Ds; denies 3S
- 2N = Balanced 16-19; denies 3S
- 4C or 4D over opener's 3C or 3D is KC ask in the minor suit (this will be discussed later).

Section 2. 1H 2D
(2D over 1H promises 12+ hcps and 5+ Ds; denies 4+Hs; might have exactly 4S)

This sequence is similar to the 1S – 2D sequence described above. However, there are some differences:

- 1. Responder would bid 2D over 1H with 5+D and GF hand holding exactly 4S.**
- 2. After 1H – 2D, opener’s rebid of 2S does not promise anything extra. If she does not rebid 2S she denies 4 Ss. Categorically.**