

Bridge Theory for the Practitioners

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41. 2/1 Game Force for a Serious Partnership, Part IV

Part IV of the current unit is a critical component of our 2/1 structure. This is where our structure deviates the *most* from both the Hardy and Lawrence prescriptions. The kingpin of this structure is to use 1M – 2 C as a GF with 12+ hands with either a) unbalanced hand with 5+ Cs or 2) a balanced hand with 2+ Cs. A multipurpose 2C bid allows us to make the 1M – 2D and 1S – 2H responses to promise 5+ cards.

Section 1. Quick summary of the 2C response over 1M opening:

- Promises a GF hand with 12+ hcp.
- Denies 5Hs and 5Ds.
- Denies 4 card support to opener's major
- Denies a 4333 hand in the 12-15 hcp range with exactly 3 cards in the opener's major (the corresponding bid is a direct 3N over 1M)
- Promises either 5+ Cs or a balanced hand with 2+ Cs
- *Over 1H opening, 2C response does not deny exactly 4 Ss.*

Section 2. 1S 2C

I. Opener's Rebid after 1S – 2C

- 2H = 4+ Hs; **any strength. Any other rebid denies 4 Hs.**
- 2S = 6+ Ss; **any strength; however see 3S bid below.**
(Note that 2S bid now promises 6+ card S suit)
- 3S = 6+ Ss; Solid suit AKQxxx; and some extras 16+ hcp. Trump is set.
- 2D = all-purpose **artificial** bid. **Could be a minimum hand or a hand not interested in bidding NT from this end. Denies 4Hs.**
- 3C/3D = 5+ cards and extra strength; good 15+ hcp
- 2N = either 12-14 or 17-19 balanced stoppers in every suit. NT right sided.

II. Responder's second bid: General Guidelines

- 3C = 6+ Cs

Now 3D asks whether responder has a 3 card S support:

3S = yes and slam interest

4S = yes and no slam interest

Any other bid denies 3 card S support.

- 4S = min hand with 3 Ss. Does not have 6 Cs.
- **Immediate 3S by responder shows slam interest with 3 Ss over opener's rebid of 2H/2S/2N/3C/3D but tends to deny 6 Cs.**
- **3H by responder shows slam interest with exactly 4 Hs over opener's rebid of 2H.**
- 3N = Min hand 12-15 with stoppers; denies 3S
- **2N = Balanced 16-19 --- could have 3 Ss. Opener asks with 3D to clarify.**

III. Two Special Continuation after 1S – 2C – 2D

1. 2S (i.e. 2 same major) = balanced hand in the 12-15 range with exactly 2Ss. Not sure about the NT contract. If some stoppers are missing will be interested in playing in a 5-2 S fit. Opener bids stoppers up the line.
2. 2H (i.e. 2 other major) = 1444 or 0445 hand. It does show 4Hs but the main purpose is to show this special shape as opener has already denied a 4-card H suit. This construction is very good in finding minor suit slams.

Section 3. 1H 2C

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

1. Responder would bid 2C over 1H and not 1S holding exactly 4S and one of these following GF hands:
a) 5+C b) a balanced hand.
2. After 1H – 2C, opener's rebid of 2S does not promise anything extra. If she does not rebid 2S she denies 4 Ss. Categorically.
3. After 1H – 2C – 2D now 2H is 2 same major and 2S is 2 other major (compare with Section 2; III).