

The Roman 2♦

I personally think that a weak 2♦ opening is rather a waste of a useful bid. Other possible uses, such as Flannery, are also a bit of a waste (most Flannery type hands can be bid naturally). One quite popular treatment for an opening 2♦ is to show a 3-suited hand.

Any 4441 type or 0445 or 0454 are permissible.

And the point range? You can play what you like and I discuss the best range for your system later. Playing Mini Roman it is about 12-15.

There are various schemes for the responses to 2♦. One typical scheme is: -

- 2♥ = Pass (or correct to 2♠).
- 2♠ = Pass (or correct to 3♣).
- 2NT = Shortage ask. Opener then bids the suit below the shortage (3♠ with ♣ shortage). Responder can then sign off in any of opener's suits or bid on. With a strong hand responder now bids the shortage suit and things take off.
- 3♣ = Pass (or correct to 3♦).
- 3♦ = An invitational (limit) raise for either major. Opener should respond 3♥/♠ with a minimum or 4♥/♠ with a maximum. Of course responder may use this bid when he has slam interest, simply to find out how good partner's hand is (and what his shape is). This is a similar ruse to using a help-suit game try as a slam try.
- 3♥ = Natural (6 card suit). Obviously opener raises to game if ♥'s is one of his suits.
- 3♠ = Natural (6 card suit). Obviously opener raises to game if ♠'s is one of his suits.
- 3NT = To play.
- 4♣ = Ace asking.
- 4♦ = To play in 4♥ or 4♠.

Which Range?

Hand 1	Hand 2	So what point range is best for your Roman 2♦ system?
♠ 4	♠ 4	Consider these two hands. Suppose that you play a strong NT system, then you open Hand 1 with 1♣ (or 1♦ or even 1♥ if you are that way inclined) and partner responds 1♠, what is your rebid? Whatever you opened, the only realistic rebid is 1NT, fine. But Hand 2 is a problem; you cannot rebid 1NT as that would show 12-14 points.
♥ KQ87	♥ AK87	
♦ AJ54	♦ AJ54	
♣ K743	♣ KJ43	

If you play a weak NT then you have the same problem but the other way round. You open whatever your system dictates and with Hand 2 you rebid 1NT (15-16) over a 1♠ response. But here it's hand 1 that is the problem.

Basically, these 4441 type hands (especially with short ♠'s) are difficult to bid if you open one of a suit and partner responds in your singleton if you cannot rebid 1NT.

So it's best to have your Roman 2♦ bid to be the same range as your opening 1NT.
