

Flannery 2♦

- ♠ AJ76 Popular in the States. 11-15 points and specifically 4-5 in the majors. For
- ♥ AK962 some reason, some Americans seem to find this hand shape difficult. I
- ♦ J7 simply don't see the problem, open 1♥ and partner will bid 1♠ if there is a
- ♣ 32 fit there. Agreed, a 2♦ opening is very specific and enables responder to enquire about your minor suit distribution, but this really is a waste of an otherwise very useful opening bid.

Flannery is defined as 11-14 points with 5+ ♥'s and exactly 4 ♠'s.

Responder can sign off in 2♥ or 2♠, raise (pre-emptively) to 3♥/♠ or 4♥/♠ or relay with 2NT. The responses to the 2NT relay are: -

- 3♣/♦ = min, ♣/♦ shortage
- 3♥ = min, 4522
- 3♠ = 46xx
- 3NT = max, ♣/♦ void

Defense to Flannery

There are a few possibilities, one popular one is: -

- Db1 = 15+ balanced
- 2♥ = three-suited take-out
- 2♠ = natural – 5+ card ♠ suit
- 2NT = minors