

The Beginner's Page - 8

Responder's 2nd bid cont.

Last week we covered when opener supported our suit, so now we'll look at what to do if partner introduces a new suit.

Let's suppose that partner has opened 1♥, we responded 1♠, and partner then bids 2♦. Partner has shown us that he has two suits, but what we need to know is, is partner weak, strong, or in-between? How strong is a 2♦ rebid (and what about a 3♦ rebid) ?

Let's consider these three sequences: -

(a) 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♦ and (b) 1♥ - 1♠ - 3♦ and (c) 1♥ - 1♠ - 4♦

Now first of all, sequence (c). This uses up bushels of bidding space and goes past 3NT. It really is of no importance as a natural bid and we shall ignore it. Thus we only have two bidding sequences for 3 hand types. The generally accepted approach is that we use sequence (a) for both weak and in-between hands. The 2♦ bid is not forcing but responder will only pass if he is very weak (say 5-7 pts) and definitely prefers ♦'s to ♥'s.

Thus sequence (b) is for strong hands and in Standard American it is game forcing.

So responder knows a lot about opener's hand. He knows two suits and also has some indication about strength. With Hands 1-6 partner has opened 1♥, we bid 1♠ and partner rebid 2♦. What is your second bid? :-

Hand 1	Hand 2	With Hand 1 you should bid 2♥. Partner is not interested in your ♣ suit and so you have to choose which of his suits you prefer. With equal length, always put him back into his first bid suit. Do <i>not</i> bid 2NT, that shows 11-12 points
♠ A754	♠ A754	
♥ 94	♥ 74	
♦ 87	♦ Q872	With Hand 2 you definitely prefer ♦'s. You are minimum and it's best simply to pass.
♣ Q9852	♣ 9852	
Hand 3	Hand 4	With Hand 3 you just love ♦'s. You are non-min for the initial 1♠ bid and so you have sufficient values to show your mild enthusiasm with a 3♦ bid.
♠ A752	♠ AJ10752	Hand 4 is a total mis-fit. You don't like either of his suits but fortunately there is a way out. Bid 2♠. This shows a weak hand with long ♠'s and partner should pass. Do <i>not</i> bid 2NT.
♥ 7	♥ 9	
♦ KJ987	♦ 7	
♣ J52	♣ Q9852	
Hand 5	Hand 6	With Hand 5 you don't like partner's suits and have both of the unbid suits stopped. So 2NT? No, No, NO. That shows 11 points and mis-fits do not play well in NT. Bid 2♥.
♠ AJ54	♠ A984	Hand 6 is interesting. Many players would pass as they prefer ♦'s to ♥'s. This is incorrect. Partner may have up to about 16 points and game may just be there. Bid 2♥, it's not quite enough for 2NT. Partner has 5 ♥'s and if it turns out that he is minimum then he will pass and no harm is done. On good day he will bid on and 4♥ or 3NT may be reached. Partner knows that you may have only 2 ♥'s (you did not support first time).
♥ 97	♥ Q7	
♦ 87	♦ K74	
♣ KJ765	♣ J985	