



Mike's Advice

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Drury adjunct

One of my favorite conventions is the Drury convention. Even if you don't play it, you probably have seen it at work. Essentially, when someone opens with a major suit in third or fourth seat and finds his partner with something resembling a limit raise, the partner has to find a way to show his hand without getting his side overboard.

The way for responder to show this is to bid 2♣, not by jumping to three of the major. This convention allows the partnership to stop at the two level when opener is minimum or even sub-minimum.

Here are three hands. Your partner opens 1♠ in third seat (although the same principles apply if it were a fourth-seat opening), and

your right-hand opponent makes a takeout double.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Dbl	?
♠QJ4	♥654	♦J10873	♣82
♠A832	♥K98	♦105	♣9654
♠J108	♥Q7	♦KQ1073	♣K42

You can see the difference between these. The first hand has a minimal raise to 2♠. The second and has a sound normal raise to 2♠. The third hand has limit-raise values.

It's easy to show the third hand by using Drury. Other possible bids have flaws:

- 2♦ isn't forcing for two reasons.

It comes over a takeout double and you're a passed hand.

- 2♠ won't work because that bid shows a weaker raise. This hand has 11 points with a little shape. This is way too good for a 2♠ raise.

- 3♠ is worse. It gets you to the three level, which won't be safe facing many of the weaker hands that partner will open in third seat.

All this brings us to the second hand. If you judge that bidding 2♠ on the first hand is correct, then bidding 2♠ on the second hand

feels wrong. The first hand contains a lousy 4 high-card points. The second hand contains 7 HCP, but it is a quality 7 points. It includes prime cards, it includes four trumps and it also has a doubleton diamond.

You need a way to show when you have a weak raise and a normal raise and a bigger raise after a takeout double of a third- or fourth-seat opener.

Here is my suggestion:

- With the first hand, raise to 2♠. A raise over a takeout double is traditionally weaker than a normal raise. It may be your only chance to be heard.

- With the second hand, bid 2♦. This is Alertable: when partner opens a major in third or fourth seat and is doubled, a 2♦ bid by you says you have a solid, normal raise. This rates to be in the 7 to 9 HCP range. When you make this bid, your partner knows that you are not making a courtesy raise and he can bid accordingly.

If your partnership is a casual one, you may choose not to use this bid. But for a partnership that uses Drury and is already accustomed to its ramifications, the 2♦ bid is a nice additional tool that helps sort out the raises that do not qualify for a Drury bid.

- With the third hand, bid 2♣, Drury. You show something resembling a limit raise with a high likelihood of having just three trumps. (I suggest you use "Lawrence" Drury instead of reverse Drury. A full description can be found in my column in the Feb.-May 2002 issues of the Bridge Bulletin.)

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