

# Mike's Advice



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## Responding to a double of a weak two-bid

In this series, I have touched on the things you can do when your side doubles a weak 2♠ bid for takeout. There are other things you can do when they open 2♦ or 2♥. Here are a few of them.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
2♥	Dbl	Pass	?

The first thing to notice is that when the opponents open 2♦ and your partner doubles, you can bid a major at the two level. When your partner doubles 2♥, you can bid 2♠.

Given that you can bid a suit at the two level and can jump to three of that suit too, there are some things you can do that are quite useful.

Use the auction above where partner doubles 2♥ and RHO passes.

### 2♠

2♠ is a minimum response showing as few as zero points and as many as a fair 7 points. For

example:

♠8732 ♥Q763 ♦73 ♣Q83

or

♠AJ73 ♥542 ♦K73 ♣763

This hand seems to have 8 good points but it is flawed in that it has only four spades and it has bad distribution. Bidding only 2♠ rates to be best given you are likely to run into bad distribution.

### 2NT

As we have discussed previously in this series, 2NT is a conventional bid asking partner to bid 3♣. You will further define your hand after his 3♣ bid.

♠73 ♥K83 ♦873 ♣J8762

After 2NT, you intend to pass partner's expected 3♣ rebid.

♠Q73 ♥874 ♦Q7652 ♣72

You intend to bid 3♦ over partner's expected 3♣ bid.

♠82 ♥K653 ♦J1063 ♣653

Again, you intend to bid 3♦ over partner's expected 3♣ bid.

### 2NT: Special tricks

Here are some optional bidding tricks you can use.

#### Trick 1

♠873 ♥5 ♦KJ874 ♣AJ32

Bid 2NT, and when partner bids 3♣, bid 3♥ which shows short hearts and enough points for game. You deny four spades.

#### Trick 2

♠K1073 ♥873 ♦AQ72 ♣87

Bid 2NT. You intend to bid 3♠ over partner's expected 3♣ bid. Since you can jump to 3♠ immediately, you have this nice distinction: a jump to 3♠ shows five of them and invitational values, while bidding 2NT first on the way to 3♠ to show four spades with invitational values. Partner will appreciate knowing how many spades you have.

### 3♣, 3♦

These are positive showing from 8 points with a five-card suit up to 11 points with a four-card suit. These bids were discussed in previous articles.

### 3♥

Here's another useful bidding trick. This cuebid asks partner if he can bid notrump. It is reasonable to play that the cuebid asks your partner if he has a stopper in their suit. You can use this treatment over any weak two bid, although it works best when their suit is red.

For instance, your partner doubles 2♥ and you have this hand:

♠73 ♥83 ♦AQJ874 ♣K54.

You have too much to bid a simple 3♦. You have 11 HCP and a good six-card suit. Because you can envision nine notrump tricks facing many minimum doubles, bid 3♥.

### An immediate cuebid vs. a delayed cuebid

Note that if they open 2♦ and your partner doubles, you may wish to have a cuebid that asks for partner's major. You can achieve this by using an immediate 3♦ bid to ask for 3NT. If you bid 2NT and then bid 3♦ over partner's 3♣ bid, you promise both majors.

## > Bidding to Play

Most good players are willing to raise a one-level response to two with good three-card support, as West did here, but their hand must contain some feature that suggests a raise. West will have one of two hands:

♠A95 ♥QJ6 ♦AQ87 ♣875

or

♠A95 ♥QJ6 ♦AQ872 ♣86.

A raise is conceivable on either hand, but the second hand is more likely. With the first hand, West might have passed. If South has the courage of his convictions, he'll cash the ♣Q and finesse with the ♣10.