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### More 2/1 Auctions

#### 1♦-2♣: Opener's rebids (continued)

When the bidding begins 1♦-2♣, what are the meanings of opener's 2NT, 3♦, 3NT or other rebids?

**Opener rebids 2NT.** This is a very common case: Opener is saying that he has 12-14 balanced high-card points and stoppers in the unbid suits. Of importance:

- ❖ Opener is allowed to have five diamonds if his hand looks suitable for notrump.

- ❖ Opener may have a four-card major if his hand looks suitable for notrump.

- ❖ Opener may have 18-19 points and be intending to follow up on the next round with an unexpected bid of some sort.

Some examples of opener's rebids:

♠QJ3 ♥K83 ♦QJ74 ♣A106

A perfect 2NT bid. A boring example to be sure.

♠973 ♥AJ84 ♦KQ84 ♣Q8

No need to bid 2NT here. Bid 2♥ instead. Note that this does not promise extra values, but it does deny five diamonds (see last month's column).

♠974 ♥AQ8 ♦KQJ7 ♣J84

# Mike's Advice

A tough hand. There is no perfect bid. I would choose 2NT and would understand if it did not work out. I also have no serious objection to raising to 3♣ instead.

♠K92 ♥AQ6 ♦J8732 ♣QJ

Bid 2NT. This hand has five diamonds but it looks like a notrump hand with good stoppers in the unbid suits and the required points. If you have a descriptive notrump bid available, it will make life easier on your partner.

♠AJ84 ♥QJ83 ♦KQ7 ♣97

2NT is reasonable. If your partner has four cards in a major, he should show them. Your 2NT bid does not deny one or both four-card majors.

♠KQ108 ♥KQ10 ♦AQJ3 ♣Q7

Rebid 2NT and follow with a strong bid on the next round. If, for example, your partner raises to 3NT, you will bid 4NT, which says you have an 18- or 19-point hand. Partner will reevaluate. He could have bid 2♣ with as few as 12 points but as many as 18 points. If he has one of the better hands, he will continue on to slam.

**Opener rebids 3♦.** This bid is much like when you open one of a major and jump to three of your suit after a two-level response. If you bid 3♦ over 2♣, you show a good hand with six or more excellent diamonds. You can define the suit as solid or semi-solid as you wish. Both make good sense. Solid, remember, is AKQJxx or AKQxxxx. In either case, you may have an extra card or two.

♠AK ♥KJ3 ♦AQ97643 ♣4

Bid 2♦ only. A jump to 3♦ promises a better suit.

♠54 ♥Q43 ♦AKQJ643 ♣4

Bid 2♦. You have a good enough suit to jump to 3♦, but you do not have a good enough hand. Change the ♥Q to the king and 3♦ would just barely be okay.

♠AQ64 ♥4 ♦AKQJ87 ♣43

No matter how many rules you come up with, there will always be hands that elude your definitions. On this construction, you have the suit quality and the values to bid 3♦, but that bid would make it hard to find the spade suit if partner has four of them. Perhaps 2♦ is best now, with the intention of hurrying a bit on the next round.

**Opener rebids 3NT.** This is a rare case. If opener had 18-19 points, he would rebid 2NT and then bid again. If opener had 15-17 points, he probably would have opened 1NT. What hand can he have to rebid 2NT? I took a poll and extracted this answer from it: Play that the 3NT rebid shows the values for opening 1NT but with six diamonds and a low doubleton club. The odds are that you will never need this bid (and I think you will not miss it).

♠A8 ♥AQJ ♦KQ9764 ♣84

Bid 3NT if you know your partner will understand the bid. Bid 2♦ otherwise. Nothing bad will happen.

**Opener jumps in a new suit.** Jumps to 3♥ or 3♠ can be used as splinter raises. I recommend this treatment highly. Here are two examples of splintering after partner responds 2♣:

♠8 ♥K42 ♦AJ874 ♣AQ98

Bid 3♠. This jump says you have a good hand for clubs and you have a singleton spade. This information will help partner choose between