

Mike's Advice



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More 2/1 Auctions

1. Opener often rebids his own five-card major after a 2/1 response

One of the most important bids in Two-over-One (2/1) bidding is opener's first rebid after partner makes a 2/1 bid. In an earlier discussion, I explained why opener may be obliged to rebid two of his major when holding only five cards in the suit. (This idea is contrary to those who feel that opener should promise six cards when he rebids his major.)

If you play that opener may rebid his suit with just five cards, note that the quality of the five-card suit can range from terrible to quite good. Also, opener may do this with a wide range of values: Opener can have a minimum hand up to a huge hand. Playing 2/1, opener does not have to jump with good hands.

Here are some examples:

West	Partner	East	You
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

♠AKJ ♥Q8764 ♦K4 ♣874.

Rebid 2♥. Your suit is poor, but other bids have big flaws. One of the strongest guidelines I can offer is that if you rebid 2NT, you promise stoppers in the unbid suits. You might have to bid 2NT with J-8-4 of some suit, but never with 8-7-4 as you have here in clubs. One of the strengths of 2/1 bidding is that you usually can get 3NT played from the right side.

♠AKJ7 ♥AQ875 ♦Q8 ♣84.

I suggest you bid 2♥, not 2♠. You have extra values, but there is no need to bid 2♠. It just clogs up the bidding. If you bid 2♥ and your partner has four spades, he is obliged to show them.

♠74 ♥AK765 ♦74 ♣AQ75.

Bid 2♥. A 3♣ bid should show a better hand. It is reasonable to play that bidding 3♣ should show a five-card suit, too.

♠AQ3 ♥KQJ87 ♦AK ♣874.

Bid 2♥ with this hand, too. You have a huge hand, but at this point, no good way to show the extra values.

♠A ♥KJ87653 ♦AQ ♣K32.

Rebid 2♥. As huge as this hand is, it does not qualify for any other bid besides 2♥. I will discuss later what a jump to 3♥ or 4♥ should show.

♠KJ7 ♥AKJ974 ♦87 ♣K7.

Rebid 2♥. The point of this hand is that when you rebid your suit, you may have six cards. Rebidding your suit after a 2/1 bid promises five cards only, but may also be done with six or seven cards.

West	Partner	East	You
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

♠AK873 ♥63 ♦KJ73 ♣J10.

Rebid 2♦. When you rebid a new suit at the two level that is lower than your major, you tend to imply five

cards in your major and four or more in the new suit. Do not feel that you have to rebid your major when you have a minimum hand. If you have another suit to show, and can do so without getting the bidding too high, do it. □

Insurance

Ron Smith of Windsor ON was directing at the Bridge Connection in Michigan when he was called to a table. The bidding had proceeded 1♠ - Pass - Double ... "Director!" Smith asked the offender, a Life Master with 1500 masterpoints, why she doubled. The woman responded, "I had a good hand, so I doubled to force my partner to bid again."

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