

Mike's Advice



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More 2/1 Auctions

Opener's 2NT rebid after a 2/1 response

Opener	Responder
1♥	2♣
2NT	

2NT typically shows the following:

1. 12–14 points (but see below)
2. A balanced hand
3. Stoppers in the unbid suits
4. At least two cards in partner's suit

Also, 2NT denies six cards in the major and tends to deny another four-card suit if it could have been bid at the two level.

There is one specific exception to point number 1. 2NT can be bid on a balanced 18- or 19-point hand. 2NT is forcing, of course, so on the next round of the bidding, opener will make an "impossible" bid that identifies this type of hand. I will include a complete auction with this bidding trick in an upcoming article.

Below are some examples of 2NT rebids by opener. Note that in all of these cases, the opening bid is one of a major. Auctions that begin with 1♦ are different than auctions that begin with one of a major.

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♦
?	

♠AKJ73 ♥AJ4 ♦84 ♣1074

Bid 2♠. You have a good spade suit to rebid and you do not have a club stopper. In 2/1 bidding, you do not have to rush to notrump. The auction is sure to give you a second chance.

There is a little-known secret in the bridge world: Even an excellent player will often go down in 3NT if he plays it from the wrong side. In other words, it is not good bridge to grab the notrump.

♠KJ843 ♥KQ7 ♦94 ♣KJ4

Bid 2NT. A boring, average hand. South has 12–14 balanced points, and he has stoppers in the unbid suits.

♠A10764 ♥AJ ♦J7 ♣K542

It's reasonable to bid 2NT with this hand. Do not bid 3♣. That shows a better hand. With all suits stopped, a 2NT rebid is reasonably accurate.

♠A10754 ♥Q3 ♦AK9 ♣873

Rebid 3♦ or 2♠. Do not bid 2NT. If you raise diamonds, you inform partner of something important. If he has spade support he will show it, and if he bids notrump, you will usually end up playing it from the right side.

♠AQ874 ♥10764 ♦K ♣KQ7

Bid 2♥, not 2NT. Always show a major if it can be done conveniently.

♠AJ974 ♥AKJ ♦105 ♣AJ3

Bid 2NT. Your intention is to bid strongly on your next turn to show your extra values.

♠QJ874 ♥AQ6 ♦9 ♣QJ104

Bid 2♠. Do not bid 2NT with a singleton in partner's suit, and do not bid 3♣ with a minimum hand.

Remember that rebidding your major is the correct bid in general

when there is no other good bid you can make. If you bid 2NT, your partner will think you have a couple of diamonds, and he will bid on that assumption. He might even bid a slam thinking that his diamond suit will be useful for tricks. If he has

♦AQ10764, his suit has six potential tricks if you have a little something in diamonds, but it will be rare that you will take a lot of diamond tricks if you have a singleton. Do not mislead partner.

♠J8764 ♥J94 ♦AQ ♣AJ8

Bid 2NT. It's true that you don't have a heart stopper but you *almost* do. 2NT is an accurate description of your hand otherwise. If you wish to rebid 2♠ instead, I don't think that's terrible at all. □

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