

# Mike's Advice



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**Style 2:** In this version of 2/1 bidding, a two-over-one response is forcing to game. The only exception occurs when the partnership can't find a fit or if notrump proves unplayable, usually for lack of a stopper in one of the suits. For example:

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣
3♥	4♣
Pass	

Auctions like this one can be passed. There is no proven fit and both sides have rejected playing in notrump. Responder will have a hand like this:

♠3 ♥KJ2 ♦83 ♣AKJ10843.

Style 2 of the 2/1 system is more common. If you decide to play 2/1, be sure you identify which version you are using. □

## Some 2/1 problems — part 4

### Two kinds of 2/1 bidding

If you are familiar with the 2/1 system, you may also be aware that there are two styles of it.

**Style 1:** A 2/1 response is not always forcing to game. In this style, if responder bids a suit at the two level and opener makes a minimum rebid in a suit and responder then rebids his suit at the three level, he is showing an invitational hand with a good six- or seven-card suit. For example:

Opener		Responder	
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	

In this style, opener may pass each of the above 3♣ bids. A typical hand for responder would be something like this:

♠6 ♥87 ♦K84 ♣AQJ9532.

Note that if you use this version of the 2/1 system, you will have some problems when you have a game-forcing hand with long clubs. Say you held:

♠8 ♥KQ ♦974 ♣AKJ8765.

With this hand you bid 2♣ over partner's 1♠ bid and when he rebids 2♠, you must be careful not to bid 3♣. This is not forcing. (The correct bid is hard to find. You more or less have to bid 3♥ because a 3♣ bid would not be forcing.)

Note that things are a little different in this style after a 2NT bid by opener:

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♦
2NT	3♦

This is forcing. The idea is that the

2NT bid implies some kind of fit so responder knows that his values will be useful.

1♥	2♦
2♠	3♦

This is forcing. Opener reversed, so the partnership must reach game. The same would apply if opener had rebid 3♣ instead of 2♠.

Note that if someone does bid notrump at any time, game must be reached because notrump was deemed acceptable to the player who bid it. For instance:

1♥	2♦
2♠	3♦
3NT	4♦

♠8 ♥K3 ♦AKJ8763 ♣KQ5

You have a huge hand that is interested in a slam, but you can't bid slam because you're missing some important key cards. When partner bids 3NT, the correct bid is 4♦, telling partner that you are interested in slam. You are not showing a weakish hand.

**Rule:** When you are in a 2/1 auction and either of you bids notrump, your side is committed to game. If either player removes 3NT to four of a minor, it is a slam try, not a scramble to a safer home.

**Reminder:** The section above discussed Style 1.

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