

Two Over One Review

Two Over One is a standard Duplicate bidding system used by many Duplicate players in the USA. If you elect not to play Two Over One, you'll have to play against it about 75% of the time, so you'll need to know how it works.

It's very close to Standard American -- most of the calls using Two Over One are the same ones you would make playing 'Standard'. The difference is Two Over One is much more precise for the hard bids -- the in-between counts, slams and competitive part scores.

There are only two conventions you must use to play Two Over One:

- Two Over One Forcing to Game is the obvious one.
- 1NT Forcing for one round is a necessary addition for all responder hands which can't force to game.

There are optional conventions you can add when you are comfortable with the required ones: Michaels and Maximal Doubles and many others. Some are offensive, some competitive and a few are obstructive.

If the reason for any particular convention seems obscure to you, recall that each is designed to remedy some flaw in Standard American and generally advances the basic philosophy of Two Over One, which is **BID SLOWLY WITH STRENGTH AND PREEMPT QUICKLY WITH WEAKNESS**. Standard American often jumps with strength, thereby taking up your own bidding space. Two Over One players do the opposite -- we jump with weakness to obstruct the opponents, not the partnership.

WHEN 2/1 DOESN'T APPLY

- If responder is a passed hand.
- If responder's right-hand opponent overcalls or doubles.
Instead, responder uses the standard approach: a new suit response is forcing, but not game forcing, after an overcall.

Common Conventions and Bids That Support Two Over One Philosophy

Bergen
Weak Jump Overcalls
The Constructive Raise
Jacoby 2NT
Reverse 2-way Drury
Weaker Reverses after a 2 over 1 response
New minor forcing
4th suit forcing
Jordan
Weak Jump Shifts
Inverted Minors
Maximal Doubles
Gambling 3NT
Splinter bids
4th Seat Intermediate Preempts (11-14 HCP)

Common Conventions and Bids that Most Two Over One Players Use

Standard bids: Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Negative Doubles, Michaels, Unusual NT, etc.
Roman Key Card Blackwood
Cue Bids
A system to show a 2 suiter over 1NT (Cappalletti, DON'T, Brozel, Landy, etc.)
Lebensohl