

Drury

Drury is a handy gadget that lets you get away with opening 1♠ in third seat with hands like

♠K Q J 4 ♥K 8 5 ♦J 8 4 2 ♣7 6

Invented by Douglas Drury, the Drury convention is an effective way of gauging the strength of partner's **third** and **fourth** seat openers. When partner opens 1♥ or 1♠ in third or fourth seat, a 2♣ response shows 10-12 points with at least three trumps. With a subminimum hand, opener bids 2♦, telling responder to sign off in 2♣. With a normal opening bid, opener rebids his suit at the two-level. The natural 2♣ response is lost, but many players consider this a marginal sacrifice. Thus

Opener		Responder	
♠K Q J 4		♠A 9 8 7	
♥K 8 5		♥A 9 3	
♦9 8 4 2		♦K 3	
♣7 6		♣9 8 5 4	
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣!	Pass	2♦!	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

and

Opener		Responder	
♠Q J 10 4 3		♠K 9 8 7	
♥A 8		♥K 6 3	
♦K 10 6 3		♦A J 9 5	
♣A 5		♣3 2	
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣!	Pass	2♠!	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Special Rebids by Opener:

- 1) ♠K Q J 5 2 ♥K 9 8 7 ♦A 3 ♣42
- 2) ♠K Q 9 8 7 ♥5 ♦A J 10 3 2 ♣A 9
- 3) ♠A J 5 4 2 ♥8 ♦K 9 ♣A Q 10 6 5

In each case opener has bid 1♠ and received a 2♣ response.

In 1), Opener bids 2♥ to show 4+ hearts in case there is a 4-4 heart fit. He does not guarantee opening strength.

In 2), Opener bids 2♦, planning on rebidding 3♦. As he is committing the partnership to the three-level, this does show a full opener.

In 3), Opener bids 3♣ to show his club suit. Again, since he is taking the bidding to the three-level, opener does promise a full opener.

Reverse Drury

Many if not most players reverse the positive and negative meanings of opener's rebids in accordance with the principle of fast arrival. Using Reverse Drury,

Pass Pass 1♥ Pass
2♣! Pass 2♥! Pass

shows a subminimum opener, while

Pass Pass 1♥ Pass
2♣! Pass 2♦!

shows a full opener.

Two-Way Drury

If the natural 2♣ response to partner's third or fourth seat major-suit opening can be sacrificed, why not put the 2♦ response to work as well? In this scheme, 2♣ shows a three-card limit raise, while 2♦ shows a four-card limit raise. This variant can be very helpful, but it necessarily changes the structure of opener's rebids. For instance:

Pass Pass Pass 1♥
Pass 2♦! Pass 2♥!

Is this strong or weak?

Pass Pass 1♣ Pass
2♦! Pass 2♥

Is this a negative response or does it show 4+ hearts? A structure as good as any is

Two-Way Reverse Drury

Opener's rebids after 2♣ are in accord with Reverse Drury, but

Pass Pass 1♣ Pass
2♦! Pass 2♣!

shows a weak hand. All other rebids are natural and show opening strength or better. For example:

Pass Pass 1♣ Pass
2♦! Pass 2♥

Shows at least four hearts and a normal opener.