

## Revisiting Two over One

It would be wonderful if the bidding system known as Two Over One had only one interpretation. However, you will find that many people have differing opinions about this system. It is not important that you know all the differing opinions. It is important that you and your partner have the same opinions.

One fact on which everyone agrees:

A 2/1 bid promises an opening hand (12+), unlike standard, which promises 10+.

### Only Five Bids

- 1S-2C, 1S-2D, 1S-2H
- 1H-2C, 1H-2D
- 1D-2C is NOT game forcing, but many play that you must reach at least 4 of a minor
  - Hardy—4 of a minor
  - Lawrence—3 of a minor

You and your partner must decide how you play this bid.

### 1NT Forcing

- Because you can no longer bid at the 2 level over a 1 level opening with 10 high card points, you must expand your 1NT bid to 12 hcp.
- Most hands that bid 1NT are the same hands you would have bid 1NT in standard, but a few you would have bid a 2-level bid.
- When your partner bids 1NT, you announce FORCING and should take another bid, even if in standard you would have passed.
- Some play the 1NT as SEMI-FORCING and announce that and believe that some hands should pass.
- You and your partner will decide how you play this and mark it on your card.

### What to Bid After a 2/1 Bid

- Sometimes you give your partner a raise.
- Sometimes you bid 2NT.
- Some believe that there are times you should rebid your 5-card major if you have a very weak hand and have no other bid.  
Example: S K Q J 4 2 H 7 4 2 D A J 2 C J 5 2
- Others will argue that you only rebid your major with 6 and should always rebid 2NT even if you have very weak outside suit(s).
- You and your partner must decide what you will do.

### What to Bid after 1NT Forcing

- Sometimes you bid a 4-card major or minor.
- Sometimes you bid a 3-card minor, but never a 3-card major.
- Sometimes you rebid a your 6-card major, but never a 5-card major.
- Sometimes you rebid 2NT if your hand is balanced with 18-19 points.

If you play 1NT semi-forcing, you may pass.

### Responding to 1 of a Major with 0-2 of opener's suit (NO FIT)

#### Standard

- With 0-5 points: Pass.
- With 4+ spades over a 1H opening: Bid 1S (unless you are playing Flannery).
- With 6-9 points: Bid 1NT
- With 10-11 points and a balanced hand: Bid 2NT.

- With 12-13 points and a balanced hand: Bid 3NT.
- With 10-16 points and a 5-card suit, bid it.
- With 17+ points and a 5+ card suit, jump bid it (unless you play weak jump shifts).

2/1

- With 0-5 points: Pass.
- With 4+ spades over a 1H opening: Bid 1S (unless you are playing Flannery).
- With 5-12 points: Bid 1NT
- With 12-13 points and a balanced hand: Bid 3NT.
- With 12+ points and a 4 or 5 card minor or a 5-card heart suit, bid it.

#### Distributional Points

If you have a fit with partner, you are allowed to re-evaluate your hand, based on the number of distributional points you have. (Standard or 2/1)

In addition to your high-card points, you get points for having a void, singleton or doubleton:

- 3 points for a void,
- 2 points for a singleton,
- 1 point for a doubleton.
- 1 point for each trump beyond 3.

This is only when you plan to raise partner. There are a few things to remember about this. Singleton honors (except the ace) should be devalued (this is true in general), and if you have three small trump, you should be wary of counting a doubleton for anything.

#### Responding to 1 of a Major with a Fit in Opener's Suit (3+)

##### Standard

- With 0-5 Total Points: Pass
- With 6-9 Total Points: Raise to the 2 level
- With 10-12 Total Points and 3 trumps: Make a temporizing bid (2c or 2d)
- With 10-12 Total Points and 4 trumps: Raise to the 3 level
- With 17+ Total Points and a good side suit: Jump in the side suit (unless you play weak jump shifts).

2/1

- With 0-5 Total Points: Pass
- With 6-9 Total Points: Raise to the 2 level
- With 10-12 Total Points and 3 trumps: bid 1NT (planning to jump the next bid)
- With 10-12 Total Points and 4 trumps: Raise to the 3 level
- With 13+ Total Points with 3 trumps and a good side suit, bid the suit at the 2 level.
- With 13+ Total Points with 4 trumps, bid 2NT (Jacoby)

Examples given in presentation.

The 2/1 Game Forcing System is an outgrowth of Standard American with 5-card majors. Many of the methods and conventions used are alike. There are many more details, which we will try to explore in upcoming lessons.

A few are:

- Jacoby 2NT
- Inverted Minors
- Drury
- 4-way Transfers
- Lebensohl