



Adventures in Bridge

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This Week in Bridge

(10) 2/1 GF Rebids - 2-Major Waiting, 3-Level Extras

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Level: 2

Robert S. Todd

robert@advinbridge.com

General Approach

When partner makes a 2/1 GF bid we don't have to worry about the auction stopping below game. We need to determine which game we are going to play and if either player is interested in playing more than game. It is important to have a good understanding of which bids show extra values and which do not.

Opener's Rebid

Our general approach for Opener's rebids after Responder's 2/1 GF response is:

- 2NT shows stoppers in the unbid suits,
- Rebidding our suit is waiting – does not promise a 6c suit (2M Waiting),
- Raising ♥ shows 3+card support,
- Raising a minor shows 4+c support,
- Bidding a new suit at the 3-level shows extra values (3L+).

2NT Rebid

When we rebid 2NT we show stoppers in the two unbid suits and usually a minimum hand (12-14 pts.) This allows us to play 3NT from the "correct side." We also deny holding a 4-card suit that we could have bid at the 2-level.

Example

1♠ 2♦

2NT

This denies 4-card ♥ and shows stoppers in both ♣ and ♥.
We could have 4-card ♣.

Note: It is possible that we have an 18-19 HCP balanced hand for a 2NT rebid, but this is unusual. Partner should assume we have 12-14 HCP, but if we bid again over 3NT we show 18-19 HCP.



Example

1♠ 2♦
2NT 3NT
4NT 18-19 HCP, Balanced, stoppers in both ♣ and ♥

2-Major Rebid – “Waiting”

We can rebid 2-Major (our opening suit) when we don’t meet the requirements for other rebids. This rebid can be natural (having a 6-card suit) but does not promise more than 5-card. This is our default bid when no other bid looks appealing.

Example

♠ KQ743
♥ A92
♦ 864
♣ A7
1♠ 2♣
2♠ We rebid 2♠ instead of 2NT because we lack a ♦ stopper.

3-Level Shows Extra Values (3L+)

When we bid a new suit at the 3-level we show about 3 HCP more than a minimum opening bid. If we have 5-4 distribution, we show about 14+ HCP and could have a bit less if we are even more distributional. The idea is that we aren’t just showing a shapely hand, but also a hand that has some “extra values” – and thus some slam interest. If we have a 5-4 hand with minimum HCP then we rebid our opening suit (*2M Waiting*) and show our side suit later in the auction.

Example

1♠ 2♦
2♠ 2NT
3♣ This shows 5+♣, 4+♣, and a minimum hand.

No Reverses after 2/1 GF Auction

When we open 1♥, partner will often make a 2/1 Game Forcing bid into a minor. In this case, we might still have a 4-4♠ fit. If Opener has 4-card ♠ and 5-card ♥, he can bid his ♠ suit naturally and not show any extra values (no longer a reverse.) This allows us to easily find our 4-4♠ fit without either player needing to have extra values.



Example

1♥ 2♣
2♠

This does not show “reverse values” since we are in a 2/1 GF Auction.

Raising Responder

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| • 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♥ | 3+c♥, may or may not have extra values |
| • 1M - 2♦ - 3♦ | 4+c♦, may or may not have extra values |
| • 1M - 2♣ - 3♣ | 4+c♣, may nor may not have extra values |

Jump Rebids

A jump rebid of Opener’s suit shows a self-sufficient suit and sets that suit as trump. It asks Responder to start cuebidding to look for slam. Raising Opener’s suit to game is the weakest action.

Example

1♠ 2♦
3♠

Sets ♠ as trump and asks Responder to start cuebidding Aces for slam.

3NT Rebid

A jump rebid of 3NT shows 15-17 HCP with stoppers in the unbid suits. Since we didn’t open 1NT, we often are semi-balanced or have a singleton in Responder’s suit.

Example

♠ KQT65
♥ AQ3
♦ 86
♣ KJ7

1♠ 2♦
3NT

This shows 15-17 HCP (usually with some flaw for opening 1NT.)

Responder’s Rebid

Responder’s rebid often clarifies the hand for our side. Responder will either show support for one of Opener’s suits, properly side Notrump, or show a long suit of his own. Responder will also strive to show his pattern, but bidding Notrump from the proper side or supporting Opener are the two primary objectives.



Supporting Opener

When we have only 3-card support for Opener's Major we cannot show that directly (Jacoby 2NT promises 4-card trump support.) We instead start with a 2/1 Game Forcing bid and later support Opener's suit.

Example

1♠ 2♣
2♦ 2♠ 12+ HCP and exactly 3-card ♠ support

2NT Rebid

This is one of the most frequent rebids by the Responder. It is particularly common after three suits have been bid. When Responder has a stopper in the 4th suit and no fit for either of partner's suits, he shows this by bidding 2NT. This is also a useful bid because it saves space for Opener to give us more information.

Example

♠ K7
♥ A65
♦ JT432
♣ AQ8
1♠ 2♦
2♥ 2NT
3♥ 4♥ 2NT allows Opener to show the 5-5M shape.

3NT Rebid

This shows stoppers in the unbid suits and extra HCP - specifically about 3 HCP more than a minimum game force (about 15-16 HCP.) It is a mild slam try.

Example

♠ K2
♥ A3
♦ AQ54
♣ KT987
1♠ 2♣
2♥ 3NT This shows a ♦ stopper and extra values.



4th Suit Rebid

When Responder does not have a fit for either of Opener's suits and does not have a stopper in the 4th suit, he bids the 4th suit to ask Opener to bid Notrump with a stopper in this suit. This is most common in a minor.

Example

1♠	2♣	
2♥	3♦	This asks Opener to bid 3NT with a stopper in ♦!

Conclusion

These rebids are not simple and it will take some time to get used to the exchange of information. But with practice, the dance of showing your shape, exploring the Major suit fits, finding stoppers for Notrump, and searching for a possible slam becomes both challenging and a lot of fun!