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(11) 2/1 Game Forcing: 1♦ - 2♣ Auction

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Level: Intermediate-Advanced

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General Approach

Auctions which begin 1♦-2♣ can be some of the most difficult in all of bridge. These auctions can lead to lots of complexity about the meaning of subsequent bids. I have seen many pairs play in 3-3 Major suit fits after the auction began with 1♦-2♣.

Our general approach will be based on the idea that if Responder bypasses a 4-card Major to bid 2♣, then it is his responsibility to try to find a 4-4 Major suit fit if our side has one. I would strongly recommend that you not bypass a 4-card Major to bid 2♣ unless you are in a highly established partnership and you have had long discussions about how to handle all of the potential rebids.

Opener's Rebids

Opener's rebids are important in showing the partner the nature of his hand as well as right-siding the most likely game contract of 3N.

Here are some general principles we will adopt:

- In order preserve space and to describe our hand we rebid 2♦ with almost all hands that have 5+card ♦ suits.
- Without a 5-card ♦ suit we show our stoppers in the Majors. Bidding a Major shows a stopper there and notrump shows stoppers in both Majors.
- Jump to 3N shows extra values (usually 15-17 HCP) with singleton ♣ (4-4-4-1).

Here are the details of what Opener's rebids show:

1♦-2♣-

- 2♦ any hand with 5+card ♦
- 2♥ not 5-card ♦, ♥ stopper, not ♠ stopper
- 2♠ not 5-card ♦, ♠ stopper, not ♥ stopper
- 2N not 5-card ♦, stoppers in both Majors (12-14 HCP or 18+ HCP)
- 3♣ usually 4-card ♣ support for partner
- 3♦ Great ♦, 6+c suit and a good hand
- 3N Usually 4-4-4-1 (singleton ♣) with 15-17 HCP (*Mild Slam Try*)



Advanced Note: Other Bids that are not listed are up to the partnership – but Splinters and Minorwood are other options.

Responder's Rebids

Once Opener has described his hand, Responder has one primary responsibility - to "right-side" notrump if we have a stopper in "the unbid suit."

Examples

1♦-2♣-2♠-2N ♥ Stopper

1♦-2♣-2♥-2N ♠ Stopper

Unlike in the 2/1 GF auctions that start 1 Major-2 minor, where we might have a Major suit fit, in the auctions that start 1♦-2♣ we are primarily interested in whether we have stoppers in both Majors and from which side we should declare 3N.

Since the general rule is that we don't have a Major suit fit when the auction starts 1♦-2♣ then subsequent bids of a Major tend to show stoppers, not necessarily length. This is an important agreement to have in order for us to find out which person should be the declarer of 3N (since that is our most likely game contract.)

Final Comments

Later calls in these types of auctions are natural and shape showing. They tend to be bidding out the pattern of our hand and showing interest in playing in something other than 3N. This can be either because we don't have a stopper in one of the Major suits or because we have interest in playing a slam.

Example

1♦-2♣-2♠-3♦ 4+c♦, usually slam interest in ♦ (and usually no ♥ stopper)