

MARVIN TWO DIAMONDS

An opening of 2♦ is a three-way bid:

- A notrump hand with 21-22 HCP and a five-card suit, or
- A weak two bid in hearts, or
- A strong two bid in spades, usually unbalanced, game forcing

The strong two bid in spades may be based on a balanced hand if 1) opener wants to be in game for sure; 2) opener has one or more tenaces on the side and wants to make sure he will play the hand; and 3) opener has the sort of hand that doesn't need to know how many controls partner has. If he wants that information, he must open 2♣. With a 21-22 HCP hand that lacks a five-card suit, the opening is 2NT.

Responses

Responder assumes that partner has a weak two bid in hearts, and bids according to section 7-2, Weak Two Bids. If he would have passed a weak two bid opening in hearts, he now *bids* 2♥. One drawback of this convention is that responder cannot raise hearts preemptively, because opener may not have a weak two bid. Other than that, responder makes his normal response to a weak two bid if he has too much to bid 2♥.

If RHO bids or doubles, responder usually assumes the opening was based on a weak two bid and bids, doubles, redoubles, or passes accordingly (but 2♥ over a double is a "positive response" in hearts). Even if RHO bids spades, however, responder cannot raise hearts preemptively. Opener could have a notrump hand, or even a strong two bid in spades if RHO is lying to create confusion.

Rebids by Opener

With a 21-22 HCP notrump hand, opener rebids in notrump. In the unlikely event that responder has made a positive response to a weak two bid type opening (i.e., has bid 2♠, 2NT, 3♣, or 3♦), opener must jump in notrump in order to show the 21-22 HCP notrump type hand. A 3NT rebid over 2NT shows a weak two bid sort of hand with a solid heart suit. A 3NT rebid over a three-level new suit bid shows some support for responder's suit (see section 7-2, Weak Two Bids). Likewise, a 2NT rebid over a 2♠ response shows a weak two bid with some spade support.

With a weak two bid in hearts, opener passes a 2♥ response. After any other response, opener rebids in accordance with section 7-2, Weak Two Bids. He must not otherwise bid again, not even in a competitive way with an extra good weak two bid:

South	West	North	East
2♦	Pass	2♥	3♣
3♥ - strong two bid in spades, heart suit too			
Dbf - optional double, 21-22 HCP notrump hand			
Pass - weak two bid			

With a strong two bid in spades, opener rebids in spades to show a one-suited hand, or (as with 3♥ above) shows a second suit:

Opener	Responder
2♦	2♥
3♣	- spades and clubs

Opener has already shown a spade suit, so now shows a second suit.

Rebids by Responder

If opener verifies a weak two bid, responder proceeds in accordance with section 7-2, Weak Two Bids.

If opener shows a 21-22 HCP notrump hand by bidding 2NT, the bidding proceeds in accordance with section 5-4, Two Notrump Opening, except that a major suit response to Stayman shows a five-card suit:

Opener	Responder
2♦	2♥
2NT	3♣
3♦	- no five-card major (five-card minor)
3♥/3♠	- five-card major

We can't play that 3♦ shows diamonds and 3NT shows clubs, because we must leave room for responder to show a five-card major.

If opener has had to jump in notrump to show a notrump hand because of partner's positive response, the partnership is committed to slam. A five-level suit bid over 4NT is a Boland response (see section 6-4), showing a biddable suit:

Opener	Responder
2♦	2NT
4NT	5 any - Boland response

If opener shows a strong two bid sort of hand, the bidding proceeds naturally, with a minimum notrump or minor suit rebid by responder showing a "second negative," usually a hand with no king and less than two queens.

Opener	Responder
2♦	2♥
3♣	3♦ - second negative

Opener	Responder
2♦	2♥
2♠	2NT - second negative

A minimum bid in a major suit is natural, however:

Opener	Responder
2♦	2♥
3♦	3♥ - natural

Opener has spades and diamonds. Responder could have bid 3NT as a second negative with nothing worth showing.

There is no danger of opener's passing any notrump bid, because all these sequences show an unbalanced hand. Responder may therefore sometimes bid notrump with substantial values when he has no good suit to bid. If so, he must reveal these values later in the bidding (which may not be easy).

Responder must continue bidding until game is reached, no matter how weak his hand. One reason is that opener may have a 6-4 hand in an auction like this:

Opener	Responder
2♦	2♥
2♠	2NT - second negative
3♣	

Opener "rebids" spades with game in hand, holding ♠AKQJ84 ♥A7 ♦4 ♣AKQ2, because he wants a chance to show this 6-4 holding. If responder has ♠6 ♥5432 ♦8743 ♣10843 and unilaterally passes 2♠ (or 3♣), she will miss a good club slam.