

Two-Way New Minor after a 1NT Rebid

The Invitational Two Club Bid and Continuations

NOTE that there is ONE weak auction in this section.

West	East
1x	1y
1NT	2♣

When your side begins as shown, responder's two club bid is a funny kind of Stayman which includes most of responder's *invitational* hands. Some exceptions apply, but not many.

RULE

When responder bids two clubs, opener MUST bid two diamonds. He is not permitted to do anything else. Responder will describe what kind of hand he has on his next bid.

The majority of TWS auctions will begin with two clubs. Here is a list of how responder continues and what he has for the various bids.

West	East
1♦	1♥
1NT	2♣
2♦	?

Remember that opener had to bid two diamonds. He did not say anything about his hand. At this point, he can have a minimum or a maximum, and he may or may not have support for hearts.

PASS: Responder may pull a trick on opener and pass two diamonds. This is how you get to two diamonds when responder has a weak hand.

If the opening bid was one diamond, responder bid two clubs and then pass two diamonds on any weak hand with four diamonds. For instance, if East held this hand, he would respond one heart and then use the two club trick to stop in two diamonds.

♠ 8
♥ J965
♦ Q973
♣ A842

Responder judges that it is safer to play in two diamonds than in one notrump. He gets to two diamonds by bidding two clubs, forcing opener to bid two diamonds, and then passes it out. The nice thing about this sequence is that opener bids two diamonds and responder passes giving opener no chance to bid again. What better way is there to shut opener up?

If the opening bid was one of any other suit, responder can bid two clubs and get out in two diamonds on any weak hand that includes five or more diamonds. For instance:

West	East
1♥	1♠
1NT	2♣
2♦	?

Opener rates to have some diamonds so playing in two diamonds looks to be right from responder's point of view. On this hand, he has five diamonds. Responder may have six of them. This hand is an important reminder that opener must behave himself and always bid two diamonds in response to two clubs. No imagination allowed here!

2♣: Invitational Sequences

West	East
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♣
2♦	2♥

- ♠ K72
 - ♥ Q9862
 - ♦ AQ6
 - ♣ 42
- On this sequence, responder bid one heart, went through the two club sequence, and then rebid his hearts. This auction is invitational. It shows a *five-card suit and game interest*. This hand has eleven high card points, which is par. East might have twelve points, but if so, they will be poor.
- ♠ 52
 - ♥ AKQJ7
 - ♦ 873
 - ♣ J10 4
- This hand would also bid two clubs on the second round and follow with two hearts.
- Opener continues as he sees fit. His possible bids include pass, two or three notrump, and three or four hearts.

Opener's rebid after responder's invitational 2♥:

- ♠ QJ8
 - ♥ 53
 - ♦ K87
 - ♣ AK652
- Pass or two notrump. A guess.
- ♠ J63
 - ♥ QJ7
 - ♦ AQ
 - ♣ A10532
- Four hearts. Opener has a maximum with good support and quality points. This hand is so good that you might raise to game without the jack of spades.
- NOTE that responder always has FIVE hearts for this sequence. With six of them, he would choose another sequence.
- ♠ AK4
 - ♥ KQ
 - ♦ 984
 - ♣ J10763
- Pass. Your two nice hearts will help partner's trumps but you don't have the third trump needed to raise. As for notrump, you have an obvious diamond worry and you do not have a maximum hand either.
- ♠ A63
 - ♥ KQ7
 - ♦ 763
 - ♣ KJ98
- Raise to three hearts. You have good support but bad shape.

♠ KJ7
 ♥ J8
 ♦ KQ10
 ♣ A10953

Bid three notrump. Do not bid just two and leave your partner to guess. You have a maximum and you have some nice spot cards. As long as you can trust your partner to have the values he promises, bidding three notrump is best. In practice, this convention will produce some embarrassing moments some of its bids are easy to forget. However, the net benefits to this convention are worth chasing even if you have some bad moments first.

West	East
1♣	1♠
1NT	2♣
2♦	2♥

♠ KJ763
 ♥ QJ102
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A52

This time, responder's initial bid was 1♠ and now he is bidding a new suit. Two hearts shows five spades and four hearts and invitational values.

This hand shows one of the big advantages of TWS.

Responder can show weak hands with spades and hearts and he can distinguish many of his invitational hands with spades and hearts combined or only one major.

1. He can show a *weak hand with spades and hearts* by bidding one spade and rebidding two hearts directly over 1NT.

♠ 107653
 ♥ 97653
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ 3

2. He can show an *invitational hand with five spades and four hearts* by bidding two clubs over 1NT and then bidding two hearts.

♠ AJ863
 ♥ KJ73
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ 82

The good news is that TWS often lets you stop at the two level, something that is difficult to do in some other methods. On hands where opener has a minimum hand and responder invites, staying low is important. You can do this much of the time with TWS. Take the hand above. In other methods, you will often get to two notrump or three of a major. TWS lets you show your hand at a low level. You won't get higher unless your partner wishes to.

♠ K10763
 ♥ KJ842
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q9

This hand reflects judgment. You might not want to get to the three level unless you are sure you have a good fit. If you wish, you can bid two clubs and then two hearts, ostensibly showing five spades and four hearts. This is invitational and if you catch an interesting bid from your partner such as three hearts, you can go to game knowing you have a good fit.

3. He can show an *invitational hand with five hearts and five spades*. He does this by bidding two clubs and then bidding three hearts.

<p>♠ KJ763 ♥ QJ1032 ♦ K4 ♣ 5</p>	<p>AGAIN, responder bids two clubs on the second round and on his next turn <i>jumps</i> to three hearts. This shows an <i>invitational hand with five spades and five hearts</i>. Opener knows that responder has an invitational hand because he started with two clubs over one notrump. Opener knows responder has five hearts because he jumped on the second round. NOTE that this hand is about as good as it gets. When you have a five-five hand, it becomes extra powerful when your partner rebids one notrump because you know you have a fit. If you had anything more than this hand, you would force to game and not invite.</p>
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4. *An invitational sequence with one five-card major suit:*

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ AKJ73
1♣	1♠	♥ Q73
1NT	2♣	♦ J75
2♦	2♠	♣ 82

If responder bids and rebids his spade suit, he is showing an *invitational hand with five spades*. This is the same as when responder bids one heart, uses the two club trick, and follows with two hearts.

5. *An invitational sequence with four hearts and five spades:*

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ AJ73
1♣	1♥	♥ QJ973
1NT	2♣	♦ 43
2♦	2♠	♣ K8

If responder bid one heart on the first round and now bids two spades, he is showing an *invitational hand with four spades and five hearts*. Opener won't have four spades, but he can still choose between hearts and notrump. Remember that on ninety-five percent of the auctions where responder bids two clubs and then bids again, he is showing only invitational hands. This auction may look like a reverse, but *the two club bid defines the auction as invitational*, no matter how it feels to you otherwise.

Hopefully, opener will know enough to come up with a final contract.

6. This example shows how to describe an *invitational hand with a six-card major*.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
1♦	1♥	♠ QJ4
1NT	2♣	♥ QJ9754
2♦	3♥	♦ AJ
		♣ 53

Bidding two clubs and then jumping in your suit shows this kind of hand. Most systems have a way to show this hand. The one used here is available only to TWS players. In this case, the system does not gain you anything special.

Minor considerations

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♣
2♦	2NT

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
1♣	1♥
1NT	2NT

Bidding two clubs and then raising opener's one notrump rebid to two notrump is invitational. You may have noted in the preliminary discussion that raising one notrump directly to two notrump is invitational too. Why have two ways to raise to two notrump?

Science offers a reason.

If you raise the one notrump rebid to two notrump, you have an eleven or twelve point hand with no other feature to show.

*If you bid two clubs and then bid two notrump, you show the same eleven or twelve point hand but you also promise **four-card support for partner's minor suit**. Your partner may go back to three of his minor if he wishes.*

For example:

♠ 73	By bidding two clubs and then two notrump, you tell partner you have a balanced hand with good club support. He can choose from two or three notrump or three clubs. Heck, he might have a reason to go to five clubs.
♥ AJ104	
♦ 872	
♣ AQ92	

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ A4
1♣	1♥	♥ 9754
1NT	2♣	♦ A6
2♦	3♣	♣ K9753

Here, West opened with one club. When you go through the two club routine and then raise clubs, you *imply five clubs and only four hearts*.

With five hearts and five clubs, you would tend to show an invitational hand with five hearts. You can't do everything.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ A4
1♦	1♥	♥ QJ754
1NT	2♣	♦ 6
2♦	3♣	♣ A10753

This time, partner opened with a suit other than clubs. When you bid two clubs over one notrump and then bid three clubs, you show a *five-five hand with invitational values*. As your bidding shows five-five shape, you will be able to get back to hearts if partner prefers them. If you have five hearts and four clubs and an invitational hand, you should probably not bother showing the clubs.

♠ A7	When partner opens one diamond and rebids one notrump over your one heart bid, it is simplest and most direct to raise to two notrump. Why waste time showing clubs when you have a relatively balanced eleven count? The odds are very strong that three notrump is the only making game for your side.
♥ KJ73	In addition, if you raise to two notrump instead of talking it up, the defenders will know less than if you blab. If you raise to two notrump, you might get a club lead now and then. That certainly won't hurt you.
♦ 43	
♣ QJ984	

Responder Bids Two Clubs and then Bids Three Diamonds on His Third Turn:

If partner opened one diamond, bidding two clubs and then raising to three diamonds shows an invitational diamond raise.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ K64
1♦	1♥	♥ AJ54
1NT	2♣	♦ QJ743
2♦	3♦	♣ 3

This sequence shows a *limit diamond raise*. You rate to have only four hearts for this bid. Since you are raising diamonds and therefore offering five diamonds as a possible contract, you will have real distribution for this bid. If you have a balanced hand, you tend to raise to two notrump instead.

♠ K64
♥ AJ54
♦ QJ74
♣ 32

Raise to two notrump, do not look for a diamond contract.

If partner opened with something besides one diamond, bidding two clubs and then bidding three diamonds says you have an invitational five-five hand. Opener chooses between various contracts knowing almost exactly what you have

The Two Diamond Bid and Continuations

West	East
1♦	1♠
1NT	2♦
?	

When responder bids two diamonds after a one notrump rebid, it is game forcing, with no exceptions. The auction goes more or less as you would expect after this start. The bidding is almost entirely natural from this point on.

Here are opener's rebids after a two diamond bid by responder.

- 2♥ Two hearts shows four hearts. Opener may have three spades too. When you have three card support and four cards in the other major, you show the four card suit first.
 - 2♠ You show three spades and deny four hearts.
 - 2NT You deny support for either major suit.
 - 3♣ This may be a rebid or opener's original suit or it may be a new suit. Whichever it is, it is logical in that opener is choosing to show a feature of his hand.
- ♠ K3 ♥ 1093 ♦ A873 ♣ AQJ2
Three clubs feels like a nice bid. You have denied support for spades and you have denied four hearts. Partner should not be confused by this bid.
- 3♦ ♠ 72 ♥ A94 ♦ KQ1097 ♣ AJ3
Bid three diamonds and let partner know your minor suit is for real. Do this only if you have a maximum and quality points.
 - 3♥ Three hearts and three spades do not exist. I suppose that these bids could be used to show a maximum with support for the major I responded in, but since we are in a game forcing auction, these bids are not necessary.
 - 3♠
 - 3NT Opener NEVER bids three notrump in response to two diamonds. Responder may be looking for a slam. Bidding three notrump gets in his way.

A Few Two Diamond Sequences

	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
♠ K64			♠ A82
♥ AJ54	1♦	1♥	♥ KQ1084
♦ QJ743	1NT	2♣	♦ K83
♣ 3♣	2♦	3♦	♣ 104

East has a good heart suit and nice high cards so can force to game even though he has twelve only points. West has three card support which he shows. East is not sure that hearts is better than notrump. When East bids three notrump, he is merely suggesting notrump. He is not insisting on it. East must have five hearts else why bother bidding two diamonds? West, if he thinks a heart contract is best, can return to four hearts.

	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
♠ 105	1♦	1♠	♠ AK73
♥ QJ83	1NT	2♦	♥ A7
♦ AK872	2♥	3♦	♦ J10963
♣ A10	4♣	4NT	♣ K6
	5♣	6♦	

East bids one spade and over one notrump can choose between two routes. One route is to bid three notrump and get the hand over with. Or, East can bid two diamonds, creating a game-forcing auction, and then show diamond support.

West's bidding is forced for the first few bids. His one notrump rebid looks a tad strained, but it is a much better bid than rebidding two diamonds. Over two diamonds by East, West has to show hearts. Even if West had three spades, he would show the four hearts first according to the rule.

Finally, when East bids three diamonds, West sees that his hand is very good. This is especially true given that he has shown a balanced hand with twelve to fourteen points. If East is interested in diamonds, West is extremely agreeable. His four club bid says that diamonds is fine and that opener has the ace of clubs in case East is interested.

East is interested. East knows that West does not have three spades because he would show them over three diamonds. East's hand is therefore pretty powerful. If West has the ace-king of diamonds and the ace of clubs, slam will have a fair play. East checks for aces on general principles and bids the slam.

East must remember that West has a maximum of fourteen high card points. East, therefore, does not look for a miracle hand from West that will make seven diamonds.

	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
♠ 105			♠ AK732
♥ KJ83	1♦	1♠	♥ A975
♦ K872	1NT	2♦	♦ Q3
♣ KQJ	2♥	3♥	♣ A8
	4♥	Pass	

East bids one spade and follows with two diamonds, TWS. West bids two hearts, showing four of them. If West had three spades too, he would still show the hearts. East has some slight interest in a slam so bids three hearts to give West room to show interest too. West has an aceless hand with ordinary points and returns to four hearts. East, if he trusts West's judgment, will pass four hearts. Slam may make on these cards, but the chance is about ten percent. This is not a slam you want to be in. If West had a maximum hand with controls, he would be entitled to cue-bid over three hearts.

The key in these auctions is that when responder starts with two diamonds, the partnership is in a game forcing auction. This goes contrary to many bidding styles and is not too easy to get into your subconscious. Curiously, new two over one players have the same trouble. It takes awhile to be comfortable with raising to three hearts on the East hand above. Be of stout heart, learn the methods, and go from there.

Other Agreements

A Raise to Two Notrump

Not everything is unusual when using TWS. A raise to two notrump is an *old-fashioned, invitational bid* showing eleven or twelve points.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ Q73
1♦	1♥	♥ KJ83
1NT	2♣	♦ KJ74
2♦	3♦	♣ Q5

If responder had some nines and tens, he could bid game. Without them, raising to two notrump is about right.

Responder's Jump Rebids

A Jump to Three Clubs

No matter how the bidding has started, when opener rebids one notrump and responder *jumps to three clubs*, it is a *signoff* bid. If opener bid one club, responder's jump to three clubs may be made on four clubs. If opener's bid was another suit, responder's jump to three clubs will usually show six.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ A873
1♣	1♥	♥ 10763
1NT	?	♦ 4
		♣ QJ85

Bid three clubs. West doesn't have four spades or four hearts. He will have four or more clubs. Playing in clubs is surely a good thing to do and bidding three clubs is the way to get to three clubs without fear of getting higher.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ AJ73
1♥	1♠	♥ 63
1NT	?	♦ 4
		♣ J98652

Bid three clubs. Your partner has two of them and likely three. This bid is an absolute *signoff*. West may not bid again. Even if he has three spades and two clubs, he is required to pass. You have only six high card points and have no interest in any more bidding, which is the message you are giving your partner.

Other Jumps

Remember that *three-level bids other than three clubs are all game-forcing*, no matter how the earlier bidding has gone.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ K3
1♣	1♥	♥ AJ963
1NT	?	♦ KJ1084
		♣ J

Bid three diamonds. *Three diamonds shows a five-five hand with hearts and diamonds and game-forcing values*. This is a useful bid because you tell partner about both of your five-card suits. If partner bids three notrump, you can pass without guilt.

NOTE - *If West had opened one diamond, your jump to three diamonds would be forcing, showing hearts and diamonds. Since you did not bother bidding two diamonds, forcing, to find out if he has heart support, it is logical that three diamonds shows just four hearts.*

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
		♠ AJ3
1♣	1♥	♥ QJ9873
1NT	?	♦ KJ
		♣ K6

Bid three hearts. Three hearts shows a *game-forcing hand with six or more hearts*. Remember that all jumps to the three-level other than three clubs are forcing to game.

Opener usually bids three notrump or raises hearts. Opener is allowed to make a cue-bid if he wishes. Things like the following are possible:

	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
♠ K96	1♦	1♥	♠ AJ3
♥ K42	1NT	3♥	♥ QJ9873
♦ A876	4♣	4NT	♦ KJ
♣ A82	5♣	6♥	♣ K6
	Pass		

West's four club bid says hearts are fine and that West has a maximum hand with good cards for East. East, with about seventeen support points and nice prime cards, goes ahead with Blackwood. The final contract is not cold, but it will make if East can guess which finesse to take OR if the defenders lead either spades or diamonds. This is worth bidding. The important thing is how the bidding works.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
1♣	1♠	♠ KJ93
1NT	?	♥ AQ
		♦ KQ84
		♣ KQ6

Four clubs. Don't forget that a *jump to four clubs after a one notrump bid or rebid is ace-asking*. This is not part of the TWS convention but it is a useful bid that you must remember.

OPTIONAL TREATMENTS

You can add some cute tricks to this convention should you wish to do so. I have referred to them earlier but I warn you that if you have not discussed them, your partner will not be sure of what you are doing. Here are some of them.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
1♣	1♠	♠ KJ93
1NT	?	♥ AQ
		♦ KQ84
		♣ KQ6

Four clubs. Don't forget that a *jump to four clubs after a one notrump bid or rebid is ace-asking*. This is not part of the TWS convention but it is a useful bid that you must remember.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
1♣	1♥	♠ 3
1NT	3♠	♥ KQJ8743
		♦ Q8
		♣ AQJ

What do you think this can mean? Responder could have forced in spades in various ways. Is he showing six hearts and five spades? That is possible, but darned unlikely.

The scientific meaning for this bid is that it is a splinter bid showing a singleton spade and a slam try in hearts.

With this hand, you would be thinking about a slam but would not have an easy way to go about it. Using the three spade bid to show a slam try with hearts and a singleton spade, you can get partner's opinion in time to use it at a safe level.

West	East
1♣	1♥
1NT	?

On this sequence, East's jumps would be defined as follows:

- 3♠ *A singleton spade with a heart slam try as shown above (often called an autosplinter).*
- 4♣ *Simple Gerber (ace-asking). If responder wants to use key card, he has to let opener know what the trump suit is first.*
- 4♦ *A singleton diamond with a heart slam try as shown above.*
- 4♥ *Just an old-fashioned signoff.*
- 4NT *An ordinary quantitative raise.*

An Inevitable Question: Does TWS apply in the following situation?

West	East
1♥	1♠
1NT	?

I suggest you play it here as well. There are a couple of examples in the text which imply that the convention exists after the auction begins this way. I agree that it ought to.