

MARVIN VS FLANNERY

As most people play this convention, a 2♦ opening shows 11-15 HCP, with five hearts and four spades. A 2NT response is conventional, asking opener to clarify her hand. Opener then shows a three-card minor, etc., etc. A 2♥ or 2♠ response to 2♦ is a signoff, of course. A 3♣ response is a signoff for some, invitational for others. A 3♦ response is at least invitational, since a weak hand with long diamonds and short majors could just pass the 2♦ opening. The defense:

-- A double of 2♦ is a two-way call, showing either a strong hand with both majors or a weak hand with both minors. You could have either ♠AJ96 ♥AQ1084 ♦63 ♣98 or ♠3 ♥84 ♦QJ1098 ♣KQ1097. Minors should be at least this good because third hand could well have both minors also. Partner should be able to tell which hand you have by looking at his own hand (and listening to the opponents).

South	West	North	East
2♦	Dbl	2♥/2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl - business double,		had both majors

- A 3♣ or 3♦ overcall is a preemptive sort of bid, no defense.

-- A 2♥ or 2♠ overcall is artificial, showing a good hand with a good minor suit. A 2♠ bid shows diamonds, and a 2♥ bid shows clubs. Overcall 2♦ with 2♠ holding a hand such as ♠A4 ♥63 ♦AK10873 ♣K94. Partner must bid the minor suit indicated by the overcall when he has a bad hand. Any other action is forward-going, although not always forcing:

South	West	North	East
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♦ - any sort of bad hand
			3♣ - natural, invitational
			2NT - invitational
			3♥/3♠ - stopper, forcing
			4♦ - invitational, too good for 3♦

The 3♥ or 3♠ bid shows that the suit named is stopped, and suggests that partner bid notrump if he has the other major suit stopped.

-- A 2NT overcall is unusual notrump, also showing a pretty good hand. With a weak minor two-suiter, you would double. Overcall 2♦ with 2NT holding ♠4 ♥82 ♦AK874 ♣AQJ42. With a real notrump hand, say 17-18 HCP, pass and hope to bid 2NT on the next round.

-- A 3NT overcall is natural, showing major suit stoppers and a long solid minor. The spade stopper may be sketchy or non-existent, since opener is known to have only four spades: ♠J32 ♥K4 ♦A4 ♣AKQJ872

-- A 3♥ overcall is a standard strong cue bid, since 2♥ is not available for that purpose.

-- A 3♠ overcall is natural, invitational: ♠AK109732 ♥4 ♦KJ4 ♣A2

With strength and length in just one major (unless the suit is spades and you are good enough to bid 3♠ or 4♠), just pass over a 2♦ opening and see what happens. Pass with ♠3 ♥AJ97 ♦AQ63 ♣K1043 or with

♠AQ97 ♥10 ♦AJ83 ♣K842. You will probably take action on the next round unless responder shows real strength (and perhaps even then). If a sharp-looking responder jumps to game in the short major, you will have to double for takeout--his bid could be a weak preemptive call. Knowing that you are sitting over the other major, partner may be able to pass the double (and lead a trump).

After passing 2♦, a reopening double of a 2♥ or 2♠ response is a two-way call, showing a good hand that has either a very strong or very short holding in the suit doubled, with support for both minors. "Very short" means a void or singleton.

South	West	North	East
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	- good hearts or very short hearts	
		2♠ - natural reopening bid, good spades	
		2NT/3♣/3♦ - natural reopening bid	

The 2NT reopening bid shows about 17-18 HCP, a hand such as ♠K42 ♥K4 ♦AK873 ♣A107. West could not bid 2NT on the first round with this hand, because that would be unusual notrump, showing both minors. The 3♣/3♦ reopening bids imply hands too good for an original (preemptive) 3♣/3♦ overcall, but not good enough for the (artificial) 2♥/2♠ overcall of 2♦.

When the response to 2♦ is 2♥ or 2♠, the next hand should be quick to act. These responses are signoffs that will be passed by opener, so this is really a balancing situation. Taking action may relieve pressure on partner when she has a good hand that is not suited to any reopening call.

South	West	North	East
2♦	Pass	2♥	Dbl - ♠9832 ♥4 ♦AJ97 ♣KQ83
			2NT - ♠KJ6 ♥K4 ♦AQ1053 ♣A63
			3♣ - ♠92 ♥85 ♦QJ2 ♣AKJ987

A double of a 3♣ or 3♦ response can only be for business if that is a signoff bid:

South	West	North	East
2♦	Pass	3♣/3♦	Dbl - business double

If the 3♣/3♦ bid is invitational or forcing, the double shows a two-suited hand in spades and the other minor.

A double of a 2♦ opening that has been passed around is also for business. As with the double of a signoff 3♣, it takes little more than good trumps since partner is marked with a lot of high cards:

South	West	North	East
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl - ♠J863 ♥3 ♦AJ98 ♣K1087