

Bidding 2-suiters (after they open)

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SHOWING TWO-SUITERS

OVERCALLER

always have at least 5-5 in the two suits

wide ranging strength (can always bid again)

2N = lowest two suits

cue over minor = majors

cue over major = major-minor

bid of 3m/4m is Pass/Correct

use 4N to ask for minor at 5-level

applies over 2L/3L openers and after 1suit-P-1N too

but then 2N/3M natural, so 4N for lowest suits

ADVANCER

try to jump with 4cd support, a bit pre-emptive

strong raises of known suit will always cue bid

game try in a minor asks with 2N

3C/D=weak with C/D, 3H/S=good with C/D

OPENING 2-SUITERS

- Opening bids might become a 2-suiter
 - so much is natural, not today's topic
- Some systems have specific 2-suited openers
 - LUCAS TWOS : in place of weak twos
 - 2N for MINORS
- Both require multi-2D for weak twos

Today is two suiters after
they open the bidding

WHAT IS A 2-SUITER ?

- At least 5-5
 - showing is key
 - maximising partner's involvement
- In competition 6-4 more like a single suiter
 - some have a few special arrangements
 - rare and not much benefit
 - (don't pretend 6-4 is the same as 5-5)

FREQUENCY

- shape requirement => just over 5% of hands
 - so 25 boards => 100 hands => 5 times
- they open and you have 5-5 shape
 - in other suits!
 - 10 hands in 256 (all four directions)
 - one per session (ie every second session for you)

My top 12 conventions (in order)

1. Takeout doubles
2. Stayman & transfers
3. Fourth Suit Forcing
4. Splinters
5. 2-suited overcalls
6. Lebensohl (2+ contexts)
7. Roman Keycard Blackwood
8. Checkback over 1N
9. Jacoby 2N
10. Kokish after a 2C opener
11. 2-suited defence to 1N
12. Unassuming cue bids

EXPECTATIONS

- Starting our dialogue with partner
 - one suit ruled out – frees up some bids for our use
- Opposition have already got a head start ..
 - bidding might ramp up fast
- With the right tools, most times we will find any fit we have

WHY SHOW A 2-SUITER ?

- You tell partner more, and partner can react much better
- Partner (and you) might well have little room if LHO raises

♠ Q 4 3

♥ 9 8 3

♦ A T 3

♣ A T 3 2

Choices :
good raise to
2S might
stretch to 3S

YOU	LHO	PARD	RHO
	1♥	1♠	♥raise
???			

Choices :
easy 4S bid

♠ Q 4 3

♥ 9 8 3

♦ A T 3

♣ A T 3 2

YOU	LHO	PARD	RHO
	1♥	2♥*	4♥
???			

* 2♥ shows spades and a minor, at least 5-5

STARTING POSITIONS

- They open 1-level suit
- They open 1N
- They open weak 2M
- They open weak 3-suit
- They open weak 4-suit

- Second seat and Fourth seat too
 - 1suit – P – 1suit
 - 1suit – P – 1N

AVAILABLE BIDS

- They open 1-level suit
 - cue bid (perhaps a jump cue bid)
 - 2N

- ~~GHESTEM~~
 - choice of third bid
 - Director's nightmares

Commonest use
of jump cue is
Gambling 3N
style, asks for
stop

ISSUES TO ADDRESS

- There are 3 pairs of 2-suits to show
 - not always possible
 - most settle for missing “spades + minor” over 1m
- Strength
 - teaching used to be “weakish or very strong”
 - but now : any range preferred
 - with common sense applying

UNUSUAL 2 NO TRUMPS

- Lowest two suits, at least 5-5
 - never spades
- BENEFITS
 - clear description
 - preemptive effect (eg 1C-2N blocks spades)
- DOWNSIDE
 - not much room to investigate

Over a 2 card club suit?

Examples

Over their 1H opening ?

♠ 2

♥ 85

♦ KQJ43

♣ KQJ43

classic 2N

♠ 2

♥ 8

♦ QJT982

♣ Q9876

preemptive
2N if non-v

♠ A

♥ A6

♦ KQJ43

♣ KQJ43

bid 2N and bid
again

Examples

Over their 1S opening ?

♠ 2

♥ A

♦ KQJ642

♣ T5432

prefer 2D
or higher

♠ -

♥ 8

♦ QJT982

♣ KQJT98

prefer 4N if
non-vul

♠ -

♥ 6

♦ T7654

♣ KQJT432

4C is more
pre-emptive

RESPONDING TO UNT

- All bids of known suits are natural
 - jumps to 4-level are primarily preemptive
- Only forcing bid : cue of their suit
 - game try or better in some known suit
 - don't neglect this
 - you must sign off in lowest suit if weak

DIVERSION : over their 1N

- UNT still applies
- Lowest two suits are always the same !
- Other two suiters
 - too many options for a single seminar
 - that's all about 2-suiters over 1N opener (today)

CUE BID (MICHAELS)

- Mike Michaels
- Over minor : both majors
- Over major : other major + some minor
- Shape requirements : at least 5-5
 - cautious with a 6-card major
 - care with 7-5 hands too ...

WHEN NOT A 2-SUITER

- Judgement call – no rules
 - unbalanced strength or points in short suits
 - gets the wrong lead
 - extra length in higher suit
 - might play the wrong suit
 - you will be outbid anyway
 - it helps declarer

Examples

Over their 1H opening ?

♠ KQJ43

♥ 5

♦ KQJ43

♣ J2

classic 2H

♠ JT987

♥ A6

♦ QJT98

♣ 2

2H if non-v

♠ KQJ43

♥ A6

♦ T7632

♣ 9

prefer 1S

Examples

Over their 1H opening ?

♠ KQJ43

♥ A6

♦ KQJ43

♣ A

2H then bid on,
don't start
with double

♠ 98765

♥ A

♦ KQJT98

♣ 2

probably 2H

♠ KQJ943

♥ 6

♦ QJ987

♣ 9

prefer 3S

RESPONDING TO MICHAELS

- After 1C-2C or 1D-2D
 - all bids of major are natural
 - jump in major is mild invite
 - cue of their suit is strong invite

RESPONDING TO MICHAELS

- After 1H-2H or 1S-2S
 - suit bids : natural if other major or NT
 - suit bids : pass/correct if potential suit
 - cue bid : always a good raise
 - 2N : used as a game try in unknown suit

RESPONDING TO MICHAELS

- After 1H-2H or 1S-2S
 - Weak hands : bid other major or a minor
 - bid of minor is “pass or correct”
 - applies at 3-level and 4-level, but after that 4N
 - Game try+ hands : bid 2N to ask
 - minimum hands bid the minor
 - Game going support for major
 - always bids their suit first

Examples

After 1H-2H-P ?

♠ T43

♥ 654

♦ KT54

♣ A32

Expected
values, 2S is
known fit

♠ Q432

♥ 65

♦ KT

♣ A543

now worth
3S (light game
try)

♠ K43

♥ 654

♦ AT5

♣ A543

stronger game
try (3H bid)

Examples

After 1H-2H-P ?

♠ T4

♥ 6543

♦ K5

♣ AT932

Might to better
in C, but not in
D, so bid 2S

♠ T3

♥ 6543

♦ KT5

♣ A543

bid 3C (pass /
correct)

♠ T3

♥ 654

♦ KT54

♣ A543

prefer 4C (pass
/ correct)

FOURTH SEAT BIDS

- After 1any-P-1N
 - Cue bid and 2N still available
 - Same meanings as direct position

OVER WEAK TWO OPENINGS

- Unusual NT
 - cannot spare 2N or 3N
 - 4N used for two lowest suits
 - when shape / values justify
- Cue bid is Michaels
 - can be same as before
 - no 2N enquiry available

OVER WEAK THREE OPENINGS

- Unusual NT : 4N
- Cue is Michaels
 - no space for asking bid etc

OVER WEAK THREE OPENINGS

- Unusual NT : 4N
- Cue is Michaels
 - no space for asking bid etc

UNT OVER 4L OPENINGS

- Over major, 4N is unusual
 - any two lower suits
- But over 4m then 4N is natural
- Also applies if partner opens, eg
 - 1H – <4S> – 4N
 - 1S – <4H> – 4N

EXTRA ISSUES FOR 2-SUITER

- Overcaller bidding again
- When they show a 2-suiter against you
- When they double your 2-suited bid

OVERCALLER BIDDING AGAIN

- Principles

- voluntary actions show extras

- bids of suits show extra length there

- X/cue for extra values and minimal shape

THEY SHOW 2-SUITER

- DOUBLE needed to suggest a penalty
 - cooperatively
- CUE their suit (higher usually if two known)
 - good raise of partner's opening
- If a second (lower suit) cue is available
 - 4th suit is a non-forcing bid there
 - this cue is a forcing bid in the 4th suit

THEY DOUBLE OUR OVERCALL

- Minimising the penalty
 - XX if we want to play our own suit
 - pass asks partner to describe their hand
 - overcaller's XX says you choose

SUMMARY

- Cue their suit = maximum holding in majors
- Supported by unusual 2N
- Same principles whatever level of opener
- Careful with pass/correct