

Checkback Bids/Conventions in Bridge

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Four sequences form a “Family” of Conventions played by pairs who play the 2/1 Bidding System. The family of bids have three basis bidding sequences:

XY- Notrump (m) **Opener** **Responder**

1m 1M

1NT ?

XY- Checkback **Opener** **Responder**

1♥ 1♠

1NT ?

XYZ **Opener** **Responder**

1 Any=x 1 Any=y

1 Any=z ?

FSF **Opener** **Responder**

1x 1y

1/2z 2w

The Sequences are used to find 4-4 or 5-3 major suit fits or to play in Notrump.

The sequence XY-Notrump (1) is known New Minor Forcing (NMF) also called Checkback Stayman (CS).

The sequence XY-Notrump Two-Way NMF (TWNMF) also called Two-Way Checkback Stayman, and the extended or advanced variant is known as XYZ. Finally, a related sequential bidding sequence is Fourth Suit Forcing (FSF - for one round or to game).

Most knowledgeable 2/1 partnerships TODAY do not use NMF and have replaced it with TWNMF. And often neither convention is used in the sequence 1♣ - 1♦ - 1NT. Both are off by a passed hand and over interference.

Many serious 2/1 players now use the XYX – bidding convention where over the bidding sequence 1x-1y - 1NT the checkback bid of 2♣* is artificial and invitational and the checkback bid of 2♦* becomes a game force bid.

The Gazzilli Convention is used over the sequence 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♣* or 1♥/1♠ - 1NT - 2♣*, but it is not a checkback bid but a method for bidding strong one or two-suited hands or balanced weak hands. The 2♦ is either natural or after a 2♣* used as a GF bid.

For serious tournament bridge players, I have included links to the two conventions.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/X-Y-Z%20Convention.pdf>

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Gazzilli-merged.pdf>

<https://www.library.neo-bridge.org/GazzilliND.pdf>

What follows is a link to an article that explains in some detail why players should not ever use the NMF convention.

www.lajollabridge.com/French/misc/New-Minor-Farce.pdf

For a simple introduction to 2WNMF follow the link:

<https://lajollabridge.com/LJUnit/Education/2-WayNewMinorForcing.pdf>

I have also discussed simple extensions of NMF on the OCALA site. Use the links below.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/villages/NMF.pdf>

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/New%20Minor%20Forcing.pdf>

What about FSF?

This is not convention but a bidding sequence that is only used by the RESPONDER, it is not needed in a GF 2/1 bidding sequence or in effect after a 1NT bid by the opener. It SHOULD ALWAYS be used as a Game Force (GF) bid and NEVER as only a one round forcing bid except in the sequence 1♣/1♦/1♥/1♠ since 2♠ becomes the GF bid.

For a comprehensive review follow the link below.

<https://barbaraseagram.com/pdf/FOURTH-SUIT-FORCING-Student-handout.pdf>