

## The Nebulous Two Way Club Convention ----- Playing 2/1

Provided by Neil H. Timm

Article from [bridgwinners.com](http://bridgwinners.com) (Andrew Gumperz 12/20/2012)

Bridge experts have adopted a new approach to handling strong balanced hands facing a 1M opening, playing the 2/1 Game Force Bidding System, the Two-Way Nebulous 2♣ response with 10+ HCP.

With 0-9 HCP bid 1NT as Semi-Forcing.

Using the **2♣ Convention** method,

1♠ - 2♥ and 1M - 2♦ guarantee a 5+ card suit and game-forcing values. Subsequent bidding is natural, and can follow, for example, any of the Bergen styles bids, depending on your preference.

1M - 2♣ becomes a nebulous game-forcing call. Responder will have either:

- Any balanced game-forcing hand with 2+ clubs
- A traditional game-forcing hand with a 5+card club suit

Responder will clarify later which of the two hand types he holds.

After an initial 1M - 2♣ start --- the response structure follows:

### 1♠ - 2♣

2♦ = a waiting bid showing either diamonds, or any 5-3-3-2 (with any doubleton) hand with insufficient stoppers for 2NT. Since the initial 2♣ response was artificial, opener cannot assume clubs are stopped, so 2NT is a fairly uncommon rebid.

2♥ = 4+ hearts. Unchanged from standard.

2♠ = 6+ spades

2NT = balanced min with some semblance of stoppers in all suits

3♣ = 4+ clubs

3♦/♥ = splinter raises of clubs

### 1♥ - 2♣

2♠ = 4-spades and no extras promised, Bergen style. (Otherwise opener rebids as above).

As you can see, opener rebids naturally for the most part.

- The 2M rebid promises a 6+ card major, providing the benefits of the Bergen-style 2M rebid.
- The 2NT rebid promises a NT-oriented, stopper-rich hand similar to a Lawrence 2NT rebid.
- "Raising" clubs as opener promises 4 clubs. Think of it as rebidding a club suit of your own, not raising since responder frequently holds only 2-3 clubs. Since opener did not splinter, the 3♣ promises exactly 5-2-2-4 distributions.
- With a splinter raise, opener is artificially describing his pattern as 5-1-3-4, 5-3-1-4 or 5-1-2-5, 5-2-1-5. Responder will be enthused if he holds a 5+card club suit and if he does not, his knowledge of opener's precise shape will help him judge whether 3NT is a good contract.
- When opener is 5-4-1-3 or 5-1-4-3, he always rebids a second suit planning to bid 3♣ later to complete the description of his pattern.

Even though opener has no idea what responder holds when he responds 2♣, this method works well when responder is balanced. Opener now has space to begin describing his shape before responder bids 2NT.

The nebulous 2♣ bid allowed *opener* to show his hand, which makes it easy for the partnership to find the best contract.

**1♥ - 2♣ - 2♦\* =artificial**

### **Responder's Continuations after 2♦**

Responder's primary goal after opener's nebulous 2♦ rebid is to communicate whether he holds the balanced or the natural 2♣ hand type. His continuations are natural with one exception.

1M - 2♣ - 2♦ - ?

2M = 3+ card support for opener's major (either balanced or unbalanced)

2oM = (two of the other major) Artificial. Shows an unbalanced hand with 5+ clubs.

2NT = natural and balanced.

3♣ = Excellent rebid able clubs, needing only minimal support (e.g., KQJxxx).

3♦ = 4 diamonds, 5 clubs and an unbalanced hand.

3M = picture bid. Good spades and clubs, slam mish.

3NT = balanced, very notrumpy 16-17 HCP.

When responder's hand is balanced, he will either:

- Show 3-card support for opener's major
- Rebid in NT

When responder's hand is unbalanced with 5+ clubs, he can either:

- Raise at his second turn with a fit
- Bid something other than 2M or 2NT

When responder does not fit opener's major, he frequently bids the other major (artificial). This call says only that responder is unbalanced and does not fit opener's major. He could have any side suit shape. The purpose is to allow opener to show 3-card support for responder's club suit, at the 3-level, if he has it.

Without this convention, responder would frequently have to rebid 3♣ to show his real club suit and opener would then be forced to raise to 4♣ if he wanted to show a fit. By using 2 of the other major instead, opener can show his fit and still leave the 3-level for club/NT exploration.

After this auction, the partnership has taken a tortuous route to replicate a simple, standard 2/1 auction: 1M - 2♣ - 3♣. Subsequent bidding is similar to that familiar auction.

### **Review of Artificial Calls**

Here is a review of the artificial calls. Other than these bids, bidding is natural and similar to standard 2/1 methods.

1M - 2♣ = either balanced or clubs

1M - 2♣ - 2♦ = either balanced or diamonds

1M - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2oM = unbalanced with 5+ clubs and no support for opener's major

### **Conclusion**

The nebulous 2♣ convention allows the other 2/1 calls (2♦, 2♥) to promise 5+ cards in the suit clarifying responder's hand type. When responder holds a balanced GF hand, it leaves maximum room for opener to pattern out. Compared to responding in the better 4-card minor, the nebulous 2♣ improves bidding accuracy when responder holds either hand type. When responder holds an unbalanced GF hand with long clubs, the auction is occasionally more difficult than with the "standard" 2/1 approaches. But the benefits of staying low on balanced hands and better descriptive 2♦ and 2♥ auctions far outweigh the drawbacks.

For examples and an in depth analysis of the system go to <http://bridgewinners.com/article/print/better-21-bidding-the-nebulous-2c-bid> (Andrew Gumperz's article). The idea was invented by Eddie Wold.