

Why Open 2♦*?

By Neil H. Timm

Playing 2/1 some partnerships use 2♦* to show any 4441 hand (Mini-Roman) or a 4441 hand with 4-spades with 11-15 HCP (Variation of Mini-Roman). Why the variation? To show the boss suit as soon as possible with an opening hand!

Others use the bid of 2♦* with a semi-balanced or balanced hand and 17-19HCP (The Mexican or Karosel Two Diamond Convention)

Playing 2♦* as either of the above bids some have replaced the weak (6-10) 2♥ bid with 2♥*=Flannery and 11-15 HCP to show 5♥ and 4♠. Why 2♥* as Flannery? It allows the strong hand to play the contract when partner is weak and avoids reverses which require 17+HCP.

Is there a better convention for the 2♦* bid? Yes, a system of bids I have called **Modified Multi** which is allowed by the ACBL: Any two-level bid showing at least average strength with 5-4 shape and both suits known, or a single known suit.

Modified Multi Bid of 2♦* (artificial and forcing)

- a) 11-15 HCP with 5♠ and 4♥ (Reverse Flannery)
- b) 20+ balanced hand and 5♠ and 4♥
- c) Any 17-19 hand with 4+♠

This convention combines the aspects of “Mini-Roman”, the Karosel/Mexican Two Diamond bid, and the Reverse Flannery Conventions with single bid.

Responses to the 2♦* forcing bid:

2♥	heart preference with 6+HCP or 0-3HCP
2♠	4-10HCP spade preference
2NT	forcing invitational values opposite 11-15
3♣/3♦	4+card bid suit with 5+♥ forcing bid
3♥	GF with 5+♥
3♠	Invitational opposite 11-15
4♣*/4♦*	cue bid with 3+♠ and slam interest opposite 11-15
4♠	to play opposite 11-15

Follow-up Bids after 2♥

Pass	11-15HCP 5-4 in the majors
2♠	20+ and responder's 2NT bid denies a good 5+card suit
2NT	balanced 21-23HCP, responder rebids

3♦* transfer to hearts (5+)
3♥* transfer to spades (4+ with 0-3HCP)

3♣/3♦/3♥ 5+card bid suit with 4+ spades
3♠ 6+ solid spades
3NT balanced 24-26
4♣/4♦/4♥ 6-spades 4-cards in bid suit with 3 losers

Follow-up Bids after 2♠

2NT balanced 20+HCP, responder bids

3♣/3♦ natural 4+card bid suit
3♥ natural 5+card suit
3♠ 4+support and opener's 3NT bid is choice of game

3♣/3♦/3♥ 5+ in bid suit and 4+spades
3♠ 5-spades with no longer side
4♣*/4♦*/4♥* 5-spades with void in bid suit

Follow-up Bids after 2NT

3♣* artificial bid either 11-15 or GF with 20+HCP

3♦* relay, opener re- bids

3♥ 4522 or 4531 short clubs

3♠ sets trump and slam try
4♣/4♦ slam try in hearts

3♠ 5422 or 5413 short clubs

4♣/4♦ slam try in ♥/♠

3NT 5422

4♣/4♦ slam try in ♥/♠

3♥/3♠ invitational bids opposite 11-15

3♦/3♥ 20+ and 5-4
3♠ invitational 5+spades
3NT to play

We now consider several examples

(1)	Opener	Responder
	♠10987	♠QJ73
	♥7	♥Q10543
	♦KQJ42	♦93
	♣AQ10	♣J2
	Opener	Responder
	2♦*	2♠ minimum bid spade preference
	Pass	

(2)	Opener	Responder
	♠A1098	♠KQ3
	♥A95	♥7
	♦AQ2	♦943
	♣AK10	♣987432
	Opener	Responder
	2♦*	2♠
	2NT 21+	3♣ natural 4+ suit
	3♦ New suit forcing	4♠ cue bid
	4♦ cue bid	4♥ cue bid
	4♠ cue bid	6♣
	Pass	Pass

(3)	Opener	Responder
	♠KQJ962	♠A1032
	♥A5	♥7
	♦84	♦KQ65
	♣AJ9	♣K762
	Opener	Responder
	2♦*	2NT forcing
	3♣*	4♠
	Pass	Pass

In (1) we have a weak hand, in (2) we have a strong hand, and in (3) we have an unbalanced hand with 4+ spade. All three are described by opening bid of 2♦.