

MODIFICATIONS TO BENJI
INCORPORATING WEAK TWO IN DIAMONDS
(MULTI 2♣ - BENJI)

(Developed by Tony Haworth – December 2013)

1. 2♣ - strong single suited – any suit
or
- strong balanced x-y points (20-21)
or
- **weak-two in diamonds (5-10 pts. 6 or 7 card suit)** (if also holding a 4-card major, 5-7 pts)

NOTE – don't open with the weak 2♦s, 8-10 pts with a 4-card major

(may be only a suitable 5-card suit in third position non-vul)

2. In response (responder should initially assume opener has the weak diamond hand):

- 2.1 - 2♥, 2♠, 3♣, 3♦, - **invitational**, good 5, or 6-card suit (~13-15 points)

(These are similar to suit responses to a benji 2♥ or 2♠).

In response opener can support, or 'pass'

With a 'strong' balanced hand opener should bid NT at lowest level.

With strong single suited, bid suit – 3♣, 3♦, 3♥, 3♠.

- 2.2 - jump bid in a suit other than diamonds – 7+ card suit ~ 9-12 pts.

- 2.3 - with ~12-15 points and 5/5 in the majors, bid 2♠, and over the expected 3♦, then bid 3♥.

- 2.5 - 2NT – 16 -19 pts. - **forcing**

3♣ - weak diamonds, upper end of range, **5-card non-puppet Stayman**, at least one 3-card major (or 8 tricks in clubs) (not 4-card, since opener's 2♦ will not also contain a four card major if upper end of range (8,9 points))

3♦ - weak diamonds, minimum of range

3♥/♠ - upper end of range, heart/spade control; **or 8 tricks in hearts/spades**

3NT – upper end of range – no heart/spade control

4♣ - strong single suited clubs (and now minorwood)

4♦ – strong single suited diamonds (and now minorwood)

4NT – quantitative – looking for grand slam

- 2.6 - 2♦ - **other hands (the usual response)**

3. Other Considerations

Over intervening bids, treat the same as when opening weak 2♥ or 2♠ (i.e. dbl is usually penalty)

Over 2♣ - (dbl); – the immediate 2suit or 2NT shows lower points (i.e. 11-15 for suit, and 16-17 for 2NT), and the delayed bid shows higher points range.

Over 2♣ - (dbl); – 2♦ is 13+ with diamonds, whereas 3♦ is continuing the pre-empt)
(otherwise ‘pass’)

Over 2♣ - (pass) – 2♦ – (bid), with the strong balanced hand, double is best played as take-out, whereas 2NT shows at least a stop in the opposition suit.

As a consequence, an opening bid of 3♦ shows a seven card suit with two of top three honours.

These modifications are licensed at level 4 (usual club level) – Blue Book 7C1. Under previous Regulations – Orange Book – these would not have been permitted at level 3 (the previous ‘club’ level).

AFH