

## Basics of 2-over-1—Part 3

### Responder's second bid:

Responder goes "slow" when he has extra values; he uses **fast-arrival bids** when he has a minimum. A low-level rebid in opener's suit (*slow* -- 1S-2C-2NT-**3S**) suggests extra values (14+ pts.) and gives opener more room to describe his hand. A jump to game in opener's suit (*fast* -- 1S-2C-2NT-**4S**) shows a minimum (12-13 pts.) with no interest in slam.

After 1H by partner – 2D by you – 2H by partner, the meanings of your second bid are:

- Minimum bid of partner's major (**3H**) = Extra values (14+ pts.) with 3-card support,
- Jump to game (**3NT** or **4H**) = Minimum (12-13 pts.)
- **2NT** = Unlimited; tends to be balanced with stoppers; asks for more information.
- Rebid of your suit (**3D**) = 6+-card suit and invitational (Lawrence style). If you play Hardy style, this rebid is unlimited and forcing.
- New suit (**2S** or **3C**) = Unlimited; could be artificial; asks opener for more information.
- Jump in a new suit (**3S** or **4C**) = Splinter raise (trump support [usually 3 cards] and a singleton in the suit bid).
- **4NT** = Key-card Blackwood for partner's suit. If opener's rebid was 2NT, 4NT is quantitative.

### Opener's third bid:

If responder has made a bid that asks for more information (1H – 2D – 2H – **2S**, **2NT** or **3C**), he denies 3+-card support for your suit. He often needs to know more about your hand to choose the contract. To provide this information, you can:

- Rebid your major (**3H**) if you have a good 6-card suit (since your 2H rebid did not guarantee 6 cards).
- Jump to game in your suit (**4H**) to show a strong (but usually not solid) 7+-card suit.
- Show 3-card support for partner's minor (**3D**).
- Raise to **3NT** (over 2NT) with a balanced minimum.
- Bid notrump (over partner's new-suit bid) if you have a stopper in the unbid suit.
- Bid the fourth suit if you have 4+-cards in the suit and do not have a suitable hand for notrump.

If partner's second bid was a low-level raise of your suit (1H – 2C – 2H – **3H**), he's showing a "good" 2-over-1 with 3-card support and at least mild interest in a slam. You can:

- Bid game (**4H**) with a dead minimum. Partner's 3H does not "demand" a cuebid from you.
- Cuebid a new suit (**3S** or **4C**) to show an ace and at least mild interest in slam.
- Bid partner's suit (**4D**) to show a moderate fit and/or a high honor and interest in slam.
- Bid **3NT** to show interest in slam and nothing to cuebid. This asks partner for a cuebid.

## Guidelines for cuebidding and ace-asking

- Responder's "low raise" (1H-2C-2NT-**3H**) shows at least moderate extra values, but it does not demand a cuebid. Opener should make a cuebid only if he has more than a dead minimum.
- If opener makes an early cuebid in responder's 2-over-1 suit (1H-2C-2NT-3H-**4C**), it should show a fitting card (ace, king or queen), usually with moderate support (doubleton or better). It does not necessarily promise a first-round control.
- Other cuebids show a first-round control (ace or void). Bid your *cheapest* control. If your cuebid "skips" an unbid suit, it denies a control in that suit. In the auction 1H-2C-2NT-3H-**4D**, your 4D cuebid says you hold the diamond ace but not the club or spade aces.
- After you've found a major-suit fit (1S-2H-3C-**3S**), a bid of 3NT demands a cuebid. It is not a suggestion of a final contract.
- When cuebidding kings (second-round controls), treat a singleton as a second-round control.
- In auctions where you have not yet confirmed a fit, a 3-level bid of a new suit is *not* an ace-showing cuebid. Instead, it should be interpreted as a search for the right game. In the auction 1H-2D-2H-3C-**3S**, you haven't agreed on a trump suit, so 3S cannot be a cuebid. If you held spade values, you would have bid 3NT here, so the 3S bid is asking partner for a spade stopper for notrump.
- If your agreed suit is a major, an unusual jump to 4S (if your suit is hearts) or the 5-level can be used as Exclusion Keycard Blackwood for the agreed (or implied) suit. In the auction 1H-2D-2H-**4S** or **5C** is Exclusion, showing heart support and a void in the bid suit (a jump to 3S or 4C would be a splinter). Opener does *not* count the ace of partner's void when he answers with his number of keycards.
- If your agreed suit is a minor, any jump to the 4-level can be used as Exclusion Keycard Blackwood -- 1S-2C-3C-**4D**, **4H** or **4S**.
- 4NT is *not* Blackwood if:
  - It's bid directly over opener's first rebid of 2NT or 3NT -- 1S-2C-2NT-**4NT** is quantitative, asking opener to bid 6NT if he has maximum point-count (or pass with a minimum).
  - Opener rebids 2NT, then 4NT over 3NT -- 1S-2C-2NT-3NT-**4NT** shows a balanced 18-19 pts.
- In all other auctions – and when in doubt -- 4NT is Keycard Blackwood for the last-bid suit.

Based on information from <http://kwbridge.com>