

BIDDING ADVANCED RESPONSES TO 2C; JUMP RE-BID AFTER 2C

An opening 2C shows one of two types of hand: either a balanced hand with 23pts+ or a distributional hand, with the potential for 10 playing tricks or more.

Unless your hand (as responder) contains a specific source of tricks, it is impossible to rate its worth until the opener has defined his shape. For this reason, we will adopt a new set of responses to the 2C Opener.

2H is an immediate **double-negative**, denying any cue-biddable values – so, no ace or king.

2D is a relay, promising an ace or king, but denying a positive response.

Any other bid is a positive response: 5-card suit or longer, headed by two of the top three honours. This might also show something like AJ10xxx

2NT is a positive response in hearts.

Now, partner knows whether there is any point in looking for a slam, whether you have a cue-biddable value, whether have a source of tricks in a strong suit.

This affects the nature of some sequences: only 2C - 2H - 2NT is not forcing to game (the 2H bidder may hold 0pts) – all other sequences are unconditionally forcing to game.

2C – **2H** – **2NT** is non-forcing, showing 23-24pts

2C – **2D** – **2NT** is now forcing, showing 23+ pts. This allows opener to rebid 2NT on all strong balanced hands, giving you more space to use Stayman, Transfers.

Opener can now very accurately identify between good and bad quality suits in responder's hand:

2C – **2S** shows a 5-card suit or longer, headed by at least two of the top three honours.

2C - 2D

2S - **3H** shows a 5 or 6-card heart suit, not headed by two of the top three honours.

Keeping the positive response to show a 5-card suit or longer headed by two of the top three honours (we might also include a 6-card suit headed by AJ10) is slightly restrictive, but it does ensure that partnership misunderstandings are far more rare. This was a real hand in competition:

West	East	West	East
♠ KJ3	♠ AQ962	2C	2S
♥ AKQJ76	♥ 92	7NT	
♦ AQ9	♦ 5432		
♣ A	♣ J7		

Once East had shown a 5-card spade suit headed by two of the top three honours, West could count five spade tricks, six hearts, a diamond and a club: 13 tricks - 7NT could be bid without any doubts.

JUMP RE-BID AFTER 2C OPENER

The point of opening 2C is to create a game-forcing situation at a low level, so jumping is rare. However, when opener jump re-bids having opened 2C, this says: this will be the trump suit, whether you like it or not!

Partner is now required to cue-bid any ace he may hold. If he holds no ace, he raises to game. If partner continues cue-bidding above the level of game, responder should cue-bid any king he holds. Of course, if responder has initially responded 2H, opener will know that he does not hold an ace or king.

West	East	West	East	
♠ AKQJ984	♠ 2	2C	2D	2D relay response, showing some values
♥ -	♥ J86432	3S*	4C†	* Jump Re-bid, indicating solid spade suit
♦ AKQ5	♦ J83	4D†	4S	† Cue-bids
♣ 62	♣ A75	6S		

Opener having set the suit with her jump re-bid of 3S, East cue-bids her A♣. When West tries a further cue-bid of 4D, East signs off in game. This is sufficient, however, for West to bid 6S, which makes with ease.