

Brass Convention

© 2007 Glen Ashton BridgeMatters
Release 1.1

Brass Introduction and Notes

The full name of the convention is “2C-2NTBRASS” and it stands for Two Clubs: 2NT By Responder Always Shows Spades.

The objective of the convention is to make additional use of the 2♣ opening, so that it covers more hand types. Using this style, 2♣ is opened with these hands:

- All hands with 22 or more points;
- 18-21 point hands with a six card or longer major, and no second suit;
- Balanced hands with 18 to 19.

Two key advantages to this opening are:

- a) One of a minor is not 18-19 balanced, so if a one-of-a-minor opener later shows strength it is always with an unbalanced/semi-balanced hand, even if a 2NT rebid;
- b) 1♠-1NT—3♠ and 1♥-1NT—3♥ are limited to 18 points. 1♠-1NT—3♣ or 3♦ and 1♥-1NT—3♣ or 3♦ are natural with 4 card or longer suit – there is never a need to bid a three card minor.

2C-2NTBRASS Response Structure to 2♣ Opening

Response	Style	Description
2♦	Waiting	Waiting, most hands. Not 0-4 points with a 5 card or longer major, and not 0-3 points with 6 or longer ♠s and no second suit, and not 5 or more points with 5 or longer spades and 4 or longer ♥s.
2♥/♠	Weak	0-4 points, 5 or longer in the major, not 5 or longer in the other major.
2NT	Majors	5 or more points, exactly 5♠s and 4♥s. Games to play. 3♣/♦ natural and game forcing. 3♠ by opener is only non-game forcing bid. 3♥ by opener asks how strong, 3♠ by responder showing 5-7 points, rest of bids are natural with 8 or more points.
3♣	Weak	0-3 points, 6 or longer ♠s and no second suit. All bids by opener are now to play.
3♦	Majors	0-3 points or 8 or more points, 5 or longer in both majors. Over any of opener's bids, responder passes if 0-3 points, but must bid again if 8+ points.
3♥	Majors	4-7 points, 5 or longer ♥s and exactly 5♠s, game force.
3♠	Majors	4-7 points, 6 or longer ♠s & 5 or longer ♥s, game force.

2C-2NTBRASS Opener's Rebids after 2♦ Response

Rebid	Style	Description
2♥	Two-way, asks	Shows 21/22+, either balanced or 4 or longer ♥s. Asks for a five card major or to show a minor if 7 or more points. See box below.
2♠	Spades	21/22+, 4 or longer ♠s, game force. If responder bids 2NT it shows exactly 3♠s, and if responder bids a minor then 2 or fewer ♠s.
2NT	Balanced	18-19 balanced. Same system as 2NT opening (transfers etc.)
3♣	Clubs	21/22+, 5 or longer ♣s, no four card major, game force.
3♦	Diamonds	21/22+, 5 or longer ♦s, no four card major, game force.
3♥	Hearts	18-20, 6 or longer ♥s, no second suit, not-forcing.
3♠	Spades	18-20, 6 or longer ♠s, no second suit, not-forcing.
3NT	Strong	24/25-27 balanced and no interest in finding a major fit.

2C-2NTBRASS Responder's Rebids after 2♣-2♦—2♥ (21/22+, balanced or ♥s)

Rebid	Style	Description
2♠	Waiting	Waiting, denies a five card major, and no minor if 7 or more points.
2NT	Spades	5 or longer ♠s, fewer than 4♥s, 5 or more points, game force.
3♣	Natural	5 or longer ♣s, 7 or more points, game force.
3♦	Natural	5 or longer ♦s, 7 or more points, game force.
3♥	Natural	5 or longer ♥s, fewer than 4♠s, 5 or more points, game force.
3♠	Majors	5 or longer ♥s, 4♠s, 5 or more points, game force.

2C-2NTBRASS Opener's Rebids after 2♣-2♦—2♥-2♠ (no five card major)

Rebid	Style	Description
2NT	Balanced	21/22-24 balanced. Now all bids are natural (no transfers etc.). Responder can pass 2NT if at most one or two jacks.
3♣	24/25-27 Bal. or 21/22+ both majors – asks like Stayman	Game force, 24/25-27 balanced or 21/22+ with both majors (5 or longer ♥s & four or longer ♠s), asks for four card major like Stayman. Responder bids 3♦ (no major), 3♥(4♥s), 3♠s(4♠s). Bidding continues naturally.
3♦	Natural + ♥s	21/22+, 4 or longer ♥s & 4 or longer ♦s, game force. Responder can now bid 3♥ with just 3♥s.
3♥	Natural	21/22+, 6 or longer ♥s, game force.
3♠	♥s + ♠s	21/22+, 4 or longer ♥s & 4 or longer ♠s (not ♠s!!!), game force.
3NT	Balanced	27/28-30 balanced. Now all bids are natural (no transfers).

2C-2NTBRASS Opener's Rebids after 2♥/♠ Response (5 card or longer major, 0-4)

Rebid	Style	Description
Pass	Natural	To play, most often 18-19 balanced.
2♠	Natural, 4+♠s	2♠ is non-forcing, but responder is to raise with 4♠s, or bid a long minor if one held, or bid 2NT if exactly 3♠s (2NT BRASS).
2NT	Balanced	21/22-24 balanced, only two in major. Now natural bidding.
3♣	Clubs	21/22+, 5 or longer ♣s, game force.
3♦	Diamonds	21/22+, 5 or longer ♦s, game force.
3♥	Hearts	Over 2♠, this shows ♥s, non-forcing but responder is to raise with 3♥s. Over 2♥ this is a raise, inviting responder to game.
3♠	Spades	Over 2♥, this shows ♠s, game forcing. Over 2♠ this is a raise, inviting responder to game.
3NT	To play	To play unless responder has decent six card suit.
Games	To play	

Opener Balanced Ladder after the 2♦ response

Range	Rebid	Notes
18-19	2NT	Opener rebids 2NT, and now 2NT system on (Stayman, transfers etc.)
21/22-24	Rebid 2♥, then 2NT if available	System not on over 2NT rebid – bidding naturally will uncover any major fit.
24/25-27	Rebid 2♥, then 3♣	After 2♥, if responder rebids 2♠, bid 3♣ asking for a four card major.
27/28-30	Rebid 2♥, then 3NT	
31+	Natural	Keep bidding suits to learn more about responder's hand.

By default, natural bidding is used unless other specified in these notes. By adding complexity, it is possible to “tweak” the sequences to further improve the finding of the best place to play.

Memory aid: 2NT by Responder Always Shows Spades – 2NT-BRASS

The key steps for 24/25-27 balanced:

2♣: Opening

--2♦: Waiting by Responder

----2♥: 21/22+, balanced or ♥s, asks for a five card major

-----2♠: Responder says no five card major (and no five card minor if 7+ points)

-----3♣: 21/22+ with 5+♥s & 4+♠s, or 24/25-27 balanced – asks for a four card major.

----- Responder replies.

So 24/25-27 balanced can first ask for a five card major, and then ask for a four card major, all below 3NT!

2C-2NTBRASS - Examples

a)

♠ AT83

♠ K6

2♣-2♦—

2♦ was waiting, 2NT shows 18-19

♥ AK3

♥ Q872

2NT-3♣—

balanced, 3♣ was Stayman, 3♣

♦ KT

♦ Q8765

3♣-3NT

showed 4♠s, 3NT to play unless

♣ AJ42

♣ KT

opener has 4♥s.

b)

♠ AQJ983

♠ T2

2♣-2♥—

2♥ was 0-4 with 5 or longer ♥s, 2♣

♥ 2

♥ QT863

2♠-Pass

natural & non-forcing.

♦ AJ4

♦ 32

♣ AQ3

♣ T985

c)

♠ AQJ93

♠ KT

2♣-2♦—

2♦ was waiting, 2♥ was 21/22+

♥ A42

♥ QJ873

2♥-3♥—

balanced or ♥s and asked, 3♥ showed

♦ AJ4

♦ 87

4♥

5+♥s & 5+ points, 4♥ to play unless

♣ AQ

♣ T983

responder has extras.

d)

♠ AK8

♠ JT652

2♣-2♦—

2♥ was 21/22+ balanced or ♥s, and

♥ AKQ9

♥ 63

2♥-2NT—

asked. 2NT showed 5♠s & 5+ points,

♦ T

♦ KJ764

3♠-4♠

3♠ and 4♠ were natural.

♣ AQT43

♣ 9

e)

♠ AT

♠ KQJ62

2♣-2♦—

2♦ was waiting, 2♥ was 21/22+

♥ AKQ9

♥ 63

2♥-2NT—

balanced or ♥s. 2NT showed 5♠s. 3♦

♦ AQ32

♦ KJ764

3♦-4♦—

and 4♦ were natural. 4NT asked

♣ AJT

♣ 9

4NT-5♣—

keycards, 5♣ showed one, 5NT

5NT-7♦

confirmed all keys were held.

f)

♠ AT

♠ K63

2♣-2♦—

2♦ was waiting, 2♥ was 21/22+

♥ AKQ9

♥ JT63

2♥-2♠—

balanced or ♥s. 2♠ was waiting. 3♣

♦ AQ32

♦ K876

3♣-3♥—

was game force and asked for a four

♣ AQ6

♣ 82

4♥-5♥—

card major. 3♥ showed 4♥s, 4♥ was

6♥

not much extra, 5♥ tried for slam.