

Fifth Chair



2 over 1 - OKbridge-Style: With kind permission from OKbridge and invaluable help from John Hoffman ("Hoffman" on OKbridge) & Stephen Tu ("Stephen" on OKBridge). Other Sources: OKbridge 2/1 Notes and "Modern Bridge Conventions" by William S. Root/Richard Pavlicek.

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Introduction

This description of the **OKbridge-Style 2 over 1 Bidding System** assumes that you are already familiar with the **Standard American Yellow Card**. If not.

! = Alert throughout ; GF = Game Force; NF = Non-Forcing ; HCP=High Card Points; Points=HCP+distributional points

Overview

The most important changes in **2/1 OKb-style** as compared with **SAYC OKb-style** are:

1. Any **2 over 1** bid by an unpassed hand in an uncontested auction is **Game Forcing**. **2/1** is **OFF** in competition **BETWEEN** opener and responder.
A **2 over 1** bid refers to a sequence such as **1♠-Pass-2♦!**, in which responder bids a new suit at the 2 level **without** jumping. In that case, neither player may pass until a game contract is agreed. **There are no exceptions to this rule.**
2. **1NT!** response to a **1♥** or **1♠** opening bid is **forcing for 1 round** by an unpassed hand and shows approximately 6-12 HCP. If a passed hand responds **1NT** it shows about 6-11 HCP (depending on how light you open) and is **not forcing**.
3. A large collection of advanced conventions.
4. "Up the line" bidding differs from the SAYC treatment in that responder bids a 4 card **major**, bypassing a longer **Diamond** suit, whenever responder has **less** than GF values. Responding **1♦** and **then** bidding a **major** would show GF strength. Opener's rebid over **1♦** assumes that responder does not have a 4 card **major**. Therefore, opener will rebid **1NT** with a 4 card **major** and balanced hand, (or a **major** instead of **1NT** if his hand is unbalanced).

Opener	Responder	Shows
1♣ 1NT	1♦ 2♥-♠	Responder's rebid of 2♥ or 2♠ is natural, forcing
1♣ 1♠	1♥ 1NT	This is a natural sequence. Responder might have a diamond suit but cannot bid it with limited values

This approach allows many game forcing and slam try auctions to occur without space consuming jumps or anxiety about being passed (especially by a pickup partner). Drawbacks include not being able to play in **1NT** after an opening **1** of a suit in an uncontested auction (a big factor in matchpoints) and the loss of a natural invitational 2 level response with a good 5 card suit.

Errors and obvious omissions in the OKb 2/1 Convention Card

1. The OKb 2/1 CC should include the following "common practice" conventions:
 - a. Splinter Bids
 - b. Lightner Doubles

- c. GrandSlam Force (GSF)
- d. DOPI
- e. Gerber over NT
- f. SOS Redoubles
- g. Unusual NT

2. Errors and areas in which the **OKb 2/1 CC** and summary differ from common practice

- a. "Leb" only over 1NT not 2N opener
- b. Single **minor** suit raise is standard in comp. (**OKb 2/1 CC** says "INVM on in comp")
- c. Strong 2♣: after a 2♦ waiting response and a suit rebid by opener, the cheapest 3 of a **minor** rebid (if available or 3NT if not) is the 2nd negative: this bid is artificial and shows about 0-4 HCP. (**OKb 2/1 CC** says "cheapest 3 level")
- d. Texas Transfers are "**on**" in competition through 3♣. (**OKb 2/1 CC** says "on /x" but recommends that they are "on" in the **OKb 2/1** notes)

General Approach

1. Normally open five-card **majors** in all seats.
2. Open the higher ranking suit with 5-6 when the hand is minimal, and open the lower ranking suit when the playing strength (not necessarily HCP) justifies an invitational reverse on the next round of bidding.
3. Open the higher ranking of long suits of equal length: 5-5 or 6-6.
4. Normally open 1♦ with 4-4 in the **minors**.
5. Normally open 1♣ with 3-3 in the **minors**.
6. 1NT = 15-17HCP (NT openings show a balanced hand but can be made with a five-card **major** or **minor** suit).
7. 2NT = 20-21HCP
8. 3NT = Gambling solid minor (usually 7-carder) and no outside Ace or King
9. Strong artificial 2♣ Opener = 22+ HCP with a balanced hand. Unbalanced hands should have approx. 9+ playing tricks with at least 2 defensive tricks outside the long suit.
10. Weak two-bids in **diamonds, hearts** and **spades** = 5-11 Points, 6 card suit. A good quality trump suit (2 of the top 3 honors or close to that) is expected in 1st & 2nd seats (as a consequence of playing Feature Ask 2NT). In 3rd seat, the openings can be very undisciplined, especially at favorable vulnerability and at matchpoints.

How it Works

2/1 Game Force applies only when our side opens 1 of a suit in 1st or 2nd position, the next player passes, and responder bids a new suit at the 2 level without jumping. Here are all of the cases:

- 1♦-2♣
- 1♥-2♣
- 1♥-2♦
- 1♠-2♣
- 1♠-2♦
- 1♠-2♥

The auction can stop in 4 of a **minor** only if 3NT is determined to be unplayable (because of unstopped suit), no **major** fit has been found, and both players are minimum. In other cases, 4 of a **minor** is forcing. **Discussion point: Some partners prefer "100% game forcing"**.

If the opponents interfere after the the **2/1 GF** response, then our side is forced to double them for penalty or to bid to game (or 4 of a **minor**). We cannot let them play undoubled at any level.

Related conventions:

Forcing 1NT responses are a key element of the **2/1 GF** system. This bid occurs when our side opens 1♥ or 1♠ in 1st or 2nd seat and the next player passes. The Forcing 1NT response shows about 6-12 HCP (sometimes more). It gives the system a way to show hands with 10-12 HCP that cannot respond with a game forcing bid at the 2 level. More on this below. The sequence 1♦-pass-3♣ shows 6 or more **clubs** and 9-11 HCP in many 2/1 partnerships. **This is a discussion point.**

When is 2/1 not GF?:

Standard methods apply when the opponents interfere directly over the opening bid. A new suit at the 2 level is invitational and forcing for 1 round by an unpassed hand (the logic here is that a negative double is often available for hands that are not good enough to force to game. Furthermore, the 3 level is close to game anyway). A non-jump new suit at the 3 level by an unpassed hand is forcing to game. **Examples:**

1♠-(2♦)-2♥ = invitational

1♠-(2♥)-3♣ = game force

Standard methods generally apply if responder is a passed hand and bids a new suit at the 2 level. An exception is a 2♣ response to 1♥ or 1♠ opener in 3rd (by arrangement 4th) seat, which is RDrury.

Note: A first round **jump shift** is not considered a 2/1 response: 2/1 refers to a non-jump bid of a lower ranking suit. **Jump shifts** retain their normal meaning.

By an unpassed hand when RHO passes, a **jump shift** (as played in **SAYC** and **OKb 2/1**) shows a very strong hand and a good 5+card suit, usually a 6+card suit. Furthermore there is nothing special or different about it in **OKb 2/1**. The availability in **OKb 2/1** of the NMF and 4SF conventions results in some auctions in which it is neither useful or necessary to **jump shift** with 17+ playing points on hands where one might consider it necessary to do so in **SAYC** due to a lack of good sequences after starting with a 1-level response.

Examples

Opener	Opp1	Responder	Opp2	Shows
1♠	Pass	2♣!-♦!-♥!	any	GF neither player can pass until game is reached, since the 2/1 bid is in a new suit. 1♠-2♥ shows 5+cards but 2 of a minor suit is often 4 (or even 3 cards, 3433 pattern), since <i>J2N</i> is used instead of a natural GF 2NT response
1♠	Pass	2♥!	3♣	GF unless opener or responder doubles which would be penalty double. After a 2/1, the opps can't play undoubled, so passes are forcing if an opp made the last bid, obliging Responder to double for penalty or bid on.
1♠	2♣	2♦-♥	any	Approx 10+points. Not GF
1♣	1♠	2♦-♥	any	Approx 10+points. Not GF
1♣	1♦	2♥!	-?-	Weak jump shift - 6+ card suit, 0-6 points. Sign off not GF

Opener's Rebids after 2/1 GF Bid

Opener	Rebid Shows
X (in comp)	Penalty oriented
Pass (in comp)	Forcing Pass. Responder must X for penalty or bid on
Simple rebid	The catchall bid (a bid that covers all the remaining possibilities), does not promise extra strength or length
Jump rebid	Extra values, 6+card suit, solid or semi-solid depending on agreement. Responder's new suits are cuebids in support.
New suit at the 2-level	Natural, at least four cards, any strength
New suit at the 3 level (not a jump)	Natural, at least 4 cards, extra values (at least a king above min). This bid will be a minor suit. Requiring extra values helps responder gauge whether bidding past 3NT to explore a minor slam in safety. With minimum, bid 2NT if balanced/semi-balanced with stoppers, or rebid your major , the catchall. You may show the suit later if given an opportunity
Jump Shift to 3 level	Ambiguous. Depending on agreement, could be <i>Splinter</i> in support of responder, or a strong 5/5 with most of the strength in the suits. Avoid this bid with new partners
Jump Shift to 4 level	Splinter in support of responder
2NT	12-14 or 18-19 bal, stoppers in unbid suits. With 18-19, make slam try if responder signs off (e.g., natural 4NT after 1♠-2♣-2NT-3NT-4NT). Responder will assume 12-14 initially
3NT	15-17 balanced
Single raise of hearts	Any 3-card support, any strength. Not raising denies 3-card heart support. Denies hand appropriate for Splinter or jump raise
Single raise of minor	Extra values, prefer 4 card or good 3 card support since responder often has only 4. The extra values help determine whether to bypass 3NT in search of slam. With min, bid catchall or 2NT and maybe show support later.
Jump raise	Most points concentrated in the 2 suits, denies control (A, K, singleton, void) in other suits.

Responder's Rebids after 2/1 GF Bid

Responder	Rebid Shows
2NT	12-14 or 18-19, stoppers in unbid suit(s). Could be unbalanced if no fit for opener. With 18-19, invite slam if opener signs off in game (1♠-2♣-2♠-2NT-3NT-4NT). Opener assumes 12-14.
Jump to 3NT	15-17, stoppers, could be unbalanced if no fit
Rebid 2/1 suit	Natural, 5/6+cards, forcing
New suit	Natural, 4+cards, or a cuebid if a fit has been established
Raise opener's suit	See section below

Responder's Raises after 2/1 GF bid

1. Since all bids below game are forcing, responder usually has many bids available to raise opener (3+card support if opener's first suit, 4-card support if opener's second suit). The concept of "fast arrival", jumping to game to show less strength than a lower raise, should only apply in situations when opener is usually minimum. This is when opener rebids 2NT or rebids his opening suit, the catchall. Thus:

1♠-2♣-2NT-4♠ and 1♠-2♣-2♠-4♠ show a minimum GF hand with 3+ support.
1♠-2♣-2NT-3♠ and 1♠-2♣-2♠-3♠ show more than a minimum, and asks opener to **cuebid**.

2. "Fast arrival" is not used in other situations, when opener could be any strength, because jumping to game would lose room to make **cuebids**. In these other cases, a jump to game in opener's **major** is a "picture bid", showing points concentrated in the 2/1 suit and the **major**, and denying any controls (A,K, singleton/void) in the other suits.

Examples of Picture Bid Sequences:

1♠-2♣-2♥-4♠
1♠-2♦-3♣-4♠
1♠-2♦-3♦-4♠
1♠-2♦-2♥-4♥

Responder's Raises after 2/1 GF bid (Cont'd)

3. If opener has rebid 2 of a new lower ranking suit, responder has 3 raises available for opener's first suit:
 - a. The jump raise to the 3 level is used to show extra values with good cards for a slam (1♠-2♣-2♥-3♠) and asks opener to **cuebid**
 - b. *Splinter* - a jump in a new suit showing a singleton/void in that suit, and support for opener's last bid **major**, examples showing **spade** support and single/void **diamond**:
1♠-2♣-2♠-4♦!
1♠-2♣-2NT-4♦!
1♠-2♣-3♣-4♦!

- c. If responder bids the lowest level raise, he just denies a hand appropriate for a Splinter or one of the jump raises.

The auction, 1♦-(P)-2♠

This auction is a special case, and is different from auctions that start 1 of a **major**. The opening bid did not promise 5 cards, and there is no 1NT! forcing available to responder. In many styles of 2/1 this auction is not played as GF. For **OKb 2/1** however, the GF is "on". This is consistent with the treatment of 1♦-2NT as invitational with 11-12 points. The following set of recommended rebids is also consistent with that treatment, but do not expect a new partner to be on the same wavelength, as it is not Universal - accidents can be frequent!

Opener's Rebids after 1♦-(P)-2♠

Opener	Rebid Shows
2♦	5+♦, any strength, does not deny 4-card major
2NT	12-14, bal, stoppers, does not deny 4-card major
3NT	18-19, bal, stoppers
2♥-2♠	4-card major , denies 5+♦ unless major rebid on 3rd round to show a 5/6 hand. Does not promise extra strength

Other rebids by opener and responder retain the same meaning as other 2/1 auctions. Since opener does not deny 4-card **major** when rebidding 2♦ or 2NT, responder with a 4-card **major** and 5+clubs must bid the **major** at the next round to uncover a fit if one exists

Note: Since 2♣ is a GF, what do you do with invitational hands? With a long 6+club suit, bid 1♦-(P)-3♣. This shows 10-12 points and is invitational, but non-forcing. It is no longer a strong jump shift. With no long club suit, no 4-card **major**, and a hand that can't make an inverted raise of **diamonds**, bid 2NT, which shows 11-12 points. You will have to do this on some hands that don't have stoppers in one or both **major** suits.

1NT! Forcing Convention

As a result of the 2/1 response being a "Game Force", responder will often have a 10-12 point hand with which he would like to make a 2/1 bid but cannot; hence the **1NT! Forcing convention**. The 1NT! response to 1♥ or 1♠ shows 6-12 and is a one-round force. The 1NT! response denies 3+ cards in opener's suit and, usually, over a 1♥ opener, denies 4 **spades**

Example hand types where the 1NT! forcing bid can be used systemically or tactically:

1. A hand with exactly 3 trumps and 10-12 support points that plans to jump in opener's suit over any rebid by opener.
2. Some players respond 1NT! with 3 card support and a poor 6-7 points in support in order not to overly encourage partner.
3. A hand with more than 2 card support but very weak approx 4-6 points, to discourage the opps from entering the auction.

4. Over an opener of 1♥, 1NT! usually denies 4+ **spades**, but is correct with a hand type of approx 5-9HCP, a weak 4 card **spade** suit, and a good 6+ card **minor** suit.
5. Some players respond 1NT! with a balanced hand that has more than 12HCP. This occurs most often with 13-15HCP and relatively weak holdings in the 4 card suit(s).

Opener's Rebids if Opp 2 Passes

Note: all the bids in this table are standard rebids by opener after any response at the 1-level and are not special for 2/1.

Opener	Rebid Shows
Simple rebid	12-15 points, a 6+card suit, NF
Any reverse	17+ Points, natural, force 1 rnd
Jump rebid	16-18 Points, v good 6+ card suit, natural, NF
Jump shift	19+ Points, usually natural, GF
2NT	17-18 HCP, balanced, NF

If opener's hand does not fit into the above categories, he must bid his longest side suit "up the line", but always bid a 4 card **heart** suit with 5440 or 5404 shape.

Examples:

Sequence	Opener holds:	Opener's Rebid	Shows
1♠-1NT!	♠KQJT9 ♥KJT6 ♦A3 ♣54	2♥	4+♥, appx 12-18 points, NF
1♠-1NT!	♠KQJT9 ♥KJT ♦A63 ♣54	2♦!	3+♦, appx 12-18 points, less than 4 hearts , fewer clubs than diamonds , NF
1♥-1NT!	♠AQJT ♥KJT98 ♦Q6 ♣54	2♣!	2+♣, appx 12-18 points, less than 4 spades , clubs equal or longer than diamonds .(the example hand is not strong enough to reverse).NF
1♠-1NT!	♠KT7654 ♥AK3 ♦6 ♣AQ4	2♣!	2+♣, appx 12-18 points, less than 4 hearts , clubs equal or longer than diamonds :(in this example the spade quality is not good enough for a rebid: opener hopes for another chance to clarify).NF

Responder's Rebids are as follows:

Sequence	Responder	Shows
1♠-1NT!-2♠	pass	6-9HCP
	raise	10-12 support points, 2 or 3 trumps, NF
	2NT	10-12HCP, less than 2 trumps, does not promise NT shape or stops, NF
	3xnew suit	10-12 points, v good 6+card suit, invite
1♠-1NT!-2♣	pass	6-9HCP, usually 5+ in opener's minor , less than 2 of opener's major
	raise major	6-10HCP, exactly 2 of opener's major , NF
	2x new suit	6-9HCP, usually 5+ in bid suit, 2x spades , NF
	2NT	10-12HCP, fewer than 3 trumps, does not promise NT shape or stops, NF
	jump shift	10-12 points, very good 6+ card suit, NF
	jump raise major	10-12 points, exactly 3 trumps

	raise minor	10-12 points, usually 5+ trumps
	4 of major	13+ points: a hand that increased in value after opener's rebid (includes 1♠-1NT!-2♥-4♥)

Other notes:

1. Jump Shift by Opener (example: 1♠-1NT!-3♣). Responder usually prefers back to opener's **major** with 2 card support (or bids 3NT with stoppers), even when holding good 4 card support in the **minor**. This is to conserve bidding space and allow for the likelihood that opener's second suit is short. With 3 card support in the **major** and 10-12 support, responder follows through on the original plan and jumps to game in the **major**.
2. 1♥-1NT!-2♣/♦-2♠: logically, this cannot be natural. A common agreement is for this to be an artificial raise of opener's second suit, showing 4+ support and invitational values. By extension, a raise of opener's **minor** changes in meaning to be 5+ card support and less than invitational. This approach can shut out the opponents and occasionally leads to thin shapely games or slams.
3. Partner opens 1♠, you respond 1NT!. Now partner rebids 2♦ or 2♥. You bid 3♣, which is **to play**. This is one exception to the normal rule where typically a new suit by responder is forcing. Here it is not. However, with say, ♠Axxxx ♥AQxx ♦x ♣Axx, another call by opener would be warranted since he has three-card support for responder's **minor**, a singleton in an unbid suit and both aces in the long suits.

Examples:

Sequence	Responder holds:	Rebid	Shows
1♥-1NT!-2♣!	♠K43 ♥98 ♦KJ43 ♣J432	2♥	Correct to 2♥. Don't pass
	♠K43 ♥K98 ♦AJ ♣J9854	3♥	10-12 points. 2+♥, does not deny 4+♣. Invite
	♠T43 ♥K8 ♦QJ2 ♣KQ876	3♣	10-12 Points 5+♣, denies 3x♥. Invite
	♠K43 ♥A8 ♦QJ32 ♣T98	2NT	10-12 Points, gd stops in the unbid. Invite
	♠6 ♥A53 ♦52 ♣AQT876	4♥	10-12 Points, 3x♥ (hand has added value with dbl-fit).

Weak Jump Shifts (in competition) (!)
(Pre-empt Jump Shifts - "pjs")

A jump shift by responder in competition e.g., 1♣-1♦-2♠!, shows a 6-card suit and 0-6 points

Opener's Possible Rebids after a "PJS" by Responder if Opp2 passes

Opener's Rebid	Shows
Pass	No good alternative
2NT	Game try (forcing), Responder must rebid suit to show minimum
Raise	Preemptive not invitational

Dbl raise of own suit	Invitational
New Suit	Natural, (NF)
Game Bid	Signoff

2NT Response to Weak 2 Opener (!)

A 2NT! response over an opening **Weak 2** is forcing and shows game interest (even if the opps intervene). Opener should show a "feature": ie. a suit with Ace or King. Rebid 3NT with AKQ in the opening suit. With no feature, rebid 3 of the suit.

Raise Only Non-Forcing (R-O-N-F)

A method of responding to **weak 2 openers** which utilizes both 2NT! for feature, and a new suit as forcing response: hence, the raise of partner's suit is the only non-forcing response below game.

Unusual NT(!)

1. A jump overcall of 2NT! over a 1 of a suit opener is **Unusual NT** and shows at least 5/5 in the lower 2 unbid suits. Overcaller's values can be very wide ranging, but should be concentrated in the long suits.
2. After a strong 2 opener, an overcall of 2NT! has the same meaning.

Responses to Unusual 2NT are:

1. Preference bid
2. Jump preference bid (mostly pre-emptive)
3. **Cuebid** for game or slam invitation
4. Bid another suit (non-forcing)
5. Bid 3NT with stops in the other 2 suits and enough entries for the long suits
6. Bid 4NT which would be **Blackwood**

Note 1: Except 3NT, any other NT bid after both opponents have bid and partner has passed can also be considered as **Unusual NT**

Note 2: A 4NT bid over opp's opener of 1 of a suit should also be recognized as **Unusual NT**

Michaels Cuebid (!)

The **Michaels Cuebid** promises a 2-suited hand.

Examples

Opp1	O/Call	Overcall Shows
1 ♣-♦	2 ♣-♦!	both majors
1 ♥	2 ♥!	spades and an undisclosed minor
1 ♠	2 ♠!	hearts and an undisclosed minor

Note 1: A response of 2NT over the **major** suit **cuebid** asks partner to bid his **minor**

Note 2: In a competitive auction, if 2NT is unavailable, responder can bid 4♣ (non-forcing) or 4NT (forcing) to locate the **minor**. 3NT is always to play.

Note 3: The strength of the **Michaels Cuebid** follows the same guidelines as used for Unusual NT overcall. It is more "shape" than HCP that counts

Jacoby Transfers to Majors (!)

Jacoby transfers (Xfers) show a five+ card **major** suit:

2♦ is a transfer to 2♥
 2♥ is a transfer to 2♠

Opener **MUST** accept the transfer: any bid besides a simple acceptance of the transfer shows a good hand with 4 trumps (forcing to 3 of the **major**). **Jacoby Transfers** also apply when partner has made a strong natural NT overcall at any level

Opener	Responder	Shows
1NT 2♥	2♦! Pass	Responder has 0-7HCP with 5+ hearts
1NT 3♥	2♦! -?-	Opener has 16+ support points and 4 hearts (invitational)
1NT 3♣	2♦! -?-	Opener has 16+ support points, good club suit and 4 hearts (forcing)
1NT 2♥	2♦! 2NT/3♥	Responder has 8-9 HCP (invitational to 3N or 4♥)
1NT 2♥	2♦! 3♣-♦	Responder has 9+HCP, good side suit, but may not be long (GF, poss slam interest)
1NT 2♥	2♦! 3NT	Responder has 9+HCP asks opener to pass or bid 4♥

Note 1: Jacoby Transfers are also used over openers of 2NT

Note 2: Jacoby Transfers are "off" altogether if the NT opening is overcalled.

Texas Transfers (!)

Jump responses of 4♦/4♥ over opener of 1NT/2NT to transfer to 4♥/4♠ when responder wants to be in game but has no slam interest

Opener	Responder	Opener
1NT/2NT	4♦!	4♥
	4♥!	4♠

The idea behind this convention is similar to that behind Jacoby Transfers - it is better for opener to be declarer, since his high cards won't be exposed to the defenders.

Using both transfer conventions, responding to both 1NT and 2NT, **Root/Pavlicek** recommend the following understandings:

1. **Texas**, then pass is signoff in game, therefore:
2. **Jacoby**, then raise to game is mild slam try (not forcing but opener is invited to bid again with maximum).
3. **Jacoby**, then 4NT is defined as **quantitative** slam invitation, therefore:
4. **Texas**, then 4NT is **Blackwood**.

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Using both JXfer and Texas, Shows
1NT	2♦-♥!	2♥-♠	4♥-♠	Suggests slam interest
	2♦-♥!	2♥-♠	4NT	Quantitative slam invitation
	4♦-♥!	4♥-♠	Pass	Signoff in game, no slam interest
	4♦-♥!	4♥-♠	4NT	Blackwood , not quantitative

Texas Transfers are "on" in competition through 3♣ (see OKb 2/1 CC says "on /x"), i.e.,

Opener	Opp1	Responder	Shows
1NT	2-3♣	4♦!	Xfer to 4♥
	2♦	4♥!	Xfer to 4♠
	3♦	4♥	Natural, not an Xfer

Minor-Suit Stayman (mss) (!)

Minor-Suit Stayman is just what its name implies: a device that allows a partnership to look for a **minor**-suit fit after an opening bid of 1NT (and over 2NT/3NT see note 2 below). Presupposing the use of Jacoby Transfers, the 2♠ response to 1NT is no longer needed to show **spades** and can be used to ask opener to bid a 4-card **minor** suit. The OKB 2/1 card uses a specific variant of **MSS**, which also includes weak hands with a long **diamond** suit, hence the notation "MSS or correct to or 3♦ with **diamond** bust". This is a treatment that is part of the Walsh system. Other **MSS** variants may not include the weak hands that Walsh does, and have different response structures, so it may be best to avoid this bid in a new partnership.

2♠! response to 1NT(strong NT) shows one of three types of hands. It is either a weak hand with long (6+) **diamonds**, a weak hand with both **minors** (5-5), or a strong hand at least 5-4 or 4-5 **minors** with **slam** interest. (With both **minors** and only minimum values for game, bid 3NT. 9 tricks in NT is usually easier than 11 in a **minor**. Using **MSS** may pinpoint a weak **major** for the opponents to lead)

The 1NT opener should rebid:

1. 2NT = denies a 4 card or longer **minor**
2. 3♣ or 3♦ = at least 4 cards in the **minor** bid, bid the better one with both.

After using **MSS** and hearing any of the above rebids, responder's available rebids are:

- a. 3♣! over 2NT = weak both **minors**, opener may pass or correct to 3♦ (e.g. xx x KJxxx QTxxx)
- b. 3♦! over 2NT/3♣ = weak with long **diamonds** (x xx QJxxxx Qxx)
- c. Pass over 3♣/♦ = content with contract, weak hand
- d. 3NT = 2245 or 2254, slam invitational, non-forcing (xx Ax AKxxx KJxx)
- e. Any **major** suit bid (!) = single/void in that suit, slam interest (3♠! with x Ax AKxxx KJxxx)
- f. 4NT = **Roman Key Card Blackwood** if **minor** suit has been agreed but natural otherwise

Note 1: Minor-Suit Stayman (like Jacoby Transfers) is "off" altogether if the NT opening is overcalled. If the 2♠! response is overcalled or doubled. opener may:

- a. pass with nothing else to say
- b. double or redouble for penalty
- c. make his normal bid

Interference after the 2♠! bid does not affect the **MSS** bidder.

Note 2: The use of **MSS** over 2NT, or 2♣-2♦-(2NT/3NT) is easily defined in that, if **Jacoby** applies, so does **MSS**, ie., if a **diamond** or **heart** bid is **Jacoby**, then a **spade** bid is **MSS**. The use of **MSS** over 2/3NT **always** shows slam interest. If a **minor** suit has been agreed, then a later bid of 4NT is **RKC**, otherwise natural.

2nt->3c club signoff or 4441 (!)

Over opener's 1NT, a direct response of 2NT! is a puppet(relay) to 3♣! which responder can pass with **clubs** and a bust, or show a game forcing 3-suited hand, either 4441 or 4450 with a 5 card **minor**. With the strong hand rebid the suit containing your singleton/void. With short **clubs**, either rebid 3NT, non-forcing, or bid 4♣! with slam interest to force opener to bid.

Examples: after 1NT-2NT!- 3♣!-?

- a. Pass (x xxx Kxx QT9xxxx)
- b. 3♥! (AJxx x AKxx Qxxx)

- c. 3NT! (AJxx AKxx Qxxx x)
- d. 4♣! (AJxx AKxx AQxx x)

After the strong shortness showing bids, opener picks a suit or rebids in NT with the short suit well-stopped (and hence wasted values for a suit slam). Over suit agreement, 4NT is RKC. Over 3NT, 4NT by responder is natural and invitational.

When playing a direct 2NT to 1NT as artificial, one must start with 2♣ **Stayman** to invite game in NT.

- a. Opener with both **hearts** and **spades** bids 2♥
- b. The sequence 1NT-2♣-2♥-2♠ shows exactly 4 **spades** and is invitational to game. Opener may pass, bid 2NT, 3NT, or 4♠
- c. The sequence 1NT-2♣-2♥-2N! is invitational to game and denies 4 **spades**
- d. Other sequences that start 1NT-2♣-2any-2N! do not promise or deny a 4 card **major**. This should be explained at the time of the 2NT rebid.

3 level responses to 1NT

The **OKB 2/1** card does not specify what the 3 level responses to 1NT should mean. When playing the above gadgets it is right to assume that the sequences 1NT-3♣ and 1NT-3♦ are natural non-forcing NT game invites showing 6+ cards with 2 of the top 3 honors and very little on the side (not AKxxxx since opener can duck one round and usually run another 5 tricks; with this holding bid 2NT or 3NT).

The 3 level **major** suit bids should be avoided without discussion.

(4sf) 4th Suit Artificial and GF (!)

When responder is an unpassed hand and rebids the 4th suit in an uncontested auction, it is game forcing and artificial.(eg. 1♦-P-1♥-P-1♠-P-2♣!-?). Responder is using the 4th suit to indicate a good hand with 12+ points and no attractive rebid. Opener should respond with a natural bid that further describes his hand. Taking the above bidding sequence as an example, opener should rebid as follows:

Opener's Rebids	Shows
2♦-♠	Rebid of own 1st/2nd suit at cheapest level, natural, waiting, does not deny extra values
2♥	Raise partner's 1st suit with 3-card support (Jump raise with more than minimum)
2NT	Bid NT to show stop in the 4th suit & 12-14 or 18-19 points (bid 3N with 15-17 poss unbalanced)
3♣	Raise 4th suit with 4+ of them
3♦	Jump rebid of opening suit showing extra length and strength

4SF does **not** apply in the following situations:

1. In an "up the line" bidding sequence, e.g., 1♣-♦-1♥-1♠. This is not artificial and forcing only for 1 round.
2. When responder's rebid is a jump bid in the 4th suit showing invitational values and at least 5/5 in his bid suits, e.g., 1♥-1♠-2♣-3♦
3. In competition

Gambling 3NT (!)

With a solid **minor** of 7 or more cards, open 3NT! (The hand should have no outside Ace or King). If responder has stops in the other 3 suits and no **minor** void (and no slam interest), he can pass. If he does not have the required stops and entry, he must bid 4♣ which opener can adjust to 4♦ if necessary.

Note: The official OKbridge 2/1 summary states that the 3NT bidder should not have a void or small singleton. However, there are almost no hands that meet the requirement and few players who practice it.

Negative Doubles (also known as Sputnik) (!)

A **negative double** shows competitive or better values with no clear bid after partner has opened 1 of a suit and RHO has overcalled in a suit. The double shows about 6+ hcp at the 1-level and about 2 more hcp for each higher level. In **OKbridge 2/1**, the **negative double** applies when the overcall is 3♠ or lower.

The most frequent use of the double is to show a 4 card holding in one or more unbid **major** suits at any level. However, a **negative double** also is correct with 5 or more cards in a **major** when the hand is not strong enough to bid the suit directly. For instance, a new suit at the 2 level shows about 11+ hcp, and at the 3 level or higher is game forcing.

Use of Negative Doubles

Pard 1	Opp 1	Pard 2	Pard 2 Shows
1♦	1♥	X!	6+HCP and 4x♠. A bid of 1♠ promises 5
1♦	1♠	X!	6+ support points and 4x♥ or 5-10 Points + 5x♥
1♣	1♦	X!	6+ support points and 4/4+ in the majors
1♥	1♠	X!	4/4+ in the minors

Notes:

1. A direct **double** of opponent's 1NT opener is penalty oriented.
2. On OKbridge, always include a brief message to the opps when making a **negative double**: e.g., "=negx" or "=neg". **Negative doubles** are not alertable in ACBL competition, but are in most other areas.

Responses to Negative Doubles

Bid	Shows
Minimum (below game)	upto 16HCP (non-forcing)
Jump	16-18 Points (non-forcing)
Cuebid of opps suit	19+Points (forcing to game)
Pass (rare)	for penalty

Notes:

1. All rebids by the **Neg Xer** below game are non-forcing, except a cuebid of opps suit.
2. Using **Neg Xes** means that partner is unable to double for penalty. Therefore, when an opp's suit overcall is followed by 2 passes, opener should try to re-open with a **double**, if he has 2 or less cards in the opp's suit, since partner may have passed with a good hand for penalties.

Responsive Double (!)

The **responsive double** is a response to partner's **takeout double** after the opponents have bid and raised a suit. For example: 1♥ - X - 2♥ - X! The responsive double is based on the principle that a penalty double is usually unrewarding, therefore the **responsive double** shows scattered values with at least 6 points and interest in locating a fit. If the opponents are bidding a **minor** suit, a **responsive double** asks partner to pick a **major** suit. If the opponents are bidding a **major** suit, a **responsive double** requests partner to choose a **minor** suit. For instance, advancer might hold ♠KT43 ♥QJ32 ♦93 ♣JT9 and hear: 1♦ - X - 2♦ - ?, he should make a **responsive double** to ask partner to bid a **major**.

Note: A **double** by advancer is **responsive** only when the opponents have opened a one-bid and raised it. Some players also use the **responsive double** when partner has made a simple overcall in a suit. In this case the responsive double would show 8+HCP, little support for partner's suit, and usually 5/5 or better in the 2 unbid suits: e.g., 1♣-1♠-2♣- X! would suggest 5/5 **hearts/diamonds**: partner with 3 card or better support for either should bid that suit rather than repeat his own if it is only a 5 carder. With no support for either he will rebid his own suit.

The above description is fine if you have such "perfect" hand types. In practice, however, many players make a **responsive double** with any hand that has competitive or better values and no other good bid. For example:

1. You hold ♠Kxx ♥KQx ♦xxx ♣Axx and you hear 1♦-X-2♦, you have no good call so must use the **responsive double** and await partner.
2. You hold ♠Kx ♥Axx ♦xxxx ♣Jxxx and you hear 1♦-X-2♦, again, you have no good call so must use the **responsive double**.

3. You hold ♠Txxx ♥KQx ♦xxx ♣Jxx and you hear 1♦-X-3♦. Here again, with no good call, you must use the **responsive double**

A good rule of thumb is not to use an ambiguous bid or sequence when there is a clear specific bid or sequence available

Bidding situations in which **double** is **NOT responsive** but for **penalty**:

1. RHO has bid a new suit, e.g., 1♣ - X - 1♠ - X
2. Partner has made a jump overcall, e.g., 1♣ - 2♠ - 3♣ - X
3. LHO has opened with a preempt, e.g., 2♥ - X - 3♥ - X
4. Partner has overcalled in no-trumps, e.g., 1♦ - 1NT - 2♦ - X

Note: On the **OKb 2/1 cc**, **responsive doubles** are on through 3♠.

Support Doubles & Redoubles (!)

You open 1♥ and hear LHO pass. Partner responds 1♠ (promising a four-card suit), and RHO butts in with 2♣. Now what? Users of the **support double** are happy in this situation; they simply **double!** to show a three-card **spade** raise. This lets them bid 2♠ to show a four-card raise. When the opponents bid and raise a suit, **support doubles** are also on : they also apply when RHO makes a **takeout double**

Examples

Opener	Opp1	Responder	Opp2	Opener's Rebid Shows
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥	Opening values and 3xspades
X!		-?-		
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥	Opening values and 4xspades
2♠		-?-		
1♣	Pass	1♠	X	Opening values and 3xspades
XX!		-?-		
1♣	Pass	1♠	X	Opening values and 4xspades
2♠		-?-		

Note: On the **OKb 2/1 cc**, **support doubles** and **redoubles** are on through 2♥

Jacoby 2NT (J2N) (!)

If responder jumps to 2NT over a 1♥/1♠ opener, it is **J2N** asking opener to show a singleton or void. It shows 13+ support points, 4+ in opener's suit and is game forcing.

Opener rebids as follows:

Opener	Responder	Opener	Opener Shows	Responder
1♥	2NT!	3♥!	Max hand, 18+Points and strong suit but denies short suit	Either sign off in game or look for slam
		3♣-♦-♠!	Singleton or void in bid suit	
		3NT!	Medium hand, 15-17 Points, denies short suit (artificial)	
		4♥	Minimum hand and denies short suit	
		4♣-♦-♠	Strong 5-card side suit	

Jordan 2NT (Truscott 2NT) (!)

1. Over 1 of a **Major** opening

When opener's 1 of a **major** opener is doubled for takeout, 2NT! by responder is used to indicate a "limit or better raise" of opener's suit, approx 9-12 points and 4/(3 gd) trumps, forcing to at least 3 of opener's **major**; this leaves a "jump raise" as preemptive showing 0-8 points (possibly 6-8 if vul) with 4+ trumps, e.g., 1♥-X-3♥

After the 2NT! call, opener may

- signoff in 3 or 4 of his **major**
- bid a new suit to try for game or slam., e.g., 1♥-X-2NT!-3♣ would be a game try and forcing.

Note: To show a forcing **major** raise you can use a Splinter bid.

2. Over 1 of a **Minor** opening

Jordan can also be used when 1 of a **minor** suit is doubled for takeout, but since it would not be desirable to use 2NT artificially because of the danger of reaching 3NT from the wrong side, the following 3 agreements are recommended:

- 2NT is natural and shows approx. 9-11HCP with at least 4 of the bid **minor** (more usually 5 or 6). It denies a 4-card or longer **major** and is invitational to game (3N being a possibility since responder is guaranteeing the **minor** fit) but **not** forcing
- 3NT is similar to 2NT but shows approx. 12-14HCP
- Jump raise showing approx, 6-9 points, at least 5 of the bid **minor** (or 4 good), and is **not** forcing, but preemptive

Notes:

1. If using INVM, a single **minor** raise would be forcing, even after opp's takeout double
2. A new suit at the 1 level is the same as if the takeout double had not occurred and would be unlimited and forcing for one round by an unpassed hand. This applies only at the 1 level, a new suit at the 2 level is **not** forcing over opp's takeout double.

A redouble shows 10+HCP, denies a good fit with opener, usually shows 2 other good suits of 4 or more cards and indicates a defense oriented hand, creating a forcing auction. ie., your side must either outbid or penalty double the opps. For example:

Opener	Opp1	Responder	Shows
1♥	X	XX	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10+HCP, less than 3 hearts, decent holding in at least 2 of the other suits, preference for penalising opps. 2. With 3 hearts, a redouble followed by a later heart raise is preferable to a 2NT call 3. With 10+ points, 3 hearts and a good 5+ lower ranking suit, a redouble is necessary, since a 2 level bid is not forcing

Inverted Minors (!)

A single **minor** raise is forcing and a jump **minor** raise is weak, thus "inverting" the standard meaning of the two bids. When responder has a weak **minor** raise (eg. 1♦-2♦) he is unlikely to "buy" the contract so he may as well bid 3. Conversely if responder has a good **minor** raise, he wants to keep the bidding as low as possible to allow careful exploration for game, or slam. No hand is too strong for a single **minor** raise. A classic "rule of thumb" is not to make a weak jump response to an opening bid with more than a poor 6 hcp. This avoids missing game when opener has a balanced 18-19 HCP. For example:

Responses over an Opening of 1 of a Minor

North	South	Shows
1♣	1NT	6-10HCP balanced hand. Denies 4-card major . Does not deny 4 of bid minor (NF)
1♦	1NT	6-10HCP, can be very unbalanced when holding long clubs . Denies 4-card major (NF)
1♣-♦	2♣-♦!	Min 10 Points (no upper limit) and 4+trumps, denies 4-card major (forcing)
1♣-♦	3♣-♦!	approx 0-7 support points with 5 or 4 good trumps

After the single **minor** raise, opener **must** bid again, (except if responder is a passed hand, or if opener's RHO intervenes with a bid or a double).

Opener's Possible Rebids

North	South	North	Shows
1 ♣-♦	2 ♣-♦!	2NT!	Min response suggests NT as final contract
		3 ♣-3♦!	Min response hand unsuitable for NT
		2♥-♠!	4+ of the bid minor , stop in the bid major , says nothing about length of the major
		3NT!	18-19HCP (if playing 15-17NT), balanced hand

After a single **minor** raise **responder** is compelled to bid again only if opener rebids in a new suit. Otherwise, responder has the option of passing if he feels the proper contract has been reached.

Responder's Possible Rebids

North	South	South's Rebid Shows
1 ♣-♦ 2♥-♠!	2 ♣-♦! 2NT!	Natural showing 2 ♣-♦ raise as minimum
1 ♣-♦ 2♥-♠!	2 ♣-♦! 3 ♣-♦!	Minimum single raise (unsuitable for NT)
1 ♣-♦ 3 ♣-♦!	2 ♣-♦! 3♦-♣!	Strength in the other minor : may help to enable 3NT
1 ♣-♦ 2♥-♠!	2 ♣-♦! 3♥-♠!	3 good ♥-♠ (south denied 4 with the single minor raise)
1 ♣-♦ 2♥-♠!	2 ♣-♦! 3NT!	Stops in the 2 unbid suits

After responder's rebid, any further bidding is governed by the following principle: "After a single **minor** raise, if either partner returns to 3 or 4 of the agreed **minor** or 2NT, this is not forcing (except if either partner has bid 3NT prior to a return to 4 of the **minor**) and indicates minimum values for his previous bidding. Hence, any other bid that does not complete game is forcing."

In competition, the forcing single **minor** raise is "**off**" after a single suit overcall (see OKb 2-1 CC errors) or **t/oX** although it is usual to preempt with a weak hand and trump support over any 1 of a suit opener after a **t/oX**, e.g., 1 **any**-X-3**same** indicates v weak hand with 4+trumps

Lebensohl (!) (leb)

A method of contending with the opposition suit overcall of partner's 1NT opening bid, when responder is weak but has a 5+card suit and approx 7 or less Points. Essentially it involves an artificial response of 2NT!. which demands that opener bids 3♣! as a "relay" bid. Responder may then pass (with **clubs**) or sign off in his real suit. After a 2-level overcall by the opponents, a response of 3 of a new suit is natural and **forcing**, (applies also if response is a jump shift, e.g. 1NT-2♣-3♥!).

If responder, after the **Lebensohl** 2NT bid, bids a suit that is **higher ranking than overcaller's suit**, it is invitational to game (e.g. 1NT-(2♦)-2NT!-(P)-3♣!-(P)-3♥!). The logic behind this is that if the responder had wished to sign off, he could have bid **two**

immediately after the overcall, which would be weak, just as in standard bidding (e.g. 1NT-2♦-2♥).

A common problem after an overcall of the 1NT opening is determining whether a stopper is held in the opponent's suit. This can be solved through another application of the **Lebensohl** convention.

Here's how (assume Opp 2 passes):

No.	North	Opp1	South	South's Rebid Shows
1	1NT	2♥	2NT!	Confirms a heart stop -partner must pass
	3♣!	Pass	3NT!	
2	1NT	2♥	2NT!	The delayed 3♥ cuebid is stayman showing 4 spades and confirms a heart stop
	3♣!	Pass	3♥!	
3	1NT	2♥	3NT!	Denies a heart stop - partner must have a stop to pass
4	1NT	2♥	3♥!	Denies heart stop but shows 4 spades -partner must have a heart stop to bid 3NT

Memory Aid: "DD" = "Direct Denies"

After a 2-suited overcall (eg. when opps are using conventions such as **Brozel**, **Astro** or **Landy**) and the overcall is artificial, it is still possible to employ **Lebensohl**, but with modifications as follows:

1. After a 2-suited artificial overcall of 1NT opening, the suit bid is still an "**unbid**" suit.
2. The agreements re the stop in opp's suit (see above) are "**off**"
3. After a 2-level artificial overcall, a double is for penalty but the doubler does not promise specific values in the artificial suit(s), but defensive strength (approx 7+HCP) and usually suggests length in one or both of the opp's suits.

Note : After a natural 3-level suit overcall a double is for takeout

A further application of **Leb** is used after partner has made a **takeout double** of opponent's **weak 2-bid opener**. A response of 2NT! (if you are weak and have a long suit) requires the doubler to bid 3♣! (unless he is v strong and can pass or bid 3NT), then you may pass (with **clubs**) or sign off in your suit.

East	South	West	North	North's Rebid Shows
2♥ Pass	X 3♣! (relay)	Pass	2NT! Pass (with clubs)/3♦!	Less than 7HCP with 5+cards in the bid suit

Note: The failure to engage the **Lebensohl 2NT** bid gives a constructive/forcing meaning to 3-level suit responses to partner's **takeout double**: to bid a higher ranking suit at the 3 level after engaging **Leb 2NT** would be invitational, e.g., 2♦-X-2NT!-3♣!-3♥!

New Minor Forcing (NMF) (!)

The use of a bid in an unbid **minor** suit by responder as an artificial convenient forcing bid after a 1NT rebid by opener. Much like "4th Suit Forcing (4sf)", it promises about 11+HCP and is most frequently used when responder has a 5-card **major** suit as a means of enquiring about 3-card support. With a choice of "**new minor**", bid the longer and stronger to suggest a stop.

NMF is also effective when responder has 5/4 **spades/hearts** (after a **minor**-suit opening). It asks opener for a 4-card **heart** suit, as well as for 3-card **spade** support.

NMF may also be used as a temporising bid when responder wishes to invite game in his own suit, or in opener's suit. This is the only means of describing such hands of invitational strength, assuming that responder's 2nd-round jump bids are forcing.

After the **NMF** forcing bid, opener must further describe his distribution, in order to help responder locate the best contract. In most cases, opener may also indicate whether he holds minimum or maximum strength for his 1NT rebid.

Note: In competition if either opponent has bid, the **NMF** convention is "**off**": responder's rebid in a new **minor** after opener's 1NT shows a real suit and is not forcing.

3rd Round Bids Available to Opener

Priority	Opener	Responder	Opener's 3rd Rnd call Shows
1	1♣ 1NT 2♥!	1♠ 2♦! ?	Shows 4 hearts by bidding the unbid major . Does not deny 3x spades
2	1♣ 1NT 2♥/3♥!	1♥ 2♦! ?	Show 3 hearts and min/max 1NT rebid
3	1♥ 1NT 2NT/3NT!	1♠ 2♥! ?	Denies 3 spades , shows club stop and min/max 1NT rebid
4	1♥ 1NT 2♥!	1♠ 2♦! ?	Denies 3 spades , no diamond stop and min 1NT rebid
5	1♦ 1NT 3♣!	1♥ 2♣! ?	Denies 3 hearts , no spade stop, does not agree clubs but shows 4 of them

Responder's 3rd Round Available Bids

Pass	If opener's 3rd round bid is the logical contract
Any Minimum Bid	Natural (agreeing suit/NT) (if below game invitational)
Any Jump Bid	Natural (agreeing suit) (if below game forcing)
After 2♥ 3rd rnd bid by pard (showing 4x♥), with 5x♠ and less than 4x♥, bid 2♠	Asks if pard has 3 spades (forcing for 1 rnd)

If the **NMF** convention is adopted, responder must know the proper methods of describing 2-suited hands (at least 5/5 shape) after opener's 1NT rebid:

1. With a **weak 2-suiter**, responder may (a) rebid a reasonably good 5-card **major** or (b) pass. **Do not** bid a new **minor** suit. (With 5/5 **majors**, responder is able to bid both suits).
2. With an **invitational 2-suiter**, responder should bid a new **minor**, even when holding both **majors**. Then on the next round, responder may bid his 2nd suit (unless opener's 3rd bid has indicated an obvious final contract).
3. With a **game-forcing 2-suiter**, responder should **jump** in his 2nd suit.

Reverse Drury (rdrury) (!)

An improved version of **Drury** that "reverses" the meanings of opener's rebids. **RDrury** is an effective way to gauge the strength of partner's 3rd (4th seat by arrangement) 1 of a **major** opener. 2♣! by responder shows 10-12 points with at least 3 card support for the bid suit.

Opener	Responder	Opener	Shows
1♥-♠	2♣!	2♦!	Artificial, showing full opening hand (with 3/4+ majors , responder should bid 2♠/♥ to cater to opener having 5/4 majors)
		2♥-♠!	Rebid of suit=subminimum hand, responder should pass
1♠	2♣!	2♥!	At least 5/4 spades/hearts , denies opening strength. Responder can pass with 4 hearts or return opener to spades
1♠	2♣!	3♦-♣!	Good 5 card minor . Does promise opening strength, since the p/ship is committed to the 3-level. (forcing)

Note: If responder really wants to show a long good **minor** he needs to bid 3♣/♦ over 1♥/♠

Drury, and all its variations, is "off" if the 1 of a **major** is doubled /overcalled: (with discussion some play it "on")

Defense to Strong 1 and 2 Club Openers

Over strong 1♣ or 2♣ Openers by Opps, **Double** asks partner to bid his better **major** and 1/2NT asks for his better **minor** (Unusual NT)

2nd Negative - Response over Strong 2 Club Opener

After a negative 2♦ ("may be waiting") response to a strong 2♣ opener, it is necessary to expand on those auctions where opener rebids in a suit, since responder is required to bid again even with a bust. To solve his dilemma, the **2nd negative** is used: i.e., the cheapest 3 of a **minor** rebid (if available or 3NT if not), is the 2nd negative: this bid is artificial and shows about 0-4 HCP, **but never an Ace**. The main advantage of the **2nd negative** is obtained when it is **not** used, making any other rebid by responder constructive, showing useful values. (**note:** see errors in the OKb 2/1 CC which says 2nd neg is "cheapest 3 level")

Splinter Bids (!)

The use of an **unusual jump bid** to show a singleton or void in the suit bid and excellent trump support for partner's last bid suit. This is forcing to game and unlimited.

North	South	Shows
1♥	3♠!	13+ support points, agrees hearts , singleton or void spade (forcing).
1♥/1♠	4♣/4♦!	As above but with club/diamond void or singleton
1♠	4♥!	As above but with heart void or singleton

Note:

1. In competition after opponent's **t/oX**, **splinter bids** are still "on"
2. In non-competitive auctions, **splinter bids** may be extended to areas of rebidding, by both opener and responder. In this respect the "rule of thumb" is **if a particular new-suit bid would be forcing, then one level higher in that same suit is a splinter bid.**
3. Some partners do not like **splinters** with a singleton A or K.
4. Some partners do not like **splinters** with a void.
5. Some partners use 1♠-4♥ as a **splinter**. This might seem to be unnecessary when 1♠-2♥ is game forcing, thus leaving 1♠-3♥ as the **unusual jump**.
6. A **splinter** usually cannot be used to show shortness in partner's first bid suit.

Cappelletti! (Capp) (!)

Used versus opponent's opening of 1NT in direct and balancing positions.

The Overcalls of 1NT are:

East	South	Shows
	X!	Strong hand (penalty oriented)
1NT	2♣!	1-suited hand Respond with 2♦! (Pass only if you have a good 6-card club suit). Partner can pass with diamonds or correct to his suit
	2♦!	At least 5/4 in the majors
	2♥!	hearts + a minor
	2♠!	spades + a minor
	2NT!	Both minors

Possible Responses to Cappelletti:

Capp O/Call	North	Shows
X! Strong Penalty	Pass	Can stand the X
	2 x Suit	Weak takeout, can't stand the X
2♣! 1-Suited	2♦!	Relay asks Pd. to bid his suit – Pd will pass if suit is diamonds or correct. If Pd has 6x♦+4x♣, he can show this by bidding 2NT! over the 2♦! relay
	Pass	Poor hand with long decent clubs
	2♥-♠!	Good 5+-card major
	2NT!	11-13HCP balanced hand (invitational)
2♦! 5/4+majors	Pass	Poor major suit support with long good diamonds
	2♥-♠	Minimum response – choice of major (NF)

	3♣!	Poor major suit support with long good clubs
	2NT! (force 1rnd)	Either a minor -suit hand or limit raise in 1 of the majors (if the latter the plan is to rebid 3♥-♠ after pd has shown his better minor) (NF,invitational)
	3♥-♠!	Preemptive in accordance with "The Law of Total Tricks"*
2♥! hearts+minor (NF)	Pass	Content to play in 2♥
	3♥!	Preemptive as * above
	2NT! (force 1rnd)	Asks Pard to bid his minor or shows a limit raise, eg., 1NT-2♥!-P-2NT!-P-3♦-All Pass or, 1NT-2♥!-P-3♦-3♥ (invitational,NF)**
2♠! spades+minor (NF)	Pass	Content to play in 2♠
	3♠!	Preemptive as * above
	2NT! (force 1rnd)	Asks Pard to bid his minor or shows a limit raise as ** above but spades instead of hearts
2NT! both minors	3♣-♦!	Preferred minor
	3♥-♠!	A good major suit of your own and 11+HCP (more likely vs wk NT)(NF)
	Pass/3NT!	11+HCP Balanced hand with good major stops (more likely vs wk NT)

Notes:

1. The above responses assume Opp2 passes. If Opp2 doubles the 2♣ overcall, then a redouble shows 7+HCP and support for all suits inviting the **overcaller** to compete at the 3-level
2. The Partnership may agree that a double by a passed hand shows a 4-card **major** + a longer **minor**, or that a double shows **clubs**. Neither of these is part of **OKbridge 2/1**
3. **Capp** may also be used over openings of 2/3NT (including Gambling 3NT) by partnership agreement (not part of **OKbridge 2/1**)
4. Further, the Partnership may also agree to use **Capp** after one partner has opened the bidding with 1♣/1♦ and opponent has overcalled 1NT. In this case, Partner2's **Capp** overcalls at the 2-level would have the same meaning as above and would indicate a weak hand of 8 or less Points, since with a stronger hand he would double for penalty

Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC)

The answers to RKC include the King of trumps as an extra **control** card (ie. 5 **control** cards: 4 Aces and King of trumps). **OKbridge 2/1** uses 3014, but many players prefer 1430

		RKC 0314/3014 asking for Controls	RKC 1430 asking for Controls
4NT	5♣	0 or 3 controls	1 or 4 controls
	5♦	1 or 4 controls	3 or 0 controls
	5♥	2 or 5 controls without Q Trumps	2 or 5 controls without Q Trumps
	5♠	2 or 5 controls with Q Trumps	2 or 5 controls with Q Trumps

After the reply to 4NT, 5 of the trump suit is a signoff. If the reply is 5♣ or 5♦, the cheapest relay asks for the trump Queen, and the next cheapest relay is used to ask for

Kings. If the reply is 5♥ (denying the trump Queen) or 5♠ (showing the trump Queen), then the cheapest relay is used to ask for Kings.

Note 1: (With Partnership Agreement)

1. A 5NT response to 4NT can show an 0 or 2 controls with a working void
2. 6 of any suit below the trump suit can show 1 or 3 controls with void in the bid suit
3. 6 of the agreed trump suit can show 1 or 3 controls with a void in a higher ranking suit

Note 2:

1. A 5NT rebid by the RKC bidder, when it is not a 1st or 2nd relay, asks for the cheapest King. With the **club** King, for example, responder would bid 6♣.
2. Many players expect that asking for the trump Queen or for Kings is a grand slam try that guarantees that all keycards are held by the partnership. If so, then either partner is entitled to go to the 7 level when their unshown holdings are judged to be "the right stuff".
3. The relays re Q of trumps and asking re Kings are based on "agreed trump suit" - if no trump suit has been agreed (eg., 1♥-P-1♠-P-4NT), you should assume the last bid suit is the trump suit, ie., **spades**
4. Relays exclude the agreed trump suit which would be used to signoff.
5. If an Ace/Control is missing be aware that to ask about Kings may take you over 6 of the agreed suit.
6. Some players show Zero Kings by bidding 6 of the agreed suit and specific Kings by bidding the cheapest suit in which a King is held.
7. Some players bid 5NT to show a King in a suit above the trump suit. If you are in any doubt as to what any of the replies mean, ask the **RKC** bidder.

RKC Asking for Side Suit Kings & Queen of Trumps

North (RKC ? Aces)	South (RKC Aces Reply)	Agreed Trump Suit	North	South	Shows
4NT	5♣	clubs	5♦ ? trump Q	5♥	no trump Q
				5♠	trump Q
			5♥ ? Kings	5♠	0
				5NT	1
				6♣	2
				6♦	3
		diamonds	5♥ ? trump Q	5♠	no trump Q
				5NT	trump Q

			5♠ ? Kings	5NT	0	
				6♣	1	
				6♦	2	
				6♥	3	
		hearts	5♦ ? trump Q	5♥	no trump Q	
				5♠	trump Q	
			5♠ ? Kings	5NT	0	
				6♣	1	
				6♦	2	
				6♥	3	
			spades	5♦ ? trump Q	5♥	no trump Q
					5♠	trump Q
		5♥ ? Kings		5♠	0	
				5NT	1	
6♣	2					
6♦	3					

RKC Asking for Side Suit Kings & Q of Trumps (Cont'd.)

North (RKC ? Aces)	South (RKC ? Aces Reply)	Agreed Trump Suit	North	South	Shows	
4NT	5♦	clubs or diamonds	5♥ ? trump Q	5♠	no trump Q	
				5NT	trump Q	
			5♠ ? Kings	5NT	0	
				6♣	1	
				6♦	2	
				6♥	3	
			hearts	5♠ ? trump Q	5NT	no trump Q
					6♣	trump Q
		5NT ? Kings		5NT	0	
				6♣	1	
				6♦	2	
				6♥	3	
		spades	5♥ ? trump Q	5♠	no trump Q	
				5NT	trump Q	
			5NT ? Kings	6♣	0	
				6♦	1	

				6♥	2
				6♠	3
	5♥	clubs, diamonds, or hearts	5♠ ? Kings	5NT	0
				6♣	1
				6♦	2
				6♥	3
	5♠	spades	5NT ? Kings	6♣	0
				6♦	1
				6♥	2
				6♠	3
	5♣	clubs diamonds hearts spades	5NT ? Kings	6♣	0
				6♦	1
				6♥	2
				6♠	3

OKbridge 2/1 CC

OKbridge 2/1 CC	
System	Simple 2/1 GF Always by unpassed hand, except in comp
NT	15-17,Jxf,Txf*,Leb,sys on over x,2S=mss or correct to 3d with diam bust, 2N->3C cl signoff or bid stiff in 4-4-4-1 next
2NT	20-21,Jxf,Txf*,3S=MSS,sys on /x
3NT	3N=gmblg no outside A or K
Majors	5cm, J2N(4X=2nd suit),1N=1 rd frce,rev drury,pjs in comp, 3N=balanced 16-17 HCP (4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2)
Minors	3+(usually 4 diam), inverted (off in comp*) (force to 2nt or 3min),2N=11-12,3N=13-15,bypass 1D unless GF strength
Strong	2C - 2D wait, cheapest 3 minor(3N over 3D rebid) is 2nd neg*
Weak	5-11(wider 3rd, stronger 4th),2NT- feature,RONF
Overcalls	8- 16,new suit nf tends to deny good supp, Q=1rd frce, Q then new suit forcing, weak raises if next opp doubles
NT-Over	System on-incl Leb* if next opp bids
Doubles	Neg-3S, Resp-3S, Support x and xx ->2H
Vs.Doubles	Jordan 2N (maj and min), raises are weak if partner opener-new frce 1 level only,xx implies no fit 10+
Preempts	standard type (gen rule of 2 and 3), new suit forcing
Vs.Preempts	X=takeout, leb/weak 2 all seats
Cuebids	Michaels over maj or min (2N asks minor), nat over artificial
Slam-Bids	0314 RKC(last bid suit unless only 1 fit established)

Suit-leads	4th best, Xxx, Akx(x)A (i.e, lead A from 3 or more to the AKQ)
NT-leads	4th best, Xxx,A asks honor-count if none, K asks attitude
Carding	standard signals
Misc	4SF(GF), NMF, Capp/nt, over strong 1C or 2C X=maj, NT=minors

* = Corrections to OKb 2-1 CC

- a. INVM "off in comp", the OKb 2-1 CC says "off /x"
- b. "Leb over 1NT" not over 2NT as stated in the 2-1 CC
- c. /Strong 2C, 2C - 2D wait, cheapest 3 minor(3N over 3D rebid) is 2nd neg whereas the OKb 2/1 CC, states "cheapest 3 level".
- d. Texas Transfers are "**on**" in competition through 3♣. (OKb 2/1 CC says "on /x" but recommends that they are "on" in the OKb 2/1 notes)

See also Common Practice Conventions which most players use but are not listed in the **OKb 2-1 CC**

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