

# Fifth Chair



## BART

Here is more or less what is in the encyclopedia:

An artificial 2D used in this sequence: 1M/1NT;

2C/2D=5 card heart suit

the opener can bid 2H (with a doubleton) perhaps ending the auction.

The responder can continue with 2S=doubleton spade w/8-9 pts;

2NT=4 card club suit w/10-11 pts;

3C=5 card club suit w/10-11 pts;

or 3D=to play.

Immediate bids of 2S or 3C by responder are similar but weaker.

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Here's the version that most experts play:

it's only after 1S 1NT 2C....

(2C could be a 2-card suit, hence 2D shows 4, just like someone else pointed out)

A. bids when Bart is NOT used:

3C is a raise, but weak

3D shows 6+ diamonds invitational

3H shows 6+ hearts invitational

2NT shows the usual 11 or 12- pts WITHOUT 5+ hearts

2S shows 2 spades, 6-8 pts, WITHOUT 5+ hearts.

B. bids when Bart (2D) IS used:

opener bids 2H with 2 or 3 of them (exception, if 2D is

doubled, then it shows 3)

\*\*\*(the rationale is that if playing in a 5-2 major suited fit, it is better for the weak hand's suit (hearts) to be trumps, otherwise his hand may be of little use, whereas the opening bidder's hand is worth something even with hearts as trumps)\*\*\*

opener bids any other natural bid, example 3C shows 5-5 or 2NT shows stiff H and 16 or so pts, etc.

when opener can do none of these, he rebids 2S after opener bids 2H:

2S by responder shows 2 spades and 8-10 pts (compare to above, direct 2S shows 6-8)

2NT still shows 11 or 12-, but promises 5 H's...rebid 2NT in case opener has only 2 H's...

3C shows a constructive club raise and erases the promise of any certain length in H's

3D is the diamond bust hand...it is to play

(compare to the immediate 3D bid over 2C...btw,

### **Fancy Wrinkles:**

If you have a super hand for hearts (normally 5=3=1=4 and 16 or 17 hcp), you can NOT jump to 3H over 2D...you have to bid 3D in case responder has the Diamond bust hand thus allowing him to pass, example KQTxxxx of diamonds and out.

Over 1S 1NT; 2C 2D; 2H...if responder jumps to 3S, he has the 3-card LR in spades hand, but is also showing exactly 5 hearts along the way, giving opener a choice of games in case he can bid on.

It may only give you a .065% edge on the field (as someone facetiously suggested), i.e. it doesn't come up that much, but when it does come up, your methods are light-years ahead of the field.

In Steve Robinson's book, "Washington Standard", he says that BART is an artificial 2d rebid by responder after the specific sequence 1s-1nt-2c-?. In essence, BART allows responder to...

1. Distinguish between a 6 card heart suit (2h rebid) and a 5 card heart suit (2d rebid, asking opener to rebid 2h with 2-3 hearts or makes "his most natural rebid" with 0-1 hearts);
2. Distinguish between a courtesy preference to 2s (2s rebid) with a constructive preference to 2s (2d rebid followed by a 2s preference cancels the message about 5 hearts and shows 9-10 hcps and a doubleton spade);
3. Distinguish between a courtesy raise to 3s (3c rebid) and a strong raise to 3s (2d then 2nt with 4 or 5 bad clubs, 3c with 5 good clubs or 6+).

The drawbacks to BART, according to Robinson are:

1. One cannot rebid 2d to show diamonds; one must rebid 3d instead

2. Holding 0-1 spades and fewer than 5 hearts, and a bad hand, one must choose between playing in 2c or 3d. Since opener is expected to rebid 2c even if 5S332 shape, this risks playing in a 3-2 club fit

Some standard inferences are lost:

3. The sequence 1s-1nt-2c-2d-2s normally shows a good 6-4 hand in standard methods; now, this hand must rebid 3s instead of 2s.

4. The sequence 1s-1nt-2c-2d-3c is mildly constructive in standard methods; in BART this inference is lost as 3c may be a forced rebid

Still, since BART promises 5 hearts or a good hand, these losses may be more apparent than real. Robinson believes that the gains far outweigh the losses.