

System Structure

Auction:

Opener	Responder
1 of a minor	1 of a major
2 ♣ (forcing)	2 ♦ (normal relay)
?	

Rebid two of the old major with 12-14 points and three-card support.

Rebid two of the new major with three-card support, a side singleton and 15-17 high-card points.

Rebid two notrump, natural, with 16-17 high-card points and a singleton in responder's major (now responder bids three of a minor to play; four of a minor is Roman Keycard Blackwood). For example:

Opener	Responder
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 NT	3 ♥ (asks shape)
3 ♠ = four hearts	
3 NT = three hearts	

Continuing with opener's rebids after 2♦:

Rebid three clubs natural (after one-diamond opening = 5-5 minors, 15-17 HCP).

Rebid three diamonds with a game forcing one suiter in the original minor; no support.

Rebid three hearts to show the lower singleton of the two "unbid" suits (invitational or better after a one-spade response).

Rebid three spades to show the higher singleton and 18+ HCP.

Rebid three notrump to show a balanced hand with 18+ HCP and three-card support.

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TWO-CLUB REBID ARTIFICIAL
BY BOBBY LIPSITZ

Standard American bidders encounter many awkward rebidding problems. Even in pre-historic times (circa Kaplan-Sheinwold), bidding theorists recognized this and instituted a two-club rebid as a force after the constructive auction "one diamond-one of a major." Opener's hands falling in the hard-to-bid category on the auction "one of a minor-one of a major" are as follows:

1. 15-17 high-card points, unbalanced (either with three of partner's major or shortness).
2. One suiters (invitational with support or forcing with or without support).
3. After a one-spade response, almost any unbalanced hand with hearts not suitable for a reverse.
4. Intermediate strength, 5-5 minor-suit hands.
5. Ability to distinguish between three- and four-card immediate raises and determine the remainder of hand pattern for slam purposes.

Two-Club Rebid Artificial

Specifics:

1.
 - 1 ♣ - 1 ♠
 - 2 ♣ - 2 ♦
 - 2 ♥ - 2 NT asks, then
 - 3 ♣ = six clubs and four hearts (the one special hand)
 - 3 ♦ = 3-1-4-5 invitational
 - 3 ♥ = 3-4-1-5 invitational
 - 3 ♠ = 3-1-3-6 invitational
 - 3 NT = three-card raise, weak doubleton, 18-19 HCP

(Note lower singleton invitational-plus 3 ♥ rebid above.)

2.
 - 1 ♦ - 1 ♠
 - 2 ♣ - 2 ♦
 - 2 ♥ - 2 NT asks, then
 - 3 ♣ = 3-1-5-4 invitational
 - 3 ♦ = six diamonds and four hearts (the one special hand)
 - 3 ♥ = 3-4-5-1 invitational
 - 3 ♠ = 3-1-6-3 invitational
 - 3 NT = three-card raise, weak doubleton, 18-19 HCP

(Note lower singleton invitational-plus 3 ♥ rebid above.)

3.
 - 1 ♣ - 1 ♥
 - 2 ♣ - 2 ♦
 - 2 ♠ - 2 NT asks, then
 - 3 ♣ = 3-3-1-6 invitational
 - 3 ♦ = 1-3-4-5 invitational
 - 3 ♥ = 1-3-3-6 invitational
 - 3 ♠ = three-card raise, lower doubleton unstopped, 18-19 HCP
 - 3 NT = three-card raise, higher doubleton unstopped, 18-19 HCP

4.
 - 1 ♣ - 1 ♥
 - 2 ♣ - 2 ♦
 - 2 ♠ - 2 NT asks, then
 - 3 ♣ = 1-3-5-4 invitational
 - 3 ♦ = 3-3-6-1 invitational
 - 3 ♥ = 1-3-6-3 invitational
 - 3 ♠ = three-card raise, low doubleton, 18-19 HCP
 - 3 NT = three-card raise, high doubleton, 18-19 HCP

Notice that all new suit rebids are natural so that responder could drop the auction after finding out opener's shape. The 6-3-3-1 distributions as shown above are rebid: old minor = singleton lower side suit; old major = singleton higher side suit. Over one spade, the special distribution of six-four with hearts is shown by rebidding the minor. In auctions one and two, after two hearts, responder can bid two spades or three of opener's minor to sign off. Also, responder is not forced to relay with two diamonds — bidding two of either major or three of the original minor is a sign-off attempt (maximum of six HCP, real disinterest).

What to do with a normal two-club rebid?

1. With six clubs, balanced, no three-card support, rebid one notrump.
2. With seven clubs or side diamond suit, bid two clubs then three clubs.
3. After one diamond, with a minimum 5-4 minors and no three-card support, rebid one notrump.

Trade-offs

1. One of a minor-one major; one notrump may well be a singleton in partner's major or have a weak doubleton in the other major if 2-2-5-4; thus a more sophisticated structure may be required over one-notrump rebids. On the other hand,

4. Best of all is that one minor-one major; two major shows four-card support. Therefore, two notrump by responder is freed up to ask distribution:

- 3 ♣ = balanced; now 3 ♦ = further ask:
 - 3 ♥ = 4-3-3-3
 - 3 ♠ = doubleton lower
 - 3 NT = doubleton higher
 - 4 ♣ = two doubletons
- 3 ♦ = singleton lower
- 3 ♥ = singleton higher
- 3 ♠ = void lower
- 3 NT = void higher

Conclusion

By using a relay type structure after one artificial bid in an otherwise natural auction, a whole vista of hand types and strengths may be accurately described, which may pinpoint secondary and tertiary fits otherwise difficult to locate, as well as show the extras needed to bid good games and slams. The effort required to incorporate these sequences into your bidding structure should pay handsome dividends.

2. The partnership is driven to the three level if opener has a very long club suit or 5-5 in the minors. The flip side is that the opponents do not sell to two of a minor often, and may find a very playable spot when able to enter the auction; this style would force them to guess at a higher level. Another possibility is to play an opening three club bid as a minimum opening bid with 5-5 or 6-5 in the minors. This puts the opponents under tremendous pressure as responder's hand is unknown and opener has values. Also, our auction one diamond-two clubs; three clubs would then show a good hand with 15-17 high card points, which cannot be described playing Standard American.

3. For every club fit that may be lost, a heart fit may be found, e.g.

Opener	Responder
♠ x	♠ A x x x x
♥ K x x	♥ Q x x x x
♦ A J x x x	♦ x
♣ A x x x	♣ x x

Standard bidding would go:

Opener	Responder
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	all pass;

whereas we bid:

1 ♦	1 ♠
1 NT	2 ♥
all pass	