

The Revision Club System

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PART V - The Two Club Opening

Two clubs is opened with almost any hand of 11-15 HCP that contains a six-card or longer club suit. The hand may also include a second suit of four or five cards; if the second suit is five cards, the hand will contain some extra values. We never open 2C on a five-card suit in first or second seat. Our 1D and 2D opening bids are designed to handle between them all cases of 5431 and 5422 types in which the clubs are longest. Many Precision players continue to open 2C with mediocre five-card suits, as was allowed in the original Precision system of the 1960s and 1970s. They especially seem to like doing this with a four-card major on the side. Take it from me, this is a truly dreadful method. It is *always* better to open 1D or 2D when you have only five clubs and an unbalanced hand. If you see someone who claims to play Precision opening 2C with KQ963 (and I have seen people do it with worse suits than this), you know he is behind the times. All of the top Precision players in North America have long since switched to guaranteeing six clubs. It's that clear.

However, it is permissible to open 2C on a strong five-card suit in third seat. An example hand is Axx/xxx/xx/AQJ10x. With this hand, you open 2C to ensure getting a club lead against an enemy notrump contract. If you do not, there is great danger that the enemy bidding will go 1NT-3NT or the like, partner will be on lead, and there is no reason to expect him to lead a club.

2C- 2H, 2S: These are natural responses, not forcing and showing a five-card or longer suit (usually six). The HCP range is approximately seven to eleven. Further bidding is natural. Opener will usually raise with three-card or longer support (not necessarily with 6322 and a complete minimum); if this does not result in a game, it will probably be no great loss as the opponents can be presumed to have had something on.

This is not a very good auction, and I have never seen a book on a big club system that gave any decent explanation or examples of exactly what kinds of hands are supposed to respond 2M, of what is the minimum and maximum for the bid, and how opener should rebid. I welcome any suggestions. The methods spelled out here seem reasonable to me, but I have no strong feelings about this auction.

- 2C-2M, Pass: Any hand that is too weak to contemplate game, and thinks that the major is a better place to play than 3C. Typically, exactly a doubleton in the major will be held. With a singleton, you would always bid again, and with three, you usually raise.
- 2C-2H, 2S: Natural, no great fit for hearts. This bid can be a four-card suit, as it is possible to respond 2H with five or six hearts and four spades. The 2S bid is not forcing, and continuations are natural.
- 2C-2M, 2NT: Natural, no great fit for the major (probably a singleton), but a maximum with stoppers in the other two suits (usually; you can also bid 2NT with something like Jxx or Qx in one of the unbid suits if it seems best). Not forcing, and responder can run back to 3C or three of his major. For that matter, responder can also make a non-forcing bid in a new suit if he has 5-5 or better shape. This could happen with, e.g., a responding hand of Q10xxxx/x/KQJ10x/x facing x/AQx/Axx/KJ10xxx. With these two hands, it seems reasonable for the bidding to go 2C-2S, 2NT-3D, P.
- 2C-2M, 3C: Natural, not forcing; opener believes that 3C will be a better spot than 2M passed out. Natural continuations.
- 2C-2M, 3 new suit: Natural, always a five-card suit. If the bid is 3S over 2H, it shows a very good hand, and responder should not pass if there is any hope at all of making game in clubs or spades (but he would pass with something like Qx/K10xxxx/Qxxx/x; this is a legitimate 2H bid, but you had better get out once partner bids 3S). Not forcing, natural continuations.
- A bid of the fourth suit, when it cannot logically be natural, would be choice of games. 2C-2H, 3S-4D. 4D by responder would indicate uncertainty as to whether the final contract ought to be 4H, 4S, or 5C.
- 2C-2M, 3M: Natural, three-card support, minimum range (but not a dead minimum 6322). Not forcing. Responder should know whether to bid game or not.
- 2C-2M, 3NT: Natural. With Ax/-/J10xx/AKQxxxx, you would take a shot at 3NT over a 2H response.
- 2C-2M, 4C: 7-4 with four-card support, good hand.

2C-2M, 4D, 4H (when response was 2S): Splinter.

2C-2M, 4M: Shot at game. Almost any hand with four-card support is worth a shot.

2C- 2NT: This is a special response, not found in most other big club systems. 2NT is a transfer to diamonds. We do not need 2NT as a natural invitation, since that hand always starts with 2D. If responder has a hand that cannot play anywhere but diamonds, he needs a way to show it without getting too high. 2NT can be to sign off (xx/Kxx/KJ109xxx/x), and can also be based on invitational or game-forcing values. The continuations will show which type he has.

The 2NT response denies a four-card major, since a hand with four of a major and six or more diamonds responds 2D, if it bids at all, and a hand with a five-card major and six diamonds responds 3M (if values are sufficient for a game force; a weaker hand can pretend that the major is only four long, and respond 2D).

2C-2NT, 3C: Almost any hand, even a maximum, with which opener does not fit diamonds (but note that some very good non-fitting hands can take a shot at 3NT here). Part of the reason for opener to rebid this way is that responder may be 6-2 in the minors, and may have wanted to find out whether opener fit diamonds so as to decide whether to bid higher. If so, responder may need to get out at 3C. He might have a hand like x/Kxx/KJxxxxx/Qx; if opener had fit diamonds, responder would have gone on, looking for game, but when opener just bids 3C, responder quits. From opener's point of view, a "fit" is any three cards, or a doubleton if the rest of the hand is good.

2C-2NT, 3C- 3D: Responder is showing that he wanted to sign off in diamonds all along, *or* that he had an invitational hand and has been discouraged by the non-fit. Either way, opener must pass now.

2C-2NT, 3C- 3M: Responder is showing a quasi-game-force hand. He is still looking for game even though there is no fit. The 3M bid is a stopper, and opener should act appropriately. The auction can end in 4C or 4D if nobody bids 3NT.

- 2C-2NT, 3C-3H, 3S: Opener has a partial stopper in spades, and is still unsure whether to bid 3NT or not. The auction continues naturally, and 4m is a possible final contract.
- 2C-2NT, 3C-3M, 3NT: To play.
- 2C-2NT, 3C-3M, 4C: NF. Denies stopper in OM. Bid 5C if your hand is too strong for this.
- 2C-2NT, 3C- 3NT: To play. Responder probably has a hand that was going to look for slam if opener had shown a fit. Now he settles for game.
- 2C-2NT, 3C- 4C: Invitational in clubs. Responder has a club fit, and is still interested in game even though opener does not fit diamonds. If opener had shown a fit, responder would probably have bid a game or even looked for a slam.
- 2C-2NT, 3C- 4D: Forcing, “strong jump shift” in diamonds. Self-sufficient suit. Control-bidding or Redwood can follow. (4H by opener now would be Redwood.) Note that this is a rare example of an auction where 4NT can serve as “last-chance RKC” when Redwood is precluded. If opener bids 4S here, 4NT is the only way for responder to ask for keycards.
- 2C-2NT, 3C- 4M: Slam tries in clubs. Responder wanted to check for a diamond fit before setting clubs. 4H here is Redwood for clubs, and 4S is a control-bid (4NT over that is last-chance RKC). DNEBAPH.
- 2C-2NT, 3C- 4NT: Substitute control-bid for hearts, setting clubs as trumps.
- 2C-2NT, 3C- 5C or 5D: To play.
- 2C-2NT, 3D: 3D: Opener likes diamonds. All that is needed to do this is a fit; opener does not have to be maximum in high cards.
- 2C-2NT, 3D- Pass: Responder is showing that he wanted to sign off all along.
- 2C-2NT, 3D- 3M: A game force is now established. This shows a stopper. If 3NT is not bid, the auction will go on to 5C or 5D at least. Further bidding is as described above, except that bids of 4m are forcing

now, and of course a bid of 4D is natural. However, this could be a slam auction, so bids of 4H would be Redwood, etc.

- 2C-2NT, 3D- 3NT: To play. Responder is willing to have a shot at game now that he knows of diamond help.
- 2C-2NT, 3D- 4C: Forcing. Responder has a club fit, and is interested in a minor suit slam now that he knows of a double fit. In this auction, 4H by either player is defined as six-ace RKC (see Part X for details). Control-bidding can also follow.
- 2C-2NT, 3D- 4D: Forcing. Responder is looking for 6D now that he has found a fit. Control-bidding or a Redwood 4H can follow.
- 2C-2NT, 3D- 4M: Slam tries in diamonds. 4H would be Redwood; 4S would be a control-bid (with 4NT as last-chance RKC over that). It would be rare, presumably, to want to bid 4S here when a 4D bid is forcing.
- 2C-2NT, 3D- 5C, 5D, 6C, 6D: To play.
- 2C-2NT, 3M: Opener *really* likes diamonds. He is probably 6-4 in the minors. The suit bid is a splinter. (It is not needed to show a major suit, since responder will not have a four-card major suit when he responds 2NT.) Further bidding is according to general principles.
- 2C-2NT, 3NT: To play. Opener may have Ax/J10xx/x/AKQJxx. Opener will assume responder can supply the ninth trick, since the 2NT bid will not usually be based on a zero count. Nevertheless, 2NT can be quite a weak hand, so opener should be pretty close to making 3NT for this bid. He should not need more than a diamond stopper and a trick somewhere.
- 2C-2NT, 4C: 7-4 in the minors, very strong. (It is very unlikely that this auction would ever happen, since the opponents would have a lot of major-suit cards and would have bid something by now.) But not suitable for Redwood.
- 2C-2NT, 4D: Redwood for diamonds. Opener could have x/x/AJxx/AKJxxxx.
- 2C-2NT, 4M: 6-5 between clubs and the major, something like x/KQJxx/-/AKJxxxx.

- 2C- 3C: This is another special response, not used by others. By an unpassed hand, this is a slam try in clubs. Responder may have another suit, but his club support and general strength are sufficient for him to be sure of making at least 5C, and he wants to look for more.

The 3C response may include a four-card major, at responder's discretion, but responder can also bid 2D first to check for a four-four major fit. He has ways to indicate a club slam try later on if the major fit does not exist.

We do not need the bid for anything else. If responder has a club fit and wants to invite game, a 2D response will always gain more information. A preemptive raise to 3C is not terribly useful (although we do play it as that by a passed hand, to make it more difficult for the opponents to balance).

- 2C-3C, 3D, 3H, 3S: Shortness in the suit bid (not using ascending numeric, since opener was not known to have a shortness). Responder will reevaluate now. If he has wasted cards opposite opener's shortness, responder can bid 3NT, not forcing (but opener can continue). Further bidding is control-bids, etc., with 4D being Redwood. The signoff spot, if 3NT is bypassed, becomes 5C.

- 2C-3C, 3NT: No shortness, and not good for slam. Responder can, of course, bid on. If he does, it is control-bids, etc., and 5C is the signoff spot.

- 2C-3C, 4C: No shortness, but a good hand. As usual, control-bids or Redwood follow and 5C is the out spot.

- 2C-3C, 4D, 4H, 4S: Second five-card suit. After this, control-bidding follows, or 4NT RKC for clubs (an exception to our usual rule of not using 4NT to ask for keycards when a minor is agreed; here, 4D Redwood is impossible).

- 2C- 3D: Yet another special response. This one shows 5-5 or better in the majors, with at least invitational values. This hand type is difficult to show otherwise, and if our treatment is not played, it is almost impossible to stop in three of a major. Of course, the bid is not needed to show diamonds, since 2NT does that.

It is possible that we will be overboard if opener is 1-1 in the majors, but that can't be helped. In any system, you are going to drive this hand type. The worst that will happen is that we will end in 3NT when there is no obvious fit. At least

the opponents will not have a suit to lead and set up, since responder will be long in the majors and opener will be long in the minors.

It should also be noted that with exactly 5=5=1=2 or 5=5=0=3 shape and invitational values, responder can bid 2D over 2C, asking (among other things) for a four-card major, and then go back to 3C if opener does not show anything interesting. This option finds all 5-4 major fits, but may miss a 5-3 one. However, when the major fit is missed, both hands will be minimum.

- 2C-3D, 3M: Two- or three-card fit, but not enough for game. Responder can pass now, or can bid the other major to show 6-5 shape and suggest an alternative game. He can, of course, raise the “preferred” major to game. Also possible is 3NT, showing something in diamonds and offering an alternative game. Responder can also bid 4C, which is forcing, and offers a choice of games (or slams); opener should now run back to the major with true three-card support, or bid something else if he prefers to stay in clubs (5C with nothing special, possibly a control-bid in diamonds or the other major if he is interested in 6C). Finally, responder can bid 4D, which shows a slam try in opener’s major.
- 2C-3D, 3NT: Good diamonds, no interest in major suits.
- 2C-3D, 4C: Nothing but clubs. Not forcing.
- 2C-3D, 4D: This is a transfer to hearts. Responder can bid 4H if willing to be passed there, or can bid higher than 4H if he can cooperate for slam. Opener might have Kx/Axxx/x/AKxxxx; if he has that good of a hand, he will bid Kickback next after setting hearts as trump.
- 2C-3D, 4H: Transfer to spades.
- 2C- 3M: A special, artificial response, showing five cards in the bid major and six or more diamonds. GF. By a PH, it also carries a special meaning: Invitational, a good six-card suit, but four in the other major (the reason you didn’t open 2M in the first place). As a PH, you would respond 3H with Axxx/KQ109xx/xx/x.
- 2C-3M, 3S: Obviously, this is possible only when the response was 3H. Opposite a UPH, it means a heart fit, but too strong to raise to 4H, hence a slam try. Facing a PH (the 4-6 hand), it means spades, but not enough to bid game.

- 2C-3M, 3NT: To play.
- 2C-3M, 4C: Can't bid notrump, can't support either of responder's suits. Natural continuations.
- 2C-3M, 4D: Forcing, support. Note that even if the response was 3H, a 4H bid now by responder is Redwood (4H now can't be the right spot).
- 2C-3M, 4M: Support for the major, but not slammish.
- 2C-3M, 4H (when the response was 3S): Spade support, too strong to just bid 4S.
- 2C- 3NT: To play. Opener can keep bidding naturally with a lot of shape and a good hand.
- 2C- 4C: Preemptive.
- 2C- 4D: Redwood for clubs.
- 2C- 4M: To play. Opener can bid on with a super fit and controls. FSJ by PH.
- 2C- 4NT: Regular Blackwood, as after 1M-4NT. Responses are 0, 1, 2, and 3 by steps.
- 2C- 5C: To play.
- 2C- 2D: General inquiry. This auction has been saved for last because it is the most complicated, and also the most common, of the responses. Our approach is to save the cheapest bid to show the most hand types.
- 2C-2D, 2H: Shows a four-card major. Responder can now ask which with a 2S bid. He will always do this if he has a four-card major himself. The other, less complicated bids over 2H are given first to get them out of the way.
- 2C-2D, 2H- 2NT: Natural invitation. Responder does not care which major opener has, because he does not have one himself. He just wants to invite in notrump. Responder also probably does not have a good fit for clubs, since if he did, 3C would be a safer partial than 2NT (assuming opener is going to reject). Consequently, responder is likely to have a singleton club; his most typical shape is 3=3=6=1 (but with diamonds not strong

enough for a 2NT response to seem like a good idea). He could also have something like 3=3=5=2 with good stoppers and two small clubs. Continuations are natural after this, and since responder is guaranteeing long diamonds, opener can even sign off in 3D if he has three of those.

- 2C-2D, 2H- 3C: Invitational in clubs. Again, responder does not care which major opener has; he has an invite in clubs, and since we play 2C-3C as a slam try, he invites this way. If opener does not pass, stoppers can be bid at the three level to look for 3NT (the auction can then end at 4C if no one bids 3NT). Note also that it is not possible for responder to have either a four- or five-card major here (he would have asked for opener's major via 2S), but he can have five diamonds, with shapes like (3-1)=5=4 or any 5332 with diamonds. He could even have six. Opener's next bid over 3C (if he doesn't pass) is normally his four-card major suit/stopper, but he can bid 3D with a decent diamond fragment, in case responder can reevaluate holding good diamonds himself.
- 2C-2D, 2H- 3D: A special bid. Responder needs to be able to do something with hands that contain a four-card major, six or more diamonds, and game values. He always starts by responding 2D (with 5-6 or better in his suits, the bid is 3M to start). 3D here shows that responder has this hand, but does not specify which major he has. He will find out on the next round of bidding whether there is a fit or not. Of course, when responder bid 2D, he did not know that opener was going to tell him that he had a four-card major too. If opener bids something else, responder will always have a suitable bid, either asking for shortness (and revealing a diamond fit, if opener has a shortness other than diamonds) or bidding diamonds naturally (if opener shows no shortness, hence at least a doubleton diamond).
- 2C-2D, 2H-3D, 3M: Opener shows his major. Over this, responder can bid 3NT to play (4NT if his hand is too strong for three); 4C, forcing, club support; 4D, forcing; or raise. If he fits the major opener has just shown, but has a slam try, he bids 3S over 3H or 4H over 3S.
- 2C-2D, 2H- 3H, 3S: Responder has a six-card major (but not four in the other major) and a game-forcing hand, and wants opener to support with two or more, otherwise do something intelligent. Opener can of course bid 3NT if he has no fit, and usually will. He can also bid 3S over 3H to show something like 4=1=1=7 shape, suitable for notrump but with no help in

diamonds, or bid 4C, which is forcing, to show seven or eight clubs, four in the other major, and unsuitability for notrump (meaning probably a broken club suit). If he wants to show that he has a good hand for slam in opener's major, he bids 4D over 3H or chooses between 4D and 4H over 3S (either one is a control-bid).

2C-2D, 2H- 2S: Asks for the major. Responder must have at least one four-card major of his own to do this.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT: Shows hearts. Can be minimum or maximum.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT- 3C: Responder was hoping for spades. Now he tries to sign off in clubs. Opener can keep bidding now with a maximum, but should be careful, as responder has not necessarily shown a ten count; he would bid this way with KQxx/x/Axxxx/xxx.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT- 3D: Responder has spades and diamonds, a 4-6 or 4-7 canapé type that wants to sign off in 3D now. Of course opener can bid again if he actually fits diamonds; he can have 0=4=3=6 shape, for example.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT- 3H: Invitational in hearts.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT- 3S: Natural, five-card suit, GF (a six-card suit without four in the other major would normally bid 3M directly over 2H). Opener can be 3=4=0=6, and responder implies that his diamonds are weak enough so that he is also interested in either a 5-2 fit (if opener has 2=4=1=6) or in playing in clubs.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT- 3NT: To play. Responder was looking for a spade fit and didn't find it.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT- 4C: Delayed slam try in clubs. Responder had both spades and clubs, and after failing to find a spade fit, now wants to investigate clubs. Invitational to game in clubs, if responder is a PH.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT- 4D: Heart support, too strong to bid 4H here, slam try.

2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT-	4H: Game in hearts after finding the fit.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 2NT-	4S: Kickback in hearts after finding the fit.
2C-2D, 2H-2S,	3C: Shows spades and a minimum.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	Pass: Responder was hoping for hearts. He didn't get them, and now gets out in clubs.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	3D: Responder has hearts and diamonds, a 4-6 or 4-7 canapé type that wants to sign off in 3D now.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	3H: GF with five hearts.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	3S: Invitational in spades.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	3NT: To play. Responder was looking for a heart fit and didn't find it.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	4C: Delayed slam try in clubs. Responder had both hearts and clubs, and after failing to find a heart fit, now wants to investigate clubs. But if responder is a PH, it is invitational to game in clubs.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	4D, 4H: Slam tries in spades, too strong to bid 4S now. These are control-bids.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	4S: Game in spades after finding the fit.
2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C-	4NT: RKC in spades after finding the fit.
2C-2D, 2H-2S,	3D: Spades and a maximum. Continuations are the same as after 2C-2D, 2H-2S, 3C, although of course if responder really wants to play 3D now, he passes. There is one exception. A 3S bid by responder now would be forcing, since opener has shown acceptance values. 3S now creates a Fred situation, since the partnership cannot want to play in 3NT; opener is unbalanced (at least 6-4), and responder would not have looked for the spade fit unless he intended to play in it if he found it.

- 2C-2D, 2S: Denies a four-card major, and shows one of two hand types. The first one is a minimum with 6322 or 7222 shape, and the second is any hand with a shortness (singleton or void), but not a side four-card suit. (A hand with a side four-card major would bid 2H now; a hand with four diamonds would bid 2NT or 4C now.) If the hand is of the second type, its shape is typically a 6331, and can also be 7321 or 7330. Hands with eight-card club suits (8221 or 8320) are theoretically possible as well; if you happen to get one of those, bid it as if it were the most nearly similar hand type with a seven-card suit. If opener has a second five-card suit, or *two* singletons, he also has other bids available and so does not bid 2S now.
- 2C-2D, 2S- 3C: Responder has invitational strength and is willing to play 3C now, if opener is minimum. Probably, responder has one or two four-card majors and bid 2D to look for a fit in a major; now that he knows no such fit exists, he is willing to sign off. This bid can include some hands with a singleton club, e.g. 4=4=4=1 or (4-3)=5=1 types; however, when you have one of these, you at least know that there is no four-card fit for anything except clubs. The system does not permit you to get to 2NT when you have these hands (unless you are a passed hand), which is not ideal, but should be only a small loss.
- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, Pass: Opener will always pass now if he has the 6322 or 7222 minimum, and will also pass if he has shortness and a minimum.
- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D: Short diamonds, extra values. Opener can now have either two or three cards in either major. This allows responder to check for a 5-3 major fit by bidding 3M here. (This is the reason for not using our usual ascending numeric pattern here. We want the diamond singleton to be shown by the lowest step to allow major suits to be shown easily.)
- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D- 3H: Responder has five hearts, or perhaps four very good ones, if he has a diamond holding unsuitable for notrump and is willing to play a 4-3 fit. (A typical hand for him might be Kxxx/QJxxx/xx/Ax; it is perfectly normal for responder to bid this way, rather than responding 2H, because this way he always finds a spade fit if there is one, and can back in to a 5-3 heart fit later on.) Opener now raises to 4H with, e.g., 3=3=1=6 and an unexciting hand. He can also bid 4D here to show a three-card fit and a diamond

void, or 4C to show, e.g., 2=3=1=7 with good clubs, suitable for slam. (It may seem incongruous that the partnership needs to consider slam when responder has already made a nonforcing bid of 3C, but the hands could be Axxx/KQxx/xxx/Qx facing Qxx/Axx/-/AKJxxxx; 6C is a good contract here.) If opener does not have three-card support for hearts, he bids 3S to leave the next move to responder, or can bid 3NT to show that he has singleton honor in diamonds.

In all of these auctions, if responder bids 4C (assuming that bid is available), it is nonforcing and natural; responder is saying that he has a hand that was really trying to find a major fit as the main hope for game, and that he does not think he can make 3NT or 5C. If he bids clubs at a higher level, that bid is natural and to play.

2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D-

3S: Responder has a (presumed) five-card spade suit. Opener would now bid 3NT with any hand not containing three spades, in case responder wants to play there. He can also bid 4C to show good clubs with spade support, 4D to show a void there and spade support, 4H as a good raise to 4S with a heart control, and 4S to show nothing special, just spade support.

2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D-

3NT: To play.

2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D-

4C: Natural, NF. Of course opener does not have to pass. As before, the 4C bid means that responder does not think opener can make 5C if he is minimum, and also that he does not want to try 3NT, probably because of an insufficient diamond stopper. Responder's hand here might be QJxx/Axxx/Kxx/xx. Facing Axx/Kxx/x/KQJ10xx, all games have poor play and 4C is as high as we want to be (even though this hand is good enough for opener to keep bidding over 3C). But opener also might have something like Ax/Kxx/x/AQJxxxx, in which case he can go on to 5C. And if opener has Axx/Kxx/-/AQJ10xxx, he can continue looking for slam even in the face of the attempted signoff.

- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D- 4D: Club support, good hand. Responder's hand has reevaluated very well facing known short diamonds, and he now wants to drive to 5C and consider a possible slam. His hand might be Axxx/KQxx/xx/Qxx.
- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D- 5C: To play. Responder thinks his hand is worth a shot at game facing short diamonds.
- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3H: Short hearts, extra values. Showing the heart shortness "naturally" allows responder to bid spades now if he wishes. If responder does bid 3S now, continuations are analogous to those in the auction 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D-3S as described above. Responder's other bids now over 3H, such as 3NT, 4C, 4D, and 5C, are also analogous to those in the auction 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D.
- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3S: Short spades, extra values, and with three-card support for hearts. The reason for the distinction between this bid and 3NT below is to allow responder to get to hearts when he wants to, since responder could have five of them. Responder can now bid 3NT or 4H, to play, or 4C to show that his hand evaluates poorly facing short spades and that he is willing to get out in 4C if opener has no more to say. Responder can also now have a shot at 5C. If responder bids 4D over 3S, he is saying that his hand has reevaluated well and that he now wants to drive to game and possibly slam. He does not say, yet, whether he wants to play 4H or 5C if opener is not interested in slam. Over 4D, opener should bid 4H if he is not interested, and responder will either pass or go back to 5C. If opener is interested in slam, he can bid 4S now, which is Redwood for clubs, or something else if he has a spade void.
- 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3NT: Short spades, extra values, but not three-card support for hearts. Opener's most likely shape here is 1=2=3=7. Continuations are similar to those after 3S above, except that responder presumably cannot want to play 4H now. But responder can still bid 4C to attempt to sign off, 5C to shoot a game, or 4D to show a great hand for clubs (4H by opener now would be Redwood for clubs, because 4H is not a possible contract).

2C-2D, 2S- 2NT: Responder has a game force, and wants opener to say what his hand type is. This is a high-card game force, and it does not necessarily say that responder has a club fit.

However, if responder is a PH, he cannot have a high-card GF facing an opener who could have an indifferent eleven count. So by a PH, this 2NT bid is natural and invitational. Responder's hand could be A10xx/KQxx/Q9xx/x or the like. He could even be void in clubs here. Over this invitational 2NT bid, opener should not do anything except pass, run to 3C, or raise to 3NT.

2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3C: Opener has the 6322 or 7222 minimum.

2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3C- 3D: Natural, forcing. Responder is seriously interested in playing in diamonds, if opener has good support (Hxx). His hand could be a game-forcing canapé type, with a four-card major and long diamonds, or it could be a more balanced type. Either way, he wants to be raised if opener has a good hand for diamonds. If opener is not going to raise, he should bid 3NT with good stoppers in the majors, or bid 3M to show a stopper in that suit and doubt about the other, to help responder decide whether to bid 3NT or not. With a hand lacking a real diamond fit but which also thinks that 3NT is unlikely, such as xx/Kx/Ax/KJ109xxx, opener can rebid 4C here. And of course, if opener really likes diamonds, he raises to 4D. Continuations after any of these bids are general principles.

2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3C- 3M: Natural, forcing. Responder shows a five-card or longer major and is looking for support. Continuations are general principles and similar to those above, after responder's 3D bid. 4M is natural, 3NT is natural. 3S (over 3H) shows a stopper, and doubt about diamonds. 4C shows only a doubleton, but lack of belief in notrump. A bid of 4D (over 3H or 3S) or 4H (over 3S) would be a control-bid, showing a good hand for responder's major.

Responder could bid 3M here with a strong 5-5 hand between his major suit and diamonds. So, if he bids 4D next, that is natural.

- 2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3C- 3NT: To play. Bid 4NT if your hand is too strong for this.
- 2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3C- 4C: Natural, forcing. Responder probably has a hand with at least one four-card major (he responded 2D originally to find out if there was a 4-4 major fit), and which wanted to find out if opener had a useful shortness before supporting clubs. Responder now knows that opener has no shortness, but responder is still interested in slam anyway. Over this 4C bid, opener should continue with 4D, Redwood (unlikely his hand would be suitable for this, but just in case); 4M, a control-bid; 4NT, substitute control-bid for diamonds; or 5C, nothing more to say.
- 2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3D: 3D: Opener is short in diamonds. He does not say whether his hand is minimum or maximum.
- 2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3D- 3M: Natural, forcing, looking for a three-card fit. Continuations are similar to those given above in the auction 2C-2D, 2S-3C, 3D-3M. However, there are a few differences, due to the fact that responder is unlimited here. If responder goes back to 4C after bidding 3M (assuming a 4C bid is still available at his next turn), that is natural and forcing. And regardless of what opener does, a bid of 4M +1 by responder next (that is, a 4S bid if he previously bid 3H, or a 4NT bid if he previously bid 3S), that is RKC for his major.
- 2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3H, 3S, 3NT: All of these bids show shortness, without specifying minimum or maximum. 3H is short hearts, 3S is short spades with three cards in hearts, 3NT is short spades without three cards in hearts. So far, this is the same as in the auction 2C-2D, 2S-3C. But here, responder is unlimited, and so is more likely to be interested in slam. Most of his further bids have the same meaning as in the other auctions. However, if opener bids 3S or 3NT over 2NT, showing short spades, responder can now bid 4S as RKC for hearts (the only suit in which he can need to ask for keycards now; with clubs, he would bid 4C, forcing, and with a second suit of diamonds, he would bid 4D, natural, looking for a fit there). If the auction proceeds, e.g., 2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3H-3S, 3NT-4D, responder is showing a second suit of diamonds, at least five long, and asking

for support. Opener would show support by bidding his shortness now (good hand; next step now by responder is Redwood for diamonds), or by raising to 5D (not a good hand). He could also bid 4S, a control-bid for diamonds showing a spade card, or 4NT, a substitute control-bid in hearts, to show a void or stiff ace of hearts. Lastly, he could bid 5C to show lack of interest in anything except clubs; perhaps xx/x/Jxx/AKQJxxx would do this. And regardless of what opener bids over 2NT, a bid of 4NT next by responder would be natural and invitational. Typically he would have a very strong 4=4=4=1 to do this.

2C-2D, 2S- 3D: Shows a major-diamond canapé type. Responder wants to sign off in 3D now, even if that is opener's shortness. Of course, opener can keep bidding if he actually has a good fit for diamonds and a side shortness (he would bid his short major now with such a hand). If opener has the 6322 or 7222 minimum here, he should always pass.

2C-2D, 2S- 3H, 3S: Responder is showing a very long, strong major suit and too much strength to respond 4M to 2C. With these hands, you respond 2D and then bid 3M (in this auction) to get more information. If opener shows no interest, as for example by bidding 3NT to show shortness in your major, you then rebid 4M (or something higher than that with a really big hand). Opener does not need more than a doubleton to raise here, so with the minimum 6322 or 7222, he raises responder's major. With a side shortness, he bids it (3S or 4D over 3H, 4D or 4H over 3S). With shortness in partner's major, he bids 3NT. He can also bid 4C to show 6322 with three-card support and good clubs for slam purposes.

Of course, responder cannot have such a hand if he is a PH. Thus, the 3H and 3S rebids here are DNEBAPH, until we think of a useful meaning for them.

2C-2D, 2S- 3NT: Responder does not care where the shortness is; he has everything stopped. He goes directly to game to avoid giving away any more information. He responded 2D in the first place to check for a major fit, and now that he knows there isn't one, he wants to play notrump.

2C-2D, 2NT: Opener shows a four-card side suit of diamonds. He does not say (yet) what his strength range is. This treatment is highly useful, indeed necessary, to find diamond fits when they exist. Responder will often

have an invitational responding hand with 4=4=4=1 or (4-3)=5=1 shape. With these hands, we need to be able to get to 3D when opener has a minimum with 4-6 in the minors. Responder can also have these shapes, and others, with game-forcing values; in those cases, we need to be able to find diamond contracts of 5D and higher. The 2NT bid allows us to do these things. It is forcing, since opener can have a maximum here.

2C-2D, 2NT- 3C: Responder wants to play 3C, if opener is minimum. This bid will include many hands with club support and invitational values that were checking for a 4-4 major fit. Of course, the 2NT rebid by opener means that there is no such fit, since opener is now known to have at least ten cards in the minors.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3D: Opener shows 1=1=4=7 shape, and a good hand. The idea is to get responder to bid 5C if he has useful values (aces) in the majors, and nothing wasted there. Opener could have x/x/KQxx/AKQxxxx or the like, although his hand does not have to be quite that good. But responder can have a magic hand like Axxx/Qxxx/Ax/xxx, and if he does, he should control-bid 4D, showing his diamond values allowing opener to Redwood into slam via a 4H continuation (if he has the example hand). Responder can also have something like Axxx/AQxx/xxx/xx and control-bid his major-suit aces, letting opener decide based on the solidity of his minors. Most of the time, of course, the decision will only be whether to go to 5C or not. Over 3D, responder can try to sign off in 4C, or can bid 3NT or 5C, to play, if he does not envision a magic slam.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3M: This is a fragment bid, showing at least a doubleton in the bid major, and of course extra values. Opener will typically be (3-0)=4=6 or (2-1)=4=6 to do this (he can also have a (2-0)=4=7 type). The idea is to focus on opener's shortness for notrump purposes, and to bring to light the possibility of playing in his longer major. Responder can very easily have a hand like KQxxx/Axxx/xx/xx for this auction, and when he does, he certainly wants to play in spades if opener has three of them and a good hand. He may also want to play game in a 5-2 fit. The bidding continues:

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3H-

3S: Responder now knows that opener has a doubleton heart, at least. 3S asks opener to say whether he has three hearts or not, and suggests that responder has five hearts (he may also have four good ones and be looking for a 4-3 fit). If not, he bids 3NT if his hand seems suitable for notrump (a runout to 4C over this is NF), 4C if unsuitable. With three hearts, opener now bids 4H. Opener could also have a huge hand for clubs here, like x/xx/AKxx/AK10xxx, and bid 5C himself.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3H-

3NT: To play. Responder is not worried about a spade lead. He may have AQxx/Qxxx/xx/Kxx. He was willing to get out in 3C if opener had an eleven count, but now that he knows opener has a decent hand, responder is willing to play game in notrump.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3H-

4C: To play. Responder does not like opener's spade shortness, but he also does not think 3NT or 5C will make. His hand might be KQ10xx/Axxx/xx/Jx. Of course opener can bid 5C himself anyway, if he really has the goods.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3H-

4H: To play. Responder has good hearts and is willing to try to make 4H even if opener has only a doubleton there. His hand might be Axxx/KQJ10x/xx/xx. Opener should not have less than x/xx/AQxx/AKxxxx, and 4H should be OK facing that hand.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3S-

3NT: To play. Responder now knows opener is short in hearts, and wants to play 3NT anyway.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3S-

4C: To play. Opener can bid on.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3S-

4H: Responder is rejecting the idea of playing 3NT, presumably because his hearts are not good enough for that. He also has enough to want to play game, since he did not try to sign off in 4C. 4H is a sort of choice-of-games-cuebid in a constructive auction,

implying five spades and asking opener whether he can bid 4S or not. Opener does bid 4S if he has three of them, and otherwise carries on to 5C.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3S-

4S: To play.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C,

3NT: Opener does not have a three-card major fragment (he would prefer to bid 3M if he did), but he does have solid clubs and plenty of tricks for notrump (seven of them in clubs, or six plus the ace of diamonds). He is telling responder to pass if he thinks he can stop both major suits.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3NT-

4C: Responder thinks 3NT is down, and is not willing to bid 5C himself. Of course, opener can bid it now if he likes.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3NT-

4D: Responder loves clubs, and is hoping to get to slam. This is Redwood for clubs. Responder might have Axxx/AQxxx/x/xxx and be hoping for opener to hold xx/x/Axxx/AKQJxx.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3NT-

4M: Control-bid for clubs.

2C-2D, 2NT-3C, 3NT-

5C: To play.

2C-2D, 2NT-

3D: Responder wants to play 3D, if opener is minimum. It would be very common for him to bid this if he holds 4=4=4=1 or (4-3)=5=1 with invitational values.

2C-2D, 2NT-3D,

3M: Fragment bid, as after 2C-2D, 2NT-3C. Responder continues similarly, bidding 3NT to play, four of the fragment suit to play, 4D to attempt to sign off, or the other major (3S over 3H, 4H over 3S) to reject notrump and look for a place to play (opener goes back to his fragment suit if he has three of them). Here, however, we have the extra bid of 4C by responder over opener's 3M. This should mean that responder is rejecting notrump, is not interested in playing in the fragment suit, and is not willing to sign off in 4D. He is inviting opener to bid 5D if he likes his hand, and to sign off in 4D if he doesn't.

2C-2D, 2NT-3D,	3NT: To play. Opener is showing solid clubs, or very nearly so. He wants responder to pass if he stops both majors solidly. The diamonds will furnish an entry to opener's hand after the clubs are set up (if they are not solid already).
2C-2D, 2NT-3D, 3NT-	Pass: Responder likes 3NT.
2C-2D, 2NT-3D, 3NT-	4C: Responder doesn't like 3NT, and is inviting opener to bid 5D if he likes his hand.
2C-2D, 2NT-3D, 3NT-	4D: Attempted signoff.
2C-2D, 2NT-3D, 3NT-	4H: Responder loves diamonds now, and is trying for slam. This is a control-bid. Responder might have Jxxx/Axx/AQxxx/x and be hoping for opener to hold x/xx/Kxxx/AKQJxx. If opener does hold this, he will bid 4S now, showing the spade control, and 6D will be reached.
2C-2D, 2NT-3D, 3NT-	4S: Control-bid for diamonds.
2C-2D, 2NT-3D, 3NT-	5D: To play.
2C-2D, 2NT-3D,	4C: Opener does not have a fragment in a major, and so is almost certainly 1=1=4=7. Opener also has nonsolid clubs, which is why he wants to avoid 3NT. This is forcing. Responder can try to sign off in 4D, or can bid 5D, or can control-bid in a major as above if he thinks there might be a slam. If responder does show interest in slam, opener's possession or not of the ace of clubs is likely to be the key to it, since responder is highly likely to have a singleton club on the auction (he would always prefer to attempt to sign off in 3C rather than 3D, holding a doubleton club).
2C-2D, 2NT-	3H: This is natural and forcing to game. Responder normally has at least five hearts here. However, there are exceptions (noted later).

- 2C-2D, 2NT-3H, 3S: Opener has exactly a doubleton heart, and so is probably 1=2=4=6. Responder can now bid 3NT to play, 4H to play, or make natural bids of 4C or 4D, showing that he has a fit for the minor. He can also impliedly accept hearts as trump and bid 4S as RKC.
- 2C-2D, 2NT-3H, 3NT: Opener shows heart shortness, typically 2=1=4=6. Responder can now pass, bid 4C or 4D, natural and forcing, or bid 4H, natural. It is also possible that he has a giant hand with self-sufficient hearts. With that, he can bid 4S now as auto-RKC for hearts.
- 2C-2D, 2NT-3H, 4C: Opener shows something like 1=1=4=7. He doesn't like hearts and he also doesn't like notrump. Responder can continue 4H, natural and NF, or 5C or 6C, both natural and NF. A 4D bid now would be forcing, diamond support. Responder can also continue 4S, auto-RKC for hearts, or 4NT, which means a slam try in clubs.
- 2C-2D, 2NT-3H, 4D, 4H: Both of these bids show 0=3=4=6 shape, so opener is raising hearts. 4D means his hand is good for slam, 4H means it isn't. Normally, responder will simply play 4H, or go looking for slam in hearts, for example by bidding 4S now, which would be RKC for hearts. But it is possible that responder bid 3H with no intention of playing in a heart contract. His hand could be something like Qxxx/KQxx/Ax/Qxx or even Qxxx/KQ10/Kxxx/Ax. He bid 3H with the intention of playing 3NT if opener showed short hearts. Now that opener has actually shown short spades, he prefers to play in a minor suit. So at this point, if responder bids 5C or 5D (or 6C or 6D), he disclaims any interest in playing hearts and is placing the contract in the minor.
- 2C-2D, 2NT-3S: This is natural and forcing to game. Responder usually has at least five spades, but the same caveat applies as to the 3H bid above.
- 2C-2D, 2NT-3S, 3NT: Opener is 1=2=4=6 or 0=3=4=6, possibly 0=2=4=7 with a heart card. Responder can pass, or bid 4C or 4D, natural and forcing. If he has a self-sufficient spade suit, he

	<p>bids 4H to suggest slam in spades and show a heart control, 4S to play, or 4NT as auto-RKC.</p>
2C-2D, 2NT-3S,	<p>4C: As usual, this is the 1=1=4=7 hand that doesn't like anything. Responder can bid 4D, natural and forcing, 4H to suggest slam in spades, 4S to play, or 4NT to suggest slam in clubs (responder has no other forcing bid to support clubs below 5C, which would be natural and NF here).</p>
2C-2D, 2NT-3S,	<p>4D: Opener has exactly a doubleton spade, hence 2=1=4=6 shape, or possibly 2=0=4=7. Responder can now continue 4H to suggest slam in spades, 4S to play, or 4NT to suggest slam in a minor (not clear yet which one, so responder's later conversions to diamonds are natural).</p>
2C-2D, 2NT-3S,	<p>4H, 4S: Opener has 3=0=4=6. 4H says he likes his hand for slam, 4S says he doesn't. Again, responder can say that he was just kidding with the 3S bid by running to a minor here.</p>
2C-2D, 2NT-	<p>3NT: To play. You will often bid this even with a five-card major suit, because of strong stoppers in the other. If you happen to have AKxxx/KQJx/xx/xx or the like, just bid 3NT. You don't really want to get to 4S even if opener has three of them.</p> <p>With something like AKxxx/KQJx/AKx/x, I suppose you could bid 4NT, natural, here.</p>
2C-2D, 2NT-	<p>4C: Natural, forcing. (But by a PH, invitational.) Responder has too much to bid 5C, wants to play clubs, doesn't want to look for notrump, doesn't have a major suit to show, and is interested in slam. He probably bid 2D first to check for a 4-4 major fit, and now that he knows there is none, is only interested in clubs.</p>
2C-2D, 2NT-4C,	<p>4D: Redwood for clubs. Opener takes over. He could have a good hand with 1=1=4=7 shape, or he could be (2-1)=4=6 with Ax or Kx in his doubleton suit. Either way, he is prepared to make a decision based on keycards.</p>
2C-2D, 2NT-4C,	<p>4M: Fragment. Opener typically has (2-1)=4=6 or (3-0)=4=6 and wants to show responder his shortness. The</p>

next step by responder would be Redwood. (In response to this, opener should not think of showing his void, if he has one. Responder is highly likely to have the ace of the short suit anyway.)

2C-2D, 2NT-4C,

4NT: Opener may have 1=1=4=7 shape, but not enough to use Redwood himself. He can also have a major-suit fragment, but a hand so weak he is embarrassed to show it. 4NT shows specifically a hand with *zero* keycards, to warn responder off a slam (or even a 5C contract) that will go down. Opener can have K/x/KQxx/QJ10xxxx for his 2C opener, and now would be a good time to tell responder that he holds such garbage. This could lead to an exciting 4NT contract when responder holds QJ10x/KQJx/Axx/Kx and we are off three aces.

2C-2D, 2NT-4C,

5C: Similar to 4NT, but now opener is saying he has exactly one keycard. If opener held as many as two keycards for clubs and 1=1=4=7 shape, he would presumably try Redwood himself in an effort to place the contract. And if he held two keycards and a major-suit fragment, his hand would be good enough to show the fragment.

2C-2D, 2NT-

4D: Natural, forcing. (But by a PH, invitational.) Responder has a similar hand to those above where he bids 4C, except of course that here he wants diamonds to be trump.

2C-2D, 2NT-4D,

4M: Fragment. Also implies holding two keycards for diamonds. Next step by responder is Redwood. There is no way here for opener to ask for keycards directly, but he is either going to show a fragment and encourage responder to ask, or he is going to show how many he has himself, so the keycard situation should clear up anyhow if this is necessary.

2C-2D, 2NT-4D,

4NT: Shows *zero* keycards for diamonds, and also typically 1=1=4=7 shape (or a fragment that opener is embarrassed to show). The hand might be K/x/QJ10x/KQJxxxx, or the same hand with Kx of spades and a heart void.

2C-2D, 2NT-4D,	5C: Shows one keycard for diamonds, otherwise similar to the 4NT bid above.
2C-2D, 2NT-4D,	5D: Shows two keycards for diamonds, without the queen. The shape must be exactly 1=1=4=7 (because with two keycards and a fragment to show, you would show it).
2C-2D, 2NT-4D,	5H: Shows two keycards for diamonds, plus the queen of trumps, in a 1=1=4=7 type. The availability of this bid suggests that it would be a good idea for responder to have two keycards of his own when he bids 4D. If he doesn't, and he has a doubleton club, he should bid 4C instead.
2C-2D, 2NT-4D,	5S: Shows three keycards for diamonds (any shape). 5NT now would relay for the queen of trumps.
2C-2D, 2NT-4D,	5NT: Shows four keycards for diamonds. No, I'm just kidding. Opener could in theory open 2C with a hand like x/Ax/AKxx/Axxxxx and have four keycards for diamonds later on in the bidding, but in this auction he won't, because responder needs to have two keys himself to bid 4D. 5NT actually doesn't exist here.
2C-2D, 2NT-	4H: Redwood for clubs. Responder could bid 4C, forcing, but if keycards are all he cares about, he might as well ask right away. This bid is not needed as natural. In order to bid 4H naturally here, responder would need to have a self-sufficient suit (opener is likely to be short in hearts here, and can easily be void). With such a suit and no slam interest, responder would just bid 4H over 2C. If he did have some possible slam interest, he would bid 3H now and find out if opener had support.
2C-2D, 2NT-	4S: Redwood for diamonds. The reasoning is similar to that for 4H above.
2C-2D, 2NT-	4NT: Natural, invitational, too strong to bid 3NT. Unlikely that you will ever hold such a hand, but the bid is there if you need it.
2C-2D, 2NT-	5C, 5D: To play.

- 2C-2D, 3C: Good hand, 6322 or 7222 type. Identical to the hands that rebid 2S over 2D and then 3C over 2NT, but better values. However, this does not mean the bid is forcing. Responder can pass if he has, for example, KQxx/KJxx/xx/xxx; this hand is worth a 2D response originally because a major-suit game could be cold if opener has a four-card major, but now that he is known not to have one, 3NT is unlikely (responder has no aces and opener's clubs are not solid; even facing xx/Qxx/Ax/AKJxxx, game is almost certainly down on a diamond lead). If responder does bid something, all of his bids mean the same things as in the auction 2C-2D, 2S-2NT, 3C, except that a 3D bid by responder over 3C is nonforcing, suggesting a weakish major-minor canapé (responder must bid 4D over 3C to force in clubs).
- 2C-2D, 3D, 3H, 3S: 6-5 types. Forcing. Responder can bid 3NT or four of one of opener's suits, all of which are natural (4C is forcing). A bid of 3S over 3H, or 4H over 3S, would be natural (responder could have six or seven of that suit). A bid of 4D would be natural if opener had rebid 3D, or a slam try in opener's major if opener had rebid 3M.
- 2C-2D, 3NT: 2=2=2=7 or 6322 shape, maximum, solid clubs. Responder usually places the contract now. Opener does not, of course, guarantee any particular side stoppers; he can't have all that much in the other suits, since his clubs are headed by AKQ(J). Responder should ideally have something in each of the other three suits to pass, but he can gamble on the lead if he wishes. If responder were to bid 4C here, that would be a slam try in clubs. Bids of four of any other suit would be natural (forcing, in the case of 4D).
- 2C-2D, 4C: Opener usually has 4-8 in the minors (but opener can have 1=1=3=8 distribution also). Forcing. Responder places the contract now, or can bid 4D to set diamonds (but opener rejects this by going back to clubs if he has only three diamonds), anything else as a slam try in clubs. Bids higher than 4D are control-bids (aces only, since opener is likely to have a singleton or a void in either major; for this reason, an ace-asking bid in this auction is likely to be useless). The side four-card suit must be diamonds, because opener would rebid 2H if it were a major.
- 2C-2D, 4D, 4H, 4S: These show 7-5 hand types, with super playing strength. Opener says his hand has no more than two losers (by LTC reckoning) if clubs are trump; for this reason, his weakest hand is something like

x/AKxxx/-/KQJ10xxx. Responder can now control-bid an ace, hoping it covers one of opener's losers (opener bids something high if it does, bids cheaply if it doesn't). If he does make a control-bid, he is presumed to be intending to play in clubs, but can go back to opener's second suit later if he wishes. A 4NT bid by responder would be a control-bid in a suit impossible to show at the four level, meaning if opener rebids 4H, 4NT by responder shows the diamond ace. If opener rebids 4S, 4NT by responder would have to show both red aces (to guarantee covering opener's loser).

2C-2D, 4NT: 3=1=1=8 distribution. I suppose it is unlikely that we will ever have such a hand and not open it some number of clubs, or that the opponents will stay out of the auction if we do. However, in Revision we strive for completeness.

2C-2D, 5C: 1=3=1=8 distribution.

Competitive Bidding After A 2C Opening

2C-(X), Pass: Nothing special. Pass and double of whatever they bid is cooperative, typically with a doubleton club.

XX: Claims ownership of the hand; we must double them or play the contract.

2D and higher: Normal; ignore the double. The exception is that all club raises are now weak.

2C-(2 suit), Pass: Nothing special.

X: Negative.

New suit: Nonforcing at the two level, forcing at the three level (by UPH). By a PH, a bid of 3D would be natural and nonforcing, while a bid of 3M, if a jump, would be a FSJ. A nonjump bid of 3M would also imply some kind of club fit, although less strongly so than a jump bid would.

Cuebid of their suit: Forcing, club support.

Jump cuebid of their suit: Splinter in support of clubs.

2C-(2NT), X: Penalties. This is a profitable auction because the opponents will often overcall 2NT over a 2C opening with the same hands that would have bid 1NT over a 1C opening. If you do not double here, all other bids are nonforcing.

2C-(3 or 4 of anything), X: Negative. People are not going to be jumping over the 2C bid without good suits (at least, I don't think they will; if we encounter random or crazy bidding sufficiently often, we can change this treatment). New suits below game would be forcing.

The opponents will occasionally bid something after the response to the 2C opening. This will most often happen after a 2D response, which leaves room for the opponents to bid two of either major. Here, a double by opener would be penalties, and he could also bid a suit of his own freely, or just pass to show nothing special. Further doubles in such auctions, by both partners, would be penalties also.

If the 2D response is doubled, opener can make his normal rebid, as if the double did not exist. He can also pass or redouble. Let's say that these calls show four and five diamonds, respectively. If the double showed diamonds, they operate as a suggestion to play; if the double was for majors, they may help responder to compete in diamonds.

If the 2C opening is followed by two passes, and fourth hand balances with a suit bid, a double by opener is takeout at the two level, penalty at the three level or higher.