

2/1 System notes

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1 Overview

2/1 GF, 5-card majors, better minor, strong NT

2 Glossary

M major

m minor

OM other major

om other minor

INV invitational to game

GF forcing to game

BAL balanced

3 Constructive bidding

3.1 Opening bids

1♣/1♦	12+, 3+ cards
1♥/1♠	12+, 5+ cards
1NT	15-17 BAL, may contain 5cM
2♣	Acol
2♦	weak only multi
2♥/2♠	5 in bid major, 4+m
2NT	20-21 BAL
3X	weak
3NT	gambling

3.2 Basic follow-ups

1♣/1♦—	
1♦	4+♦, denies 4cM unless GF (Walsh)
1M	4-card suit
raise	10+ with 5+ card fit (may be 4 if ♦ s), inverted
3m	any minimum
other	stopper for NT
jump-raise	6-9, 5+ card support
2♣	(over 1♦) forcing to game
1NT	6-9, no 4-card major
2NT	10-12 no 4-card major
2♥	reverse flannery, 6-9 with 5♠ and 4/5♥
2♠	reverse flannery, 10-11(12) with 5♠ and 4/5♥

1♥/1♠—

1♠	6+ 4+♠s
1NT	Forcing for 1 round
	2m can be from 3-cards
2♣	generic GF, 2+ ♣s
2♦♥	GF, 5 card suit
2♠	(over 1♥) 6-9, 6+♠
2NT	Jacoby (reapponses as suggested by Larry Cohen)
3♣	any minimum
3♦	relay
	bids 1 step higher than direct responses to 2NT, 3♥ any shortage et
	4M minimum GF, no slam interest
3♦	max any shortage
3♥	relay
	3♠ any void (then 3NT relay and rebids showing low/mid/high vo
	3NT4♣♦ singleton in low/mid/high suit
3♥	max any 5422 shape
3♠	relay
	3NT4♣♦ 4 cards in low/mid/high suit
3♠	max 6-card suit
3NT	max 5332
4x	5-5 shape with 5 in a bid suit
4M	worst possible hand, no slam interest even if p has mild extras
3♣	6-9 4-card support, good shape
3♦	INV 4-card support
3M	preemptive
3♠	(over 1♥) - minisplinter, 10-12, unspecified shortage
	3NT asks for shortage (4♥=shortage in ♠)
3NT	(over 1♥) - 13-15 ♠ splinter
3NT	(over 1♠) - minisplinter, 10-12, unspecified shortage
	4♣ asks for shortage (4♠=shortage in ♣)
4♣/4♦	strong splinters (13-15)

1NT—

2♣	Stayman (promises 4cM, may be invitational with 5♠)
2♦	no 4cM
	2♥ weak, equal length in both majors
	2♠ INV 5♠ (may or may not have 4♥)
	3m GF 4M5+m
	3♥/3♠ Smolen - GF 4M 5OM
2♥	4+♥s
	2♠ slam try in ♥s
2♠	4+♠s
	3♥ slam try in ♠s
2♦	transfer to ♥
2♥	
	2NT INV, exactly 5♥
	3♥ INV, 6+ ♥
	2♠3♣♦ second round transfers, GF
2♥	transfer to ♠

	2♠	2NT3♣♦♥ second round transfers, GF (invitational hands with 5♠ bid Stayman)
	3♠	INV, 6+ ♠
2♠		INV without 4cM or transfer to ♣
	2NT	minimum
	3♣	maximum
2NT		transfer to ♦s, may be weak with 55 in minors
	3♣	no fit
	3♦	♦ fit
3♣		puppet Stayman - balanced GF without 44 in majors
	3♦	no 5-card major
	3♥	4♠s
		3NT-4m slam invite 4♠4m(32)
	3♠	4♥s
		3NT-4m slam invite 4♥4m(32)
		3NT to play
	4♣/4♦	slam invite 5m332
	3♥	5♥s
	3♠	5♠s
	3NT	does not exist (!)
3♦		GF 55 in minors
	3♥	relay
	3♠	1255 shape
	3NT	2155 shape
	4♣	5♦6♣
	4♦	6♦5♣
	4♥	0355 shape
	4♠	3055 shape
3♥/3♠		splinters - GF 54 in minors 3 in OM
	3NT	to play
	4♣	gerber
	4♦	texas transfer to ♥
	4♥	texas transfer to ♠
4NT		quantitative invite to 6NT, either 4333 or 44 in minors (see puppet stayman for other shapes)
5NT		bid 6NT with minimum and 7 with maximum
2♣—		
	2♦	semi-positive, at least K or 2 Qs
	2♥	Kokish, either Hs or strong BAL
	2♥	negative, less than K or 2 Qs
	2♠	5+ H 2/top 3 honours
	2NT	5+ S 2/top 3 honours
2♦—		
	2♥♠/3♥♠	pass-or-correct
	3NT/4♥♠/5♥♠	play
	2NT	relay, INV+
	3♣	any max
	3♦	relay
	3♥	max weak 2 with ♠s

		3♠	max weak 2 with ♥s
	3♦	min weak 2 in ♥s	
	3♥	min weak 2 in ♠s	
3♣	puppet to 3♦		
	3♦	forced	
	pass	♦ preempt	
	suit	GF single-suited hand	
3♦	INV, support for both majors		
4♣	"bid your suit with a transfer"		
4♦	"bid your suit naturally"		
2♥/2♠—			
2♠	5♠ NF		
2NT	GF relay		
	3♣	4♣s	
	3♦	4♦s	
	3♥	5♣s	
	3♠	5♦s	
3♣	pass-or-correct		
3♦	INV with major support		
3M	NF		
3♠/4♣/4♦	splinters		
2NT—			
3♣	puppet stayman		
	3♦	no 5cM, at least 1 4cM	
	3♥	4♠ without 4♥	
	3♠	4♥ without 4♠	
	3NT	to play	
	4♣	4♥ and 4♠ slam try	
	4♦	4♥ and 4♠, no slam interest	
	3♥	5♥s	
	3♠	5♠s	
	3NT	no 4cM	
3♦/3♥	transfers		
3♠	???		

3.3 Transfer bids after 4th suit forcing/forcing 2NT

Transfers at 3-level after 4th suit forcing/forcing 2NT

After opener shows a 2-suited hand and responder relays:

1. if ♣ were one of opener's suits 3♣ is natural and shows 5♣
2. otherwise bids 1 below opener's suit are transfers, showing extra length
3. 3♠ shows singleton in p's suit (worst possible shape)
4. other 3 level bid shows 3-card fragment in partner's suit

Partner can agree the trump suit by accepting the transfer, after which opener shows shortage (second suit = both shortages)

See section below for an example.

3.4 Continuations after 2/1

1♥-2♣/2♦	
2♦	4♦s
	2♥ ♥ fit 15+
	2♠ 4th suit forcing
	2NT ♠ stopper
	3♣ transfer to ♦ - 5♥5♦ min
	3♦ 6+♥s
	3♥ 1543 shape
	3♠ 3541 shape, no stopper
	3NT 2542 shape
	2NT relay, can play NT from my hand, responses same as above
2♥	hand unsuitable for another bid
	2NT relay
	3♣ 4♣ minimum
	3♦ transfer to ♥ - 6+♥ minimum
2♠	extras, 4+♣s
2NT	12-14 5332 stoppers in unbid suits
3♣	extras, 5+♦s
3♦	extras, 6+♥s
3♥	extras, 4♠s
1♠-2♣	
2♦	4-card suit, may be 5 with extras (no way to show immediately)
2♥	4-card suit
2♠	hand unsuitable for another bid
2NT	12-14 5332 stoppers in unbid suits
3♣	15+ 4+♣
3♦	15+ 5♠5♥
3♥	15+ 6+♠
1♠-2♦	
2♥	4-card suit
2♠	hand unsuitable for another bid
2NT	12-14 5332 stoppers in unbid suits
3♣	15+ 5♠5♣
3♦	15+ ♦ raise
3♥	15+ 6+♠
1♠-2♥	
2♠	hand unsuitable for another bid
2NT	12-14 5332 stoppers in unbid suits
3♣/D	natural 5-5 shape, extras
3♥	15+ 6+♠
3♠	minimum ♥ raise, no shortage
3NT	minimum ♥ raise, splinter in a minor
4♣/D	splinter, extras
1♦-2♣	
2♦	5+ ♦

2♥	4♥ at most 4♦ can be minimum
2♠	4♠, denies 5♦ or 4♣ can be minimum
2NT	12-14 balanced stoppers in unbid suits
3♣	15+ 4+♣
3♦	15+ 6+♦

3.5 XYZ

After 1x-1y-1z uncontested auction, 2♣ is a puppet to 2♦ showing signoff or invitational bids and 2♦ is an artificial GF bid. After initial pass, 2♣ retains the same meaning (puppet to 2♦) while 2♦ becomes a natural bid with ♦s. The convention is OFF after interference.

Example:

1♣-1♥;	
1NT—	
2♣	puppet to 2♦, signoff or invitational hands
2♦	forced
	pass 4♥5+♦ weak
	2♥ INV 5♥
	2♠ INV 5♥4♠
	2NT weak 4♥6♣
	3♣ INV 4♥5♣
	3♦ INV 4♥5♦
	3♥ INV 6+♥
2♦	game forcing relay
	2♥ 3♥
	2♠ 4♠ no 3♥
	2NT no 4♠ no 3♥ no 5-card minor
	3m 5m, no 3♥, no 4♠
2♥	6-9 6+♥
2♠	GF, reverse
2NT	nat, INV

3.6 Other relay bids

All sequences below, unless specified otherwise, show artificial game forcing relay bids (say nothing about the bid suit).

1♣-1M;
2♣-2♦

1♦-1♠;
2♣/2♦-2♥ (see reverse flannery)

1♥-1♠;
2♥-2♠ GF promises 5♠ (with only 4 start with 2♣)

3.7 Gazzilli

One of the main problems of natural (i.e. not strong club) systems is handling strong (18+) hands which are single-suited or have support for partner's suit without a shortage. Both cases require to make a high level jump, preempting the auction. Gazzilli solves this problem at the expense of being unable to stop in 2♣.

After 1M opening and 1-level response the 2♣ bid is artificial showing either 12-16 with 4♣ (natural ♣ bid) or any 17+ hand. Responder bids 2♦ with any 8+ hand or naturally otherwise. After 2♣-2♦ returning to opening major shows the natural ♣ variant, anything else is 17+. The traditional follow-ups are natural, but I suggest to use transfers starting with 2NT to comfortably agree a minor suit (18-19 BAL is sufficiently well-defined to be placed at 3♠ level).

Example:

1♥-1♠		
	2♣	12-16 5♥4♣ or any 17+
	2♦	any 8+
		2♥ 12-16 5♥4♣
		2♠ 5♥ 3+♠ 17+
		2NT 17+ with ♣
		3♣ 17+ with ♦
		3♦ 17+ with 6+♥
		3NT 18-19 BAL, to play
	2NT	to be discussed, can be 14-16 with 6♥ and 3♠
	3♣♦	14-16 5-5 shape

4 Slam bidding

- cue bids - 1st or 2nd round control
- if the first cue is made by player who showed 9+ cards in 2 suits - shows shortage
- cue in partner's long suit - honour
- Last train to Clarksville (LTTC) - last cue below game shows slam interest but not necessarily a control in the suit
- After LTTC bidding 5 of a trump suit is asking for control and aces. Pass with no control, bid 6 with second round, show key cards 1430 with 1st.
- Kickback 1430 (see below)
- cheapest non-trump suit bid after RKCB response asks for trump Q. Responses - 5 in trump suit - no trump Q, otherwise bid cheapest K not going beyond 6 in trump suit.
- 5NT after Blackwood - specific king ask - partner shows cheapest king without exceeding 6 in a trump suit
- other new suit after Blackwood - asking to bid 7 with 2nd round control in that suit
- jumps 1 above splinter - exclusion Blackwood 1430

- if ace ask is overcalled - DOPI, ROPI, DEPO
- other 5 in partner's major - asks for trump suit quality
- direct 5NT - "grand slam force" - asks for number of top 3 trumps (6♣=0, 6♦=1, 6♥=2, 7M=3)
- raising splinter suit to 6 level - asking to bid 7 with a void

4.1 Kickback

It is well-known that Blackwood responses have a tendency of being too high especially when the agreed suit is a minor. Kickback solves this problem by making 4(suit+1) an ace asking bid, so if ♣ are agreed 4♦ asks for aces etc. The responses are in steps just like 0314 Blackwood (although they can be swapped for 1430).

Over the last train bid (or instead of last train bid) the bid one step above kickback is 'Lackwood' - ace asking without the stopper in the last train suit. For example, if ♠ are agreed, 4NT is kickback and 5♣ is Lackwood. Returning to 5 of a trump suit denies a stopper in the last train suit, other bids promise a stopper and show keycards.

In cases when the kickback suit was bid naturally, the bid is kickback provided that there was a way to raise trumps naturally first. For example:

1♥-4♠ to play; responder has a variety of heart raises to choose from

1♦-2♣;

3♣-4♦ kickback; responder had a chance to agree diamonds with 3♦

In misfit auctions where two players bid their own suits, lowest unbid strain is kickback for the lower trump suit and second lowest - for the higher trump suit, e.g.

1♥-2♦;

2♥-3♦;

3♥-4♦;

4♥5♦ to play

4♠ kickback for ♦

4NT kickback for ♥

Lastly, 4NT is free to become a natural and quantitative bid in many auctions, for example

1♠-2♦;

3♣-4NT quantitative, responder had a chance to agree ♠ suit with 3♠

5 Passed hand bidding

- 3rd hand openings can be light, in this case opener usually passes on the second round
- Two-way drury: 1M— 2C 10-11 points 3-card support 2D 10-11 points 3-card support
- 1M-1NT response is semiforcing, 6-11 points

- Bergen raises are OFF (!)
- jumps in new suits are fit jumps, 4-card support and 5+cards in the bid suit
- unless specifically agreed otherwise, all bids are the same as after 1st seat opening

6 Balancing

- non-jump bids are a king weaker than on a direct seat
- 1NT is 11-14(15) after 1♣ opening up to 11-16(17) after 1♠ opening. The reason is that after 1♠ opening and double, partner will be forced to bid on 2-level, which may be too high with 15-16 point hands.
- jump to 2NT is 19-20, unusual NT is off
- jumps in new suits are intermediate, 11-15 points and a good 6-card suit

7 Competitive bidding

7.1 General rules in competition

- new suit at 1 and 3 level is forcing - this includes jumps to 3-level
- new suit at 2 level is nonforcing
- jumps raises are always preemptive

7.2 Conventions in competition

7.2.1 Good/Bad 2NT

When RHO makes a natural 2-level overcall, or when LHO makes a natural 2-level bid passed to you, 2NT is often (see exceptions below) a puppet to 3♣. This can either be passed or corrected, in which case it shows a hand that's weaker than the direct bid. For example:

1♦-(p)-1♠-(2♥)
?

2NT	puppet to 3♣
3♣	to pass if partner has ♣
	pass 5♦5♣ competing to 3 level
	3♦ 6♦ no interest in bidding game
3♣	GF 5♦5♣
3♦	INV 6+♦

2NT is NOT good bad in any of the following situations:

- 2NT has a different meaning by explicit agreement, e.g. 1M-(2x)-2NT is a 4-card major raise.

- we are forced to game (no need for 2 ranges)
- we have found a trump suit
- opponents' 2-level overcall is artificial
- opponents opened a strong ♣

7.2.2 2-suited overcalls - Michaels and Unusual NT

- cue bidding opener's 1M shows 5 cards in OM and an unspecified 5-card minor
- cue bidding opener's 1m shows both majors
- jumping to 2NT over 1x shows 2 lowest unbid suits
- all of the above bids are made with continuous strength range (we do not play min-max)

7.2.3 Various doubles

any-(any)-x in situations where it's not a transfer, it's negative showing 4-cards in unbid majors

1x-(any)-1M-(any);

x if the overcall is below 2M - shows exactly 3-card support in partner's major

1x-(any)-2x-(x) responsive, shows 2 unbid suits. If p doubled it shows both majors if they bid a minor and both minors if they bid a major

(1x)-x-(1y)-x penalty (!)

7.3 After takeout x

xx 10+ points, interested in penalising opponents 2NT if partner opened a major this is an INV+ raise, if p opened a minor it's natural 10-12.

We play various transfers in this situation. Over 1M transfers start with 1NT bid and end 1 step below simple raise

1♥-(x)—

1♠	4!+s forcing for 1 round
1NT	transfer to ♣
2♣	transfer to ♦
2♦	transfer to ♥ - constructive raise
2♥	weak 3-card raise
2NT	INV+ with fit
3♥	preemptive
jump-shiftsfit jumps	

Over 1♣ we have room for full transfers (same structure as over 1♦ overcall)

1♣-(x)—

1♦	4+ ♥
1♥	4+ ♠
1♠	transfer to NT or ♣
1NT	natural
2♣	transfer to ♦
2♦	6+ ♥ weak or GF
2♥	6+ ♠ weak or GF
2♠	transfer to ♣
2NT	natural
3♣	INV 6♦
3♦	INV 6♥
3♥	INV 6♠
3♠	transfer to NT

Over 1♦ there are two possible transfer schemes, depending which is the cheapest bid we're willing to give up.

Scheme 1 - giving up xx, 1♦-(x)-xx becomes a transfer to ♥ and all bids are transfers

Scheme 2 - giving up 2♦ simple raise - xx and all bids up to and including 2♣ are natural, higher bids are transfers

7.4 After 1-level overcalls

- 1-level and 2-level bids are transfers
- 3 level bids below cue bid are natural and invitational with a 6-card suit
- 3-level bids starting from cue bid are transfers showing invitational hands
- NT bids are always natural
- 1m-(1♠)-x is negative, all other doubles are transfers
- The meaning of 2-level bids varies depending if the 1-level bid in the same suit is available. If yes then they are either 6-9 or 13+ with a 6-card suit. Otherwise, they show 6-9 with a 6-card suit or 10+ with 5+card suit
- jump raises to 3 level are weak as usual
- 1♠ is a transfer to NT (to play from a better hand) or ♣s.

Example:

1♣-(1♥)—

x	4+ ♠
	1♠ exactly 3 ♠
1♠	transfer to NT or ♣
	1NT does not necessarily promise a stopper
	2♥ stopper ask, GF
1NT	natural, 6-9 with a stopper
2♣	transfer to ♦, 6-9 with 6+♦ or 10+ with 5+♦ (1-level ♦ bid not available)
2♦	transfer into cue bid - invitational club raise
2♥	transfer to ♠ - 6♠ weak or GF (x was available to show ♠ at 1 level)

2♠	transfer to ♣ weak or GF
2NT	natural 10-12 with a stopper
3♣	preemptive
3♦	invitational, 6+♦s (below cuebid = natural)
3♥	invitational 6+♠s

7.5 Transfers over 1♦-(2/3♣)

1♦-(2♣)—

2♦	5+♥
2♥	5+♠
2♠	INV+♦ raise
2NT	INV with a ♣ stopper
3♣	asking for a ♣ stopper
3♦	preemptive raise

1♦-(3♣)—

3♦	5+♥
3♥	5+♠
3♠	GF 5+♦
3NT	to play, ♣ stopper

7.6 After we open 1NT

- If they double, redouble is penalty and systems on.
- If they overcall 2♣, x is Stayman and otherwise systems on.
- Over other 2-level overcalls we use Rubensohl convention, where 2-level bids are NF and 3-level bids are transfers. Doubles are negative. For example:

1NT-(2♥)—

x	4♠, INV
2♠	5♠ NF
2NT	transfer to ♣, any strength
3♣	transfer to ♦, any strength
3♦	transfer to cuebid is a GF stayman
3♥	no 4♠, no stopper
3♠	4♠
3NT	no 4♠ with a stopper
3♥	transfer to ♠, INV+
3♠	transfer to NT without a stopper
3NT	promises a stopper

7.7 Defensive bidding

Agreements when opponents open the bidding. In general, jumps are weak, so we play weak jump overcalls at any vulnerability.

7.7.1 Responding to takeout x

- non-jump bid shows 0-8, may only be from 3 cards
- jump bids show 9-11 and a 4+ card suit
- cue bid is invitational with both majors or any GF hand
- 1NT is 7-9 with a stopper
- 2NT is 10-12 with a stopper

7.7.2 Responding to overcalls

jump-cue mixed raise jump-shift fit jump at 2-level, INV at 3-level double-jump-shift
splinter 2NT 4-card raise

Bids between cuebid and simple raise are transfers, other bids are natural, for example

(1♣)-1♥-(P)—

1♠	natural and forcing
2♣	5+♦
2♦	transfer to partner's suit, INV+ raise (replaces cuebid)
2♥	simple raise
2NT	good 4-card raise
3♣	mixed raise (4-card support, 6-10 points)
3♥	preemptive raise

The transfer typically promises a 5-card suit, but may be lead directing with support for partner's suit.

7.7.3 Defense against 2-suited overcalls

x I want to penalise at least one of their suits

If the overcall shows one specific suit and one unknown suit, we bid as if the overcalled bid the specific suit.

If the overcaller shows both majors, cuebidding a major shows a good hand with a stopper in a bid suit.

If the overcaller shows 2 specific suits, but not both majors, we play unusual-over-unusual, where the lower cuebid shows good hand with lower of the remaining suits and higher cuebid shows higher of the remaining two suits, e.g.

1♥-(2NT)—

3♣	good ♥ raise
3♦	good hand with ♠
3♥	weak ♥ raise
3♠	weak hand with long ♠

7.7.4 Defense to strong NT

Multi-Landy

(1NT)—

x	penalty
2♣	both majors (at least 5-4)
2♦	2♦ equal length in both majors
2♦	single-suited major
	all same as after multi 2♦ opening
2M	5M4+m
	all same as after respective openings
2NT	55 minors

7.7.5 Defense to weak NT

(1NT)—

x	penalty, any 15+ hand (after (1NT)-p-(p)-x only promises 13)
	P 5+ points, sets up force up to 2♥
	2C scramble, 0-4 no 5-card ♦/♥/♠
	Pass 4+♣
	other 0-3 ♣, 5-card suit or a cheapest 4-card suit
	other natural, 5-card suit
2♣	both majors (at least 5-4)
	2♦ equal length in both majors
2♦	single-suited major 6-10
	all same as after multi 2♦ opening
2♥♠	natural, 11-14 points good 5-card suit

After initial penalty x, second x is for takeout, 3rd and subsequent are all for penalty. If opponents compete at 2-level good/bad 2NT applies.

7.7.6 Defense to weak 2s and 3s

We play (non-)leaping Michaels. 4♣ and 4♦ bids are artificial and show strong 2-suited hands.

(2♦)—

3♦	asking for stopper for NT
4♣	♣ and a major
4♦	both majors

(2♥)—

3♥	asking for stopper for NT
4♣	5♣5♠
4♦	5♦5♠
4♥	5♣5♦

Similarly, non-leaping Michaels uses the same structure over 3-level openings.

7.7.7 Defense to strong ♣

Mathe:

(1 ♣)—

x	both majors
1NT	both minors
rest	natural

7.7.8 Defense to short/Polish ♣

(1 ♣)—

2 ♣	natural (!)
2 ♦	both majors

7.7.9 Defense to multi 2 ♦

Dixon

2 ♦— x 12-14 bal or any 18+ rest natural