WELCOME!

TWO-WAY NEW MINOR FORCING

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Agenda

- 1. 2-Way NMF and XYZ
- 2. Today's Approach
- 3. Advantages of 2-Way NMF Over NMF?
- 4. Walsh Style
- 5. Components of 2-Way NMF
- 6. 2-Way NMF In Action
- 7. Summary and Wrap-Up

Note: Copies of all slides will be available on the Bridge Center's website

Abbreviations

- NMF = New Minor Forcing
- 2-Way NMF = Two-Way New Minor Forcing
- M = Either major suit
- m = Either minor suit
- oM = The other major
- om = The other minor
- O = Opener
- R = Responder
- GF = Game Forcing
- NF = Non-Forcing
- 5-H = 5-card heart suit
- 5-H+4-S = 5-card heart suit plus a 4-card spade suit

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2-Way NMF

- 2-Way NMF is on only after opener rebids 1NT
 - Includes 1m-1M, 1NT and 1♥-1♠, 1NT and 1♣-1♦, 1NT (i.e. 1x-1y, 1NT)
- When O rebids 1NT, R knows a lot about O's hand
 - Strength = 12-14 HCP
 - Shape = balanced 4333, 4432, 5332 (48% of hands) or maybe semi-balanced 5422
 - No singletons or voids
- 2-Way NMF has been around a long time and has evolved based on what is known when opener rebids 1NT
- Sometimes called 2-Way Check-Back

What About XYZ?

- 2-Way NMF is on only after opener rebids 1NT
- XYZ is on after opener rebids 1M or 1NT
 - i.e. 1x-1y, 1z
- When opener rebids 1M their hand might be out of range and/or unbalanced
- A 1NT rebid by opener clearly defines strength and shape
- After a 1M rebid, opener's hand is less clearly defined
- Some XYZ players have special bids by opener to show these hands, others just ignore them and play same 2-Way NMF system

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Today's Approach

- Will focus on 2-Way New Minor Forcing and not XYZ
- Several variations of 2-Way NMF, but today's is the system I play and that I learned from Debbie Rosenberg
- This 2-Way NMF system is sufficient for a lot of players, but...
 - Many add-ons and alternatives available including more hand types, XYZ and nuanced bidding
- Going to move quite quickly because we have a lot to cover
 - Feel free to ask questions at any time using Chat or Unmute

Advantages of 2-Way NMF Over NMF

- Both are used only after opener rebids 1NT
- NMF is used by R with an invitational or better (11+) hand with a 5-card major looking for a fit
- 2-Way NMF allows R to show many different hand shapes and strengths
 - A lot of emphasis on shape
- 2-Way NMF is significantly more powerful, but is more complicated and requires more study and memory work

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Recommend 2-Way NMF

- For Advanced and Expert players
- Advanced Intermediate players ready for hard work may want to consider upgrading to 2-Way NMF
- Don't forget to use NMF after opener jump rebids 2NT
 - Remember: this is (regular) New Minor and is GF (regardless of...)
- Large majority of Intermediate players will be best served by using (regular) New Minor Forcing
- If playing Two-Way NMF or NMF check correct box on your convention card (lower right)

R

Walsh Style Opener Bypasses 4-Card Major to Rebid 1NT

- Several styles of Walsh
- Opener will routinely bypass 4-card major, at the 1-level, to rebid 1NT with a balanced 12-14
 - e.g. With KQxx, Jxx, xx, AQxx, after opening 1C and R bidding 1H
 - Opener rebids 1NT rather than 1S with a balanced, in-range hand
 - Can find 4-4 spade fit later if R has enough points to bid again
- Therefore, opener's 1M rebid shows an unbalanced hand
 - Typically a singleton or void, occasionally 5422
- Opener should never have only 3-clubs when the bidding starts
 1♣-1♦/1♥; 1M (leave this bidding factoid with you)

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Walsh Style Responding to Partner's 1♣ Opener

Does responder bypass 4-♦s to bid a 4-card major?

- With less than a GF hand, R will bypass any length ◆-suit to bid a 4-card major
 - Except with very weak hand with 6-♦s, might choose to respond 1♦
- When bidding is 1♣-1♦ opener knows, R either:
 - Does not have a 4-card M, or
 - Has enough points to bid again
- With a GF hand R will typically bid up the line

OK, FINALLY....2-WAY NMF!

Quite a bit of context and preamble

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1NT Rebid by Opener = 12-14 HCP Balanced

Responder is the "Captain" and is going to be in 1 of 4 zones

- 1. Sign-Off = 10 or fewer HCP
- 2. Invitational = 11 or 12 HCP
- 3. Game Forcing = 13+ HCP
- 4. Slam Interest = 18+ HCP or very distributional hand
- 2-Way NMF has special bids for each zone

Components of 2-Way NMF

After opener rebids 1NT – e.g. 1♣-1♥; 1NT-?

- 1. Sign-off sequences = To play lowest part score in chosen "strain"
- 2. 2♣! = Invitational, forcing relay to 2♦! so R can describe her hand
- 3. 2NT* = Natural, invitational and balanced
- 4. 2♦! = GF, so R can ask opener about his majors
- 5. Jump to 3-level = GF and natural shows good suit(s), distributional hand and slam interest

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2♣ Invitational = Relay to 2♠, so Responder Can Describe Her Hand

Example: 1♣-1♥, 1NT-2♣!, 2♦!-?

 2♣! = Forcing relay for opener to bid 2♠! to start invitational sequences

WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	14	b	Р	1♥
Р	1N	IT	Р	2♣!
Р	24	•!		
		YC	<u>)U</u>	
	•	Q	ХХ	
	\(\psi\	KC	Дххх	
-	•	KJ	X	
	.	хх		
L				

What is the Relay?

- 1. R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. R bids 2♣ and O must relay to/bid 2♦
- 3. Both bids are artificial and alertable

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2♣ Invitational = Relay to 2♠, so Responder Can Describe Her Hand

Example: 1♣-1♥, 1NT-2♣!, 2♦!-?

- 2♣! = Forcing relay for opener to bid 2♠! to start invitational sequences
- Invitational hands only (not "or better" like NMF)
- Big change from New Minor Forcing: relay so R describes her hand
- R not asking opener about his hand, as with NMF, but rather telling opener the shape of her hand
- Any 3-level bid by <u>opener</u> accepts the invitation to game and the auction is now GF
- Opener is "Captain" and typically decides the best contract

- To tell opener she has an invitational hand with a 5-card M
- Use the relay

Example: 1♣-1♥, 1NT-2♣!, 2♦!-?

- Complexity is starting inviting with a 5-card M
- 2-Way NMF differentiates between balanced and unbalanced invites

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NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
1♣		P	1♥
1N	Т	P	2♣!
2•	·!	Р	2NT
	YC	<u>U</u>	
•	Q	ΚX	
\(\psi\	KC	Q XXX	
•	KJ	X	
♣	хx		
	1N 2*	1NT 2 ♦ ! YC Q KC KJ	1NT P 2

Responder Describes Her Invitational Hand

Invite with 5-hearts, balanced

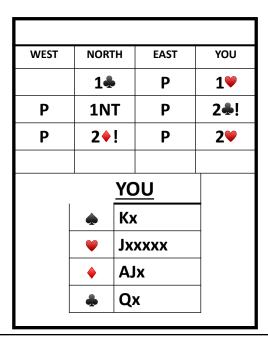
- 1. R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. Relay tells O she has a 5-hearts
- 3. 2NT = a 5332 balanced hand
- 4. Gives O a "Choice of Strains"
- 5. Invites O, with a max, to bid 3NT or 4♥
- 6. Invites O, with a min, to play 2NT or 3♥

WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	14	b	Р	1♥
Р	1N	Т	Р	2♣!
Р	2♦	İ	Р	2♥
		YC	<u>)U</u>	
	•	Q	хх	
	•	KC	Qxxx	
	•	KJ	ХХ	
	♣	x		

Invite with 5-hearts, unbalanced

- R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. Relay tells O she has a 5-hearts
- 3. 2♥ tells O she has an UNbalanced hand

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Responder Describes Her Invitational Hand

Invite with a weak 6-card heart suit

- 1. R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. Tells O she has a 5- or 6-card ♥-suit
- 3. Bids like 5-hearts unbalanced
- With a min invite and/or a poor 6-card suit, R rebids 2♥
- With a max invite and a good suit, R rebids

WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	14	b	P	1.
Р	1NT 2♦!	IT	Р	2♣!
Р	24	!	Р	3♥
		YC	<u>U</u>	
	•	Х		
	\	KC	Txxx	
	•	Q	(X	
	♣	Ах	XX	
L		-		

Invite with good 6-card heart suit

- R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. Tells O she has a good invite with a good 6-card heart suit

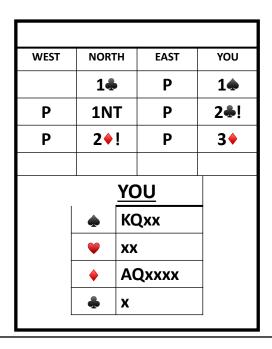
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WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	1♣		Р	1♥
Р	1N	Т	Р	2♣!
Р	2♦	·!	Р	24
		YC	<u>)U</u>	
	•	Q.	Jxx	
	♥ KC		Qxxx	
	•	Kx	(
	♣	хх		

Responder Describes Her Invitational Hand

Invite with 5-hearts and 4-spades

- 1. R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. Relay tells O she has 5-hearts
- 3. 2♠ rebid tells O she has 4-spades



Invite with 4-spades and the other minor

- 1. R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. By bidding a minor after the relay, R denies possibility of a major suit fit
 - 1. O denied 4-spades
 - 2. R doesn't have 4-hearts
- 3. 3♦ promises 6-diamonds
- 4. R is 6-4 with a singleton or void
- Bidding a minor immediately after the relay is the only exception where the relay doesn't promise a 5-card major

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NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
14	b	P	1.
1N	Т	Р	2♣!
2•	·!	Р	3♣
	YC	<u>)U</u>	
•	KC)xx	
•	xx		
•	XX		
•	AJ	ххх	
	1N 2*		1NT P 2 ♦! P YOU KQxx xx xx

Responder Describes Her Invitational Hand

Invite with 4-spades and opener's minor

- 1. R uses the relay to show an invitational hand
- 2. By bidding a minor after the relay, R denies possibility of a major suit fit
 - 1. O denied 4-spades
 - 2. R doesn't have 4-hearts
- 3. 3♣ promises min of 5-clubs
- 4. R is at least 5-4
- Bidding a minor immediately after the relay is the only exception where the relay doesn't promise a 5-card major

- Relay is the main way to invite, but
- •2 special cases to invite with no relay
- 1. With one 4-card major and balanced hand, R rebids 2NT
- 2. With both 4-card majors, R reverses

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WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	14	b	Р	14
Р	1NT		Р	2NT
		<u>YC</u>	<u>)U</u>	
	•	KC	Дхх	
	•	Q	ХХ	
	•	KJ	Х	
	.	хх	X	

Responder Describes Her Invitational Hand

Invite with 4-spades and balanced

- 1. R tries for a 4-4 spade fit
- 2. But doesn't find one
- 3. Doesn't use relay without 5-card M
- 4. Bids 2NT to show balanced with 4spades

WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	14	b	P	1♥
Р	1N	Т	Р	2.
		<u>YC</u>	<u>)U</u>	
	•	KC	Дхх	
	¥	Q	XXX	
	•	KJ	X	
	♣	хх		
		'		

Invite with 4-hearts and 4-spades

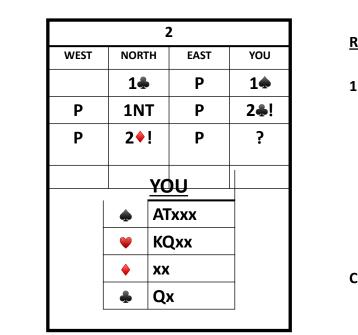
- 1. R tries for a 4-4 M fit
- 2. But doesn't find one
- 3. Doesn't use relay without 5-card M
- 4. R reverses to show 4-4 in the majors

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2-Way NMF In Action - Brief Quiz

		1			Pasnandar's 2rd hid?
WEST	NOR	тн	EAST	YOU	Responder's 3 rd bid?
	14	•	Р	14	1. R has an invitational hand wit
Р	1NT		Р	2♣!	6-spades
Р	24	!	Р	?	
	<u></u>	<u>YO</u>	<u>U</u>		
		Qx	xxxx		
	•	Кх			
	•	Axx	K		Correct Bid: 2
	♣	Qx			Correct Bid: ?

1					Responder's 3 rd bid?	
WEST	NOR	ТН	EAST	YOU		
	14	b	Р	14	 R has an invitational hand with 6- spades 	
P	1NT		P	2♣!	2. Weak suit	
P			Р	2 -:	3. Invitation isn't the best with no	
Р	2♦	!	Р	?	touching honors 4. 2♠ = invitational with 5-spades or 6 poor ones	
	YOU					
	•	Qxxxxx Kx		-		
	•					
	•	Ахх			2.e	
		♣ Qx			Correct Bid:	



Responder's 3rd bid?

1. R has an invitational hand with 5-spades and 4-hearts

Correct Bid:

?

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	2				
WEST	NOR	RTH	EAST	YOU	
	14	.	Р	1.	
Р	1NT		Р	2♣!	
Р	24	!	Р	2♥	
		YO	U		
	•			1	
	•	КО	(xx		
	•	хх			
		Qx	(

Responder's 3rd bid?

- 1. R has an invitational hand with 5-spades and 4-hearts
- 2. Use relay to show 5-spades
- 3. Bid 2♥ to show 4-hearts

Correct Bid:

2₩

		3	}		Responder's 3rd bid?
WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU	
	14	b	Р	14	 R has a balanced invitational han with 4-spades
Р	1N	IT	Р	?	2. To use the relay or not?
		<u>Y0</u>	<u>U</u>		
	•	AT	XX		
	•	KQ	(x		
	•	XX	Х		Correct Bid: ?
	♣ Qx	ζ		· ·	

3 Responder's 3rd bid? WEST NORTH **EAST** YOU R has a balanced invitational hand with 4-spades 1. P 14 1 To use the relay or not? 2. Ρ 1NT Ρ **2NT** No relay with a 4-card major 2NT = natural, balanced invite YOU **ATxx** KQx XXX 2NT **Correct Bid:** Qx

2♦ = GF, Responder Asking Opener About His Majors

Example: 1♦-1♥, 1NT-2♦!-?

- Remember GF means neither of us can pass below game
- Similar to regular NMF in that opener is being asked about his hand (rather than responder describing her hand)
- Responder is "Captain" and will typically determine final strain and level

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2♦ = GF, Responder Asking Opener About His Hand

Opener's Priorities to answer R's question:

- 1. 2M = 3-Card support for partner's major
- 2. 2oM = 4-Cards in the other major
- 3. 3m = Good 5- or 6-card minor
- 4. 2NT = None of the above
- Debate about this priority in the bridge world
 - Some say P1 is: oM, ♥1st (up the line), 3-card support

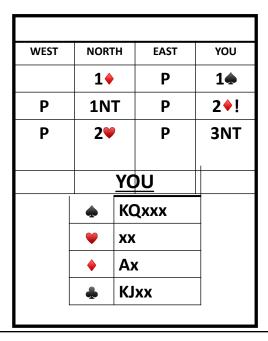
NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
1♦ 1NT		P P	1 ♠ 2 ♦ !
	YC	<u>U</u>	
	KC	Qxxx	
•	хх		
•	Ax	(
♣	KJ	ХХ	
	1 1 N 24	1NT 2♣ YC	1

2♦ = GF, R Asking O About O's Hand

GF with 5-spades

- 1. R has 5 spades
- 2. R checked back for 3-card support and finds it
- 3. No slam interest
- 4. Jumps to game

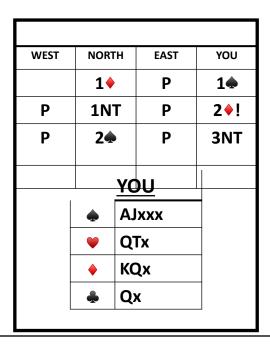
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2♦ = GF, R Asking O About O's Hand

GF with 5-spades

- 1. R has 5 spades
- 2. Checked back for 3-card support
- 3. O has 4-♥s and not 3-♠s
- 4. No major suit fit
- 5. No slam interest, so jumps to game in NT

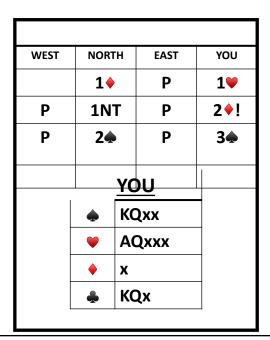


2♦ = GF, R Asking O About O's Hand

GF with 5-spades and 5332 shape

- 1. R has 5 spades
- 2. Checked back for 3-card support and O has it
- 3. With 5332 shape and 5-3 spade fit
- 4. Opposite a 1NT rebid
- 5. R offers "Choice of Games" 3NT or 4♠

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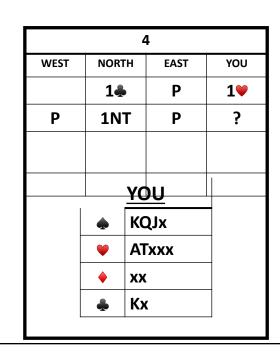
2♦ = GF, R Asking O About O's Hand

GF, slam interest, 5-hearts and 4-spades

- 1. R has 5 hearts
- 2. Checked back for 3-card support but O doesn't have it
- 3. But O has 4-spades, so a fit
- 4. With slam interest, R doesn't jump to game
- 5. R asks O to bid controls up the line

(Very) Brief Quiz

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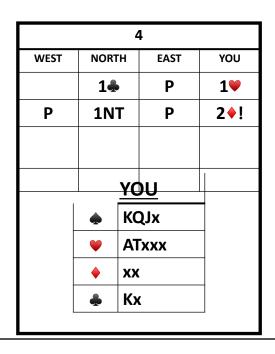


Responder's 2nd bid?

1. R has a GF hand with 4-spades and 5-hearts

Correct Bid:

?



Responder's 2nd bid?

- R has a GF hand with 4-spades and 5hearts
- 2. R uses 2d to check back with opener for 3-hearts or 4-spades
- 3. R will bid 4M with an 8-card fit (4-4 or 5-3) otherwise 3NT

Correct Bid:

2♦

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Jumps to the 3-Level

- GF, natural, showing quality suits + distributional hands with slam interest
- Jump to 3 of a lower ranking suit = GF, slam interest, min 5-5
 - Both suits must be high quality (2 of top-3, 3 of top-5)
 - 1♣-1♥, 1NT-3♦
- Jump to 3 of responder's bid suit = GF, slam interest, sets trump, asks opener to control bid
 - 1♣-1♥, 1NT-3♥

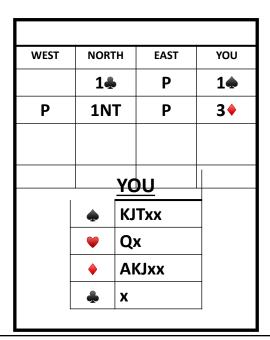
WEST	NORTH		EAST	YOU
	1	>	Р	14
Р	1NT		Р	3♥
				1
		YC	<u>u</u>	
	•	KJ	Тхх	
	•	Ał	(Jxx k	
	\rightarrow	Q		
	♣	х		7

Jump to 3 of a Lower Ranking Suit

GF 5-spades and 5-hearts

- 1. GF, minimum 5-5 shape
- 2. Slam possible if we fit well

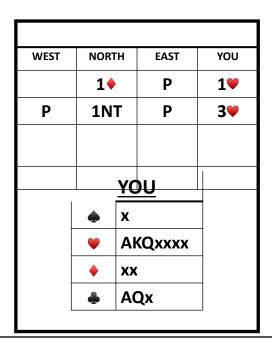
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Jump to 3 of a Lower Ranking Suit

GF 5-spades and 5-diamonds

- 1. GF, minimum 5-5 shape
- 2. Slam possible if we fit well



Jump to 3 of Responder's Suit

GF, slam interest, solid 7-card heart suit

- 1. GF, slam interest
- 2. Solid 6-card or longer suit with max 1-loser opposite xx
- 3. Sets trump
- 4. Asks opener to control bid up the line

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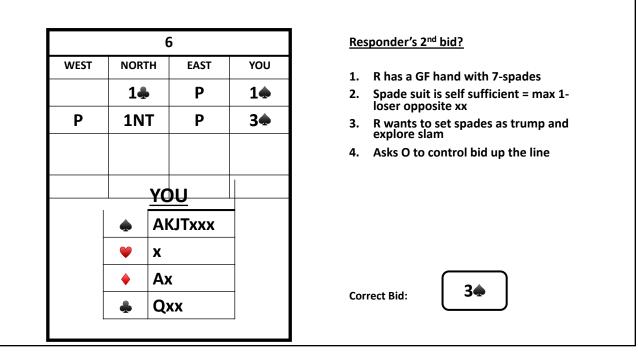
Brief Quiz

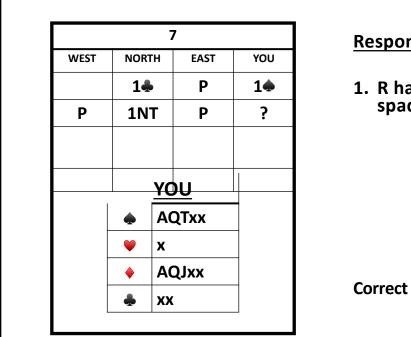
		5	5		Responder's 2 nd bid?
WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU	_ -
	14	b	Р	1.	 R has a GF hand with 6- spades
Р	1N	Т	Р	?	Spaces
		YC	<u>)U</u>		
	•	AC	Дхххх		
	•	х			
	•	Ах	(X		Correct Bid: 🥎
	*	Ах	Χ		•

5 Responder's 2nd bid? WEST **NORTH EAST** YOU 1. R has a GF hand with 6-spades 1. Ρ 1 Spade suit not strong enough for 3♠ Bid 2♦!, if O cannot support spades you know slam is out of the question Ρ 1NT P **2**♦! YOU **AQxxxx** X Axx **2 Correct Bid:** Axx

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		6	6		Responder's 2 nd bid?
WEST	NOR	тн	EAST	YOU	<u> </u>
	14	•	Р	1.	1. R has a GF hand with 7-
Р	1N	Т	Р	?	spades
		YC	<u>)U</u>		
	•	Ak	(JTxxx		
	•	x			
	•	Ах	(Correct Bid: ?
		Q	ΚX		,



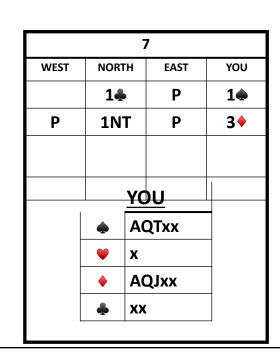


Responder's 2nd bid?

1. R has a GF hand with 5spades and 5-diamonds

Correct Bid: ?

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Responder's 2nd bid?

- 1. R has a GF hand with 5-spades and 5-diamonds
- 2. Both 5-card suits are high quality
- 3. Slam is possible if we have a fit

Correct Bid:

3♦

Responder Sign-Off Sequences

Objective: Play lowest possible part score in "strain" of choice

- NT = Pass opener's 1NT
- ♣ = Jump to 3♣
- ♦ = Make "false" relay to 2♦ and Pass
- M = Responder's rebids 2 of her M (her 1st suit) to play
 - Standard same as without any conventions
- M = Responder's 2H rebid , having started with a 1S response, is "Pass or Correct"
 - Standard same as without any conventions

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WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	1♣ 1NT		P P	1 ♠ 3♣
Р				
Р	Р		Р	
		<u>YC</u>	<u>U</u>	
		AJ	xx	
	•	хх		
	•	хх		
	♣	Jx	XXX	

Responder Signs Off in 3&

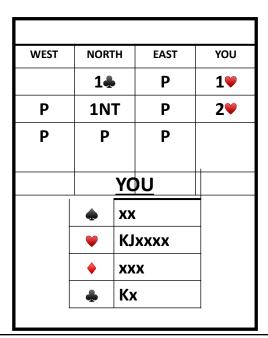
- 1. R tries for a spade fit
- 2. Doesn't find one, so jumps to 3♣
- 3. Special case exception of "Jump to the 3-level"

WEST	NOR	TH	EAST	YOU
	14	Þ	Р	1.
Р	1N	Т	Р	2♣!
Р	2	·!	Р	Р
		YC)U	
	•	AJ		
	W	хх		
	•	Jx	хххх	
	♣	хх		

Responder Signs Off in 2◆

- 1. R tries for a spade fit
- 2. Doesn't find one, so makes relay and passes

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Responder Signs Off in 2♥

- 1. R tries for a heart fit
- 2. Doesn't find one, so rebids 2♥to play
- 3. Note: this is Standard American

NORTH		EAST	YOU
1♣		Р	1.
1NT		Р	2₩
Р		Р	
	YC	<u>)U</u>	
•	Кх	XXX	
♥ KJ		XX	
•	хх		
♣ xx			
	14 1N P	1♣ 1NT P YC ♣ Kx ♥ KJ	1♣ P 1NT P P P YOU ★ Kxxxx KJxx xx

Responder Signs Off in 2M

- 1. R tries for a spade fit
- 2. Doesn't find one, so rebids 2♥ to give O a choice
- 3. O to pass or correct
- 4. Note: this is Standard American

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Responder Does Not Use 2-Way NMF When He...

- Passes opener's 1NT rebid with a flat minimum
- Invites by bidding 2NT with a flat 11-12 HCP and no 4-card (or longer) M
- Jumps to 3NT to play with balanced 13-16 HCP and no 4-card (or longer) M
- Jumps to game if no interest in anything else
 Qx, AQJTxx, xx, JKx
 1♦-1♥, 1NT-4♥
- Signs off with a weak hand that will play better in a suit than in 1NT

Interference and Passed Hand

- If opponents bid a suit, entire 2-Way NMF system is OFF
 - Cue bid or reverse by responder is forcing
- If opponents have doubled below 1NT, we ignore it, system is ON
- By Passed Hand, only invitational bids are on
 - 2♣ puppet, 2NT, reverse

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Components of 2-Way NMF

After opener rebids 1NT – e.g. 1♣-1♥; 1NT-?

- 1. Sign-off sequences = To play lowest-level part score in chosen strain
- 2. 2♣! = Invitational, forcing relay to 2♦ so R can describe her hand
- 3. 2NT* = Natural, invitational and balanced
- 4. 2♦! = GF, so R can ask opener about his majors
- 5. Jump to 3-level = GF and natural shows good suit(s), distributional hand and slam interest

Summary and Wrap-Up

- 2-Way NMF is an excellent tool to elevate a segment of your bidding
- But to get the benefit, you and partner must learn it, memorize it, recognize it when it comes up and then use it properly
- LC's guidance: "You will have better results if you get an 80% convention right 95% of the time than you will if you get a 95% convention right 80% of the time"
- Don't be discouraged if this seems complicated. It is. If more than you want right now, no problem. Just use regular NMF
- Regular NMF is more than adequate for a lot of players

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Thank You

- Thank you all for attending today
- Notes will be available on the Bridge Center's website
 - www.paloaltobridge.org Education/Lecture Series
- All questions, comments and feedback are welcome
- Please feel free to email me with any of the above at bsamuels811@gmail.com