

Bridge into the 21st Century

The Mini-Multi

If you are looking for a sharper scheme of opening two-bids, the Mini-Multi is well worth a try. Ishmael Del'Monte sings its praises, and it is steadily gaining followers in Sydney.



2♦ is a weak two in either major, 3-7 HCP. When not vulnerable, you may have a good five-card suit. 2♥ and 2♠ are natural weak twos, always a six-card suit, and 8-11 HCP. This takes the load off your opening bids, no more do you need to open 1♥ on hands like:

♠1093, ♥AQJ764, ♦4, ♣K87

The responses to 2♦ are the same as always, except far more conservative, and the 2NT response to 2♥ or 2♠ is an enquiry. The responses are:

2♥-2NT

3♣/♦	=	shortage
3♥	=	no shortage, minimum
3♠	=	shortage in spades
3NT	=	no shortage, maximum

2♠-2NT

3♣/♦/♥	=	shortage
3♠	=	no shortage, minimum
3NT	=	no shortage, maximum

The mini-2♦ creates many situations where opponents find themselves in unfamiliar territory, and must exercise good judgement to survive. It is not unusual to open 2♦ with a 3 HCP hand, and find yourself playing in 2♥ or 2♠:

Dealer: North

Vul: Nil

♠ Q J 10 7 5 2 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 10 6	♠ 9 3 ♥ J 8 ♦ A 7 3 2 ♣ A Q J 4 3
♠ 4 ♥ A K 10 3 2 ♦ Q J 9 5 ♣ 9 8 5	♠ A K 8 6 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ K 10 4 ♣ K 7 2

Our auction may require some explanation, maybe justification. On this deal from the SWPT Swiss in Canberra, North opened 2♦, 3-7 HCP.

South's plan is to stay as low as possible, so South bid 2♥, and North bid 2♠.

Neither East nor West thought it prudent to enter the auction, so North brought home eight tricks in spades while EW could make 10 tricks in hearts, diamonds, or clubs.

If you think East or West should have entered the auction, check out this deal:

Dealer: East

Vul: All

♠ 7 2 ♥ 10 2 ♦ A K Q 3 ♣ A J 8 7 5	♠ Q 9 8 4 ♥ A Q 8 7 5 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ 3
♠ A ♥ K J 9 ♦ J 9 6 ♣ K Q 10 9 4 2	♠ K J 10 6 5 3 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ 6

East opened 2♦, South overcalled 3♣, and West doubled. 3♥ would have been pass or correct, so West's double was for penalties. The defence scored three diamond tricks and three trump tricks for +500. A good return, seeing there was no game on for EW.

This deal from the NOT Final is an example of the many unusual situations that may arise:

Dealer: North

Vul: Nil

♠ --- ♥ A Q 10 7 4 ♦ K 9 8 5 3 ♣ A Q 9	♠ K Q 10 9 3 ♥ 8 5 ♦ J 10 ♣ 10 7 6 3
♠ 8 7 6 5 4 2 ♥ --- ♦ A 7 6 2 ♣ K 2	♠ J ♥ K J 9 6 3 2 ♦ Q 4 ♣ J 8 5 4

North opened 2♦, and South "knew" that North's suit was hearts. South bid 2♥, West passed, and North bid 2♠! East passed, and South was sitting on a bomb about to explode. You know EW are going to come back into the auction, so probably 4♠ is not enough. You need to bid 5♠ or 6♠.

South bid only 4♠, West doubled, and EW played in 5♥, making 12 tricks on the fortunate club lie.

These are the type of situations that will confront you when you play the Mini-multi. The 2♦ bid comes up frequently, there's lots of action, and it's great fun.

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