



Adventures in Bridge

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This Week in Bridge

(144) XYZ

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Level: 6

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General

When the auction begins 1X – 1Y – 1NT (where X and Y are different suit bids) then the modern treatment is to play *Two-Way New Minor Forcing*. This approach uses both 2♣* and 2♦* as artificial and forcing bids by Responder. 2♦* is an artificial game forcing bid, while 2♣* is generally used to start invitational bidding sequences.

XYZ is a convention that is an extension of this approach in other auctions that start with three bids at the one-level. Let's look at the details of how this can improve your bidding.

Two-Way in New Auctions: XYZ

This extended two-way approach, XYZ, applies to four other auctions:

- 1♣ 1♦
 1♥ __?

- 1♣ 1♦
 1♠ __?

- 1♣ 1♥
 1♠ __?

- 1♦ 1♥
 1♠ __?

In each of these auctions Responder uses 2♦ as an artificial game forcing bid to find out more about Opener's hand.



Example

1♦ 1♥
1♠ 2♦*

After Responder makes this 2♦* artificial game forcing bid, Opener further describes the shape and the strength of their hand. The 1♠ rebid showed 4-card ♠, 12-17 points, and usually an unbalanced hand. Opener still has a lot of information to share about their hand.

Responder can make other natural bids or use 2♣ as the start of an invitational sequence. Let's see how this works by looking at the details of a specific auction.

Example

1♦ 1♥
1♠ __?

- 1NT 6-10 points, no fit for either of Opener's suits
- 2♣* Artificial, relay to 2♦*, usually used to start an invitational sequence
- 2♦* Artificial and game forcing
- 2♥ 6+card ♥ suit, 6-9 points
- 2♠ 4-card ♠ support, 8-9 points, constructive values
- 2NT 10 to 12 points, no fit for either of Opener's suits
- 3♣ To play, 6-9 points, 6+card ♣ suit, usually only 4-card ♥ suit

Other higher bids can be used in a variety of different ways based on the agreements of your partnership.

Invitational Bidding Sequences – using the 2♣* Relay

After Responder uses 2♣* to relay to 2♦*, they can further describe their hand by ending the auction in 2♦ or making a natural and invitational bid.

Example

1♦ 1♥
1♠ 2♣*
2♦* __?

- Pass 4+card ♦, 6-9 points, to play
- 2♥ 6+card ♥, 10-11 points, invitational
- 2♠ 4-card ♠, 10-11 points, invitational
- 2NT Natural and invitational
- 3♣ 6+card ♣, 10-11 points, invitational
- 3♦ 4+card ♦, 10-11 points, invitational



Conclusion

If you play 2-Way NMF, then XYZ is a natural extension of Responder's bidding on the second round of the auction. Using this approach, Responder can simply and effectively describe constructive, invitational, and game forcing hands. *Give it a try!*