



MARTY BERGEN'S

SECRETS TO WINNING BRIDGE

Number 2

2/1 Game Forcing

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Sensible 2/1 GF Recommendations

1. A 2/1 GF response denies 4-card support for opener's major. With 4-card support and an opening bid, responder would bid Jacoby 2NT (or splinter).

2. Jumping in a suit without an established fit on a 2/1 GF auction is foolish.

3. We are always willing to play game or slam in a major with a 5-2 fit if we *know* that our side has 4+ honors in that suit.

4. After a 2/1 GF response, it is okay for opener to rebid a quality (3+ honors) 5-card suit if he lacks a good alternative. In fact, with 4 honors, he should strive to rebid the suit. "Any suit with 4 honors should be treated as if it had one additional card."

5. 2/1 GF auctions are far superior to those that begin with a 1-level response, because both players immediately know they're going to game. Therefore, when responder is strong enough to force to game, he should respond at the two level whenever possible.

For example: Partner opens 1♥, and you have 4+ cards in a minor suit, 4 spades, and 12+ HCP. Respond two of your minor, NOT 1♠. Not only will your 2/1 GF response result in a better auction, but when you show your spades *later on*, opener will know that it's only a 4-card suit. Here are some sample hands.

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

If partner opens 1♦, respond 2♣ with hands 1 and 2.