

Mini-Roman Convention

Definition: The Mini-Roman Convention or Mini-Roman “2D” Convention, as it is sometimes called, is an artificial (alertable) opening bid of “2D” which shows a 3-suited hand, 11-15 high card points, with either a 4-4-4-1 or a 5-4-4-0 distribution. If holding the latter 5-4-4-0 distribution, the 5-card suit is usually not a Major suit, and the singleton or void will not be in Spades. This allows for an easy exit at the 2-level should the Responder not have many points. The singular minor drawback to the use of this Convention is that it forfeits the possible use of a **Weak-2D** pre-emptive opening bid.

Purpose: The Convention allows Responder to quickly determine whether there is a game or a part-score, and whether the best contract is in a suit or in No-Trump. Without the use of the Mini-Roman Convention, Partnerships frequently have a difficult time in describing these particular hand shapes and of reaching the optimum final contract.

Responses

The **Mini-Roman “2D”** opening is artificial, and forcing. Responder has the following options: Responder who holds fewer than 11 HCP’s seeks a part-score contract, and with opening count, or better, seeks a game-level, or slam, final contract.

1. Absent Game-Going Values (Fewer than 11 HCP’s):

Responder and Opener use the so-called “**PASS and CORRECT**” concept. This means only that the Responder, being unable to pass the forcing “2D” opening bid, will bid up the line naturally, which, at the same time, shows no interest in game. Opener will either “**Pass**” if Responder’s bid does not name his/her shortage, or “**Correct**” to the next higher-ranking suit, if the bid names his shortage.

2. With Game Values (Opening Count or Better):

Responder’s “2-NT” bid is the only forcing response! It is forcing for 1-round, and Opener may **not** “Pass” It shows 12 (+) HCP’s, and is game-forcing. It asks Opener to bid his/her **short** suit in which he/she holds either a singleton or a void. Thus, in one subsequent bid from Opener, the Responder knows what three suits Opener holds and can then place the contract in either a **4H, 4S, 5C, 5D, or 3-NT** contract. When Responder’s long suit equals Opener’s short suit, Responder’s best course of action is to, most likely, simply bid **3-NT**.

Opener's Re-bids – After which Responder will Place the Final Contract

1. Over **2H - Pass**, or bid **2S** if Hearts be his/her singleton or void
2. Over **2S - Pass**, or bid **3C** if Spades be his/her short singleton or void
3. Over “2-NT” - bid the singleton or void

Defense Against Mini-Roman Contracts

The advantage to the system is the power of the short suit. The hand lends itself to a cross ruff. The best defense against the system, therefore, is to lead trump in any final suit contract.