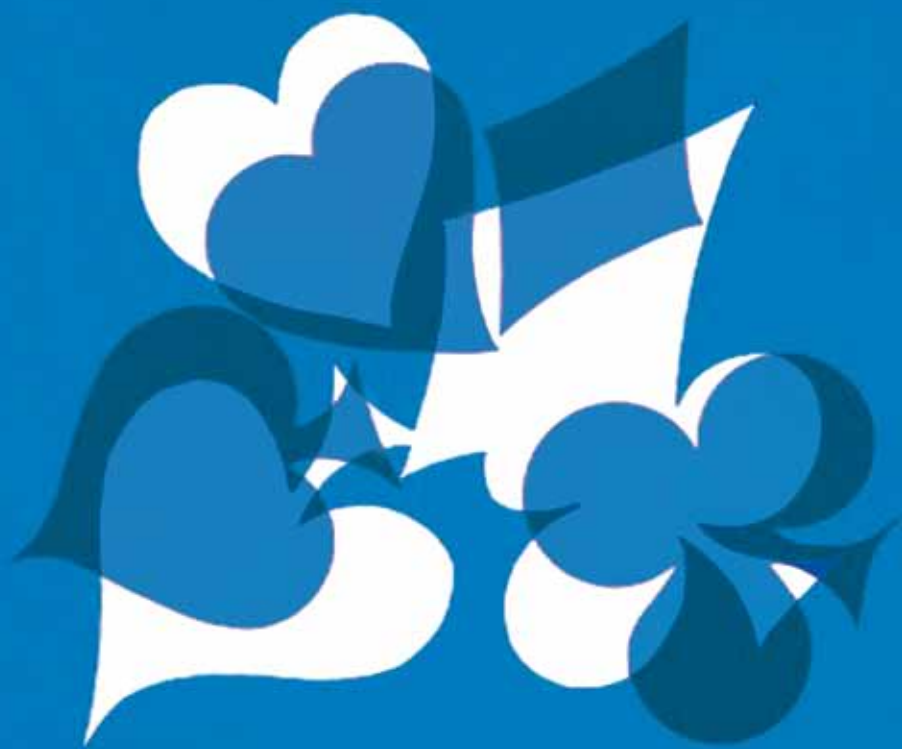


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

# TWO-WAY CHECKBACK

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

# TWO-WAY CHECKBACK

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## **Two-Way Checkback**

# Two-Way Checkback

(2 Way New Minor)

## Introduction

Two-Way Checkback (2WCB) is an approach to bidding after a 1NT rebid by opener. It replaces what is normally used today – New Minor Forcing (NMF). It occurs after opener bids one of any suit, responder bids one of any suit and opener rebids 1NT.

The 3 basic hand types that responder might hold are:

- Weak (sign-off) hands (6-10 points);
- Invitational hands (10-12 Points); or
- Forcing hands (13+ points or hands that want to be in game because of shape).

2WCB (as well as the traditional New Minor Forcing) both have flaws relating to stopping in a minor suit at a low level. However, 2WCB allows much more definition and clarity in the invitational and forcing sequences. It is capable of relaying information to opener concerning responder's distribution, high card strength and location of strength so that the correct strain (suit or No Trump) and level (part-score, game or slam) can be reached.



## The Basics

The basic premise of 2WCB is that **rebids by responder of 2♣, 2♦ and 2NT are all artificial.**

There are 4 features to the system:

- 1) The 2♣ response to a 1NT opener rebid is a forced relay to 2♦;
- 2) The 2NT response to a 1NT opener rebid is a forced relay to 3♣;
- 3) The 2♦ response to a 1NT opener rebid is an artificial game force, even if partner's opening bid was 1♦. It is often a major suit "checkback" (inquiring about opener's major suit distribution) but can also be a prelude to showing a forcing bid in a minor or even a slammish hand; and
- 4) Jump rebids by responder, in any suit, are forcing. They describe "pure" hands - good suit(s) with HCPs concentrated in the long suit(s).

## The Sign-off Hands

Responder's rebid of the original major (or 2♥ if 1♠ was the initial response) are not forward going. ***Remember that opener, by re-bidding 1NT, showed a balanced hand with 12-14 points. Opener's hand is known and well-defined. Responder is in charge of making the decision about how high they belong.***

Some examples:

Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3	
<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1♣	1♠	1♣	1♠	1♥	1♠
1NT	2♠	1NT	2♥	1NT	2♠

**Hand 1** – 2♠ is a weak (6-9 points) hand with at least five spades. Opener **must** pass;

**Hand 2** – 2♥ is a weak (6-9 points) hand with at least five spades and at least four hearts. Opener must pass 2♥ or bid 2♠. No other bids are acceptable; and

**Hand 3** – 2♠ is a weak (6-9 points) hand with at least five spades. Opener **must** pass;

The approach to signing off in a minor is a little more complicated and is as follows:

- To sign-off in 2♦, responder bids 2♣ - Opener should alert and, if asked, explain the bid as a

**RELAY** to 2♦, either to play or the start of an invitational sequence; or

- To sign-off in 2♣, responder bids 2NT - Opener should alert and, if asked, explain the bid as a **RELAY** to 3♣ and shows a weak hand with 6+ clubs (5 clubs if 1♣ was opened).

As responder if you would like to *sign off in diamonds* the auction would go:

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1♣	1♠
1NT	2♣
2♦	Pass

- 2♣ is an artificial relay to 2♦.
- 2♦ is a required bid. **No other action** by North is allowed.
- Pass says, “I have a hand that wants to play 2♦”. ***Remember, you can’t bid 2♦ directly over 1NT as a natural bid because it now has an artificial meaning.***

Responder’s hand might look something like this:

♠J743   ♥5   ♦AJ9864   ♣75

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## Two-Way Checkback

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Two-Way Checkback convention.



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