

## 2/1 TAB (Trump Asking Bid) -William Rawlings- 08/22/2017

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2/1 TAB is a new convention using old components. Most everyone is familiar with 2/1 Game Force, far fewer are familiar with the Trump Asking Bids (TAB) of the precision system. 2/1 TAB combines elements of each to form a dynamic new convention that is game forcing, confirms a trump fit and asks the Opener to further describe his/her Trump suit. That's a lot of work for one bid. Better yet it is very simple: after an opening of 1♥ or 1♠ a response of 2♣ says I have an opening hand but I do not have 3-card support for your suit. 2♦ says I have an opening hand with at least 3-card support for your suit, tell me more about your suit. It's that simple.

“2/1 TAB” is used only over 1♥ or 1♠ openings. It begins with a conventional bid by the responder described in item 3 of Permitted Responses under the General Convention Chart which allows the responders to use 2♣/2♦ to indicate a Game Forcing Hand, since this portion of the convention may be used as a stand-alone convention I refer this portion as: “2/1 Trump Confirmation”.

Here is the essential difference between “2/1 GF” and “2/1 Trump Confirmation”:

RHO	Opener	LHO	Responder
	1♥	Pass	2♣

In standard “2/1 GF”; 2♣ would indicate Responder has an opening hand and a biddable ♣ suit.

In “2/1 Trump Confirmation”; 2♣ is artificial, **alertable** and game forcing, describing Responder's hand as having opening values but **fewer than 3-cards in the Opener's suit**.

RHO	Opener	LHO	Responder
	1♥	Pass	2♦

In standard “2/1 GF”; 2♦ would indicate Responder has an opening hand and a biddable ♦ suit.

In “2/1 Trump Confirmation”, 2♦ is artificial, **alertable** and game forcing, describing Responder's hand as having opening values and confirming **at least 3-card support in Opener's bid suit**.

To make “2/1 Trump Confirmation” into “2/1 TAB” we simply add meaning to the 2♦ response:

2♦ is artificial, **alertable**, game forcing, describing Responder's hand as having opening values and confirming at least 3-card support in Opener's bid suit **and** asks Opener to further describe his/her Trump Holding.

Whatever the trump suit the asking bid will always be 2♦.

Starting from 2♦ the Opener's rebids to describe his/her trump suit are:

Step	Bid	Interpretation:	(Top Honors =AKQ)
1.	2♥	5/6 cards,	no top honors
2.	2♠	5/6 cards suit	1 top honor
3.	2N	5/6 card suit	2 top honors
4.	3♣	5 card suit,	all 3 top honors
5.	3♦	5 card suit,	all 3 top honors +Singleton or void
6.	3♥	6 card suit,	all 3 top honors +Singleton or void

All 3 level bids indicate all 3 top honors(AKQ), they also define length and may indicate voids or singletons

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### Responders 2<sup>nd</sup> bid:

4♥/4♠-Signoff no slam interest

Any suit other than Trumps-Slam interest; Control Bid-1<sup>st</sup> round control\*\*

3/4NT=1430/RKC: Even though the Trump suit has already been defined there may be occasions where 1430 or RKC would be more appropriate. Since the Trump suit has been agreed 3NT may be used to ask for Aces or keycards. Other partnerships may choose to save 3NT to Play when both partners have balanced hands.

\*\*Because you can begin Control bids at a low level it is generally best to bid 1<sup>st</sup> round and 2<sup>nd</sup> round controls sequentially, assuring more accuracy. Control bids unfortunately also give the Defense valuable information.

If you play Precision or plan to in the future you may prefer to use standard Precision responses:

The standard Precision opener's rebids starting from a 2♦ asking bid are:

Step	Bid	Interpretation:	(Top Honors =AKQ)
1.	2♥	5 or more cards no top honors	(0)*
2.	2♠	5 card suit 1 top honor	(1)*
3.	2N	5 card suit 2 top honors	(2)*
4.	3♣	6 card suit 1 top honor	(1)*
5.	3♦	6 card suit 2 top honors	(2)*
6.	3♥	5 or more cards, all 3 top honors	(3)*

\*To assist in remembering these Walter Orchard in his book "Precision 101" recommends (012123)

If you presently play Precision or plan to in the future you may consider using these responses.

The Standard American rule of a new suit by an unpassed responder is based on the unlimited nature of Standard American responses. Since, in partnerships using "2/1 TAB", the responder has had an opportunity to declare a game forcing hand by bidding either 2♣ or 2♦, any other bid shows less than game forcing values and may be passed without fear of missing game. By agreement. Any bid, other than 2♣/2♦, by an unpassed Responder may or may not be a forcing bid when this convention is adopted by a partnership.

In systems in which the opening bid is limited, such as Precision and Big Club, the responder will be the Captain unless he/she chooses to relinquish control. Until that time there is no reason for the Responder to describe their hand to the Opener other than to say it is or is not game forcing and does or does not have 3 or more trumps. For many players, the "2/1 Trump Convention" will be enough. It will allow you to determine the proper strain for your contract at the earliest possible time, 2♣ responses may be followed by a series of bid to determine the feasibility of a No-Trump contract. Knowing there is a Game Force allows the partnership to explore at a leisurely pace.

"2/1 GF", "2/1 Trump Confirmation" and "2/1 TAB" are all game forcing bids, they all require the use of "Forcing NT".

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Without “2/1 TAB” many partnerships will explore for slam by first Control bidding their non-trump suits, then use RKC or 1430 to determine the location of the Trump honors. This prematurely reveals a great deal of information to the defense. “2/1 TAB” allows you to make critical decisions regarding the practicality of a slam before you have provided critical information to the defense. Since responder can start control bids on his first re-bid and since trumps are checked without RKC you have a much larger range to bid Controls, therefore it is more practical to bid 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round control sequentially, leading to greater accuracy and more Grand Slams.

Some players may prefer to use only the “2/1 Trump Confirmation” part of the convention, nothing could be simpler. If you think finding a trump fit and confirming or denying game forcing values is better than just confirming or denying game forcing values, then “2/1 Trump Confirmation” is for you. If you want to give yourself the best chance of finding every slam, give “2/1 TAB” a shot.