

Chapter 7: Opening 2♦

The 2♦ opening in Key Lime Precision I feel is one of the most prized assets of the system. It's a multiple use bid with strong connotations, to allow it to be used in GCC level events in the ACBL (as some might note, the Multicolored 2♦ is NOT permitted in GCC events and is spelled out on the Mid-Chart). How I came to incorporate this bid was by sheer accident.

I was in Las Vegas attending the fall North American Bridge Championships (NABC) in November 2001. It was about halfway through the event and I decided to take a day off play because I was tired and in desperate need of sleep (to give you an idea, I played nearly 75 percent of the sessions). So I went over to a bookseller who had an impressive spread of books that covered many diverse topics. I happened to stumble unto some books by Dr. George Rosenkranz, the brilliant creator of Romex. I've always been a fan of his, but I hadn't read hardly any of his texts. So I bought 3 books and went back to my hotel room eager to find new treasures in his writings. What I discovered really changed my way of approaching the game...

As some of you remember, on the drive out to Las Vegas from Huntsville, AL, I was trying to come up with a tool that would allow me to get to my contracts that I was completely missing up on. Also, I had done a lot of research to find that even in the Bermuda Bowl the United States have had the same problems in world-class competition. I had made the decision to start work on what is now Key Lime Precision by taking the Reese Precision that I was playing at the time and converting it into a highly tuned system that could compete in any arena. What I was running into was that the strong club in the earlier forms of Precision was overloaded - if you had a 3 suited hand, or a hand that was 2 suited with the minors, or a hand that was strong and balanced, you normally had to open it one club and then hope your partner had a positive response in order to have the time and space to bid your hand type accurately. This was a problem that needed to be fixed constructively without making things harder than they needed to be.

I opened his text about the Romex Forcing Club, and was reading it and then there it was - a whole chapter devoted to the new and improved Romex 2♦ opening. Not only did this bid make sense, it was the solution to so many problems with forcing clubs. It had the tools to bid a 3 suited hand, a strong balanced hand, and a game forcing hand with diamonds as one of the possible two suits. The genius was self-evident, the response structure sound, and the joy immeasurable.

I modified the point ranges to fit it into KLP, but the concepts of the Romex 2♦ opening are self-evident. Furthermore, it allows me to show a 2 suited minor hand by the 2NT opener, which also solved a problem when you have a x-x-4-5 hand with diamonds and clubs. I am very grateful to Dr. Rosenkranz's solution to

a most complicated problem. I also recommend for those that are interested to read his texts where it relates to slam bidding - his writings are the best that I've ever seen, especially on CONFIT and Super CONFIT. You'll have epiphanies like I did and be better for it I assure you.

Now that I have your curiosity and attention here's the characteristics of the KLP 2♦ opening:

1. A strong balanced hand that you would open with 2NT or a classic 3NT in SAYC with ALL SUITS STOPPED (otherwise open these hands 1♣ followed by a jump into NT).
2. A 4-4-4-1 hand with unknown shortage, 16+HCP (Roman 2♦ revisited for those Blue Team fans).
3. A GF hand with diamonds as one of the possible two suits.

We for the sake of uniformity always assure that partner has the strong balanced hand, and the response structure is indicative of that:

- 2♥/♠ - relays, showing shortness in the bid suit, asking for opener's hand type
- 2NT - transfer to ♣
- 3♣ - Hoffman Stayman, showing 4-4 or better in the majors
- 3♦/♥ - transfer to hearts/spades
- 3♠ - 5-5 in minors
- 3NT - 2 suited hand, either pointed (♦ and ♠) or round (♣ and ♥)
- 4♣ - 5-5 in majors or better
- 4♦ - RKC in diamonds

After the relay bid is made, opener will rebid 2/3NT with the strong balanced hand. If they are three suited in nature they will bid the suit of their shortage at the three level (you may elect to bid the suit BELOW shortage - your choice), and if you have a diamond hand you'll make your rebids as follows:

- 3NT - Gambling in nature, promises an outside stop, pass or correct
- 4♣/♥/♠ - that bid suit and diamonds, asking to pass or correct
- 4♦ - a strong diamond hand, asking partner to cuebid nearest control

Over the 2/3NT rebid, your system of responses like you'd use in 2/1 or SAYC are on, with Puppet Stayman, transfers, Minor Suit Stayman, and Gerber in play. The difference between transferring here instead of transferring directly opposite the 2♦ opening is that normally if one directly transfers they DENY game going values and are looking for a place to stop. However a delayed transfer shows interest.

I think you'll find this opening to be of great use, regardless of system approach - it solves many problems without conceding anything (except a weak 2♦, but

when do they really come up?). I cannot speak its laurels enough - try it and enjoy!