



Ken Eichenbaum

**A MODERN
APPROACH TO
TWO-OVER-ONE**

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A Modern Approach
to
Two Over One

**For The Intermediate
and
Advanced Player**

By Ken Eichenbaum

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Introduction

The lure of 2/1 from Standard American was primarily due to the ease of rebids once a two-over-one had been made. The ambiguity of Standard American had been dealt a mighty blow.

However, once going past the basic approach of a 2/1 structure, there are many different understandings, treatments, and conventions that can be employed. The key in any system is to be able to cover the *most frequently occurring* hand types in the best way with methods that are easily understood by those who are playing that system. If the system is too complex for the user, confusion will reign supreme, and if too simple, guess work will prevail.

All too often I am asked questions on bidding problems, and when I query about the meaning of a systemic bid, I receive a blank stare as though this were the “final Jeopardy” clue. For the average player, a good bidding structure must be relatively easy, as well as coherent and comprehensive,

Most of the problems in bidding arise from either poor judgment due to poor evaluation, or confusion due to lack of preparation. This treatise is primarily geared to giving you methods that PREPARE you for a plethora of situations, allowing you to reach a good contract the majority of the time.

I. No-trump Structure

Stayman

OPENER

1NT

RESPONDER

A. 2♣ = Stayman: Asks for a four-card major.

2♦ No four-card major

1. Pass = no game interest, usually 4-3-5-1 or 3-4-5-1 pattern.

2. 2♥ = no game interest with four or five hearts and four spades, or possibly four hearts, three spades and five clubs.

If opener is 3-3 in the majors he should pass. With three spades and two hearts he should “correct” to 2♠. If responder has the “odd” 3-4-1-5 he will correct to 3♣.

♠KJ4 ♥A6 ♦Q974 ♣AJ85

♠Q86 ♥K974 ♦2 ♣107643

1NT

2♣

2♦

2♥

2♠

3♣

Pass

1NT

2♣

2♦/2♥

3. 2♠ = five spades and mild game try, usually with a second four- or five-card suit.

1NT

2♣

2♦

4. 3♥ and 3♠ are SMOLEN: with 5-4 in the majors and a game forcing hand, jump in the FOUR card major!

GET OUT OF THE STONE AGE

For those of you who wish to expand your horizons, this book may be the answer you have been looking for.

A Modern Approach to Two-Over-One was written for the player who already uses a basic two-over-one approach, but is looking for more comprehensive methods to “glue” his system together. Special modern treatments and conventions are introduced to help cover the outer edges of the bell curve, allowing you to intelligently explore those “hard to reach” places.

We can no longer live in the past with limited tools. If you want to be competitive in this modern age of bidding, get out of the stone age and enter the twenty-first century!



Ken Eichenbaum is a nationally known author and bridge instructor. He has won numerous regional events and has lectured at numerous tournaments. His two bridge plays, “The Wizard of Odds” and “Annie Count Your Trumps”, have been performed at various bridge tournaments. Ken’s previous books, *Bridge Without a Partner* and *Winners, Losers, and Cover Cards*, are available from Master Point Press.

