

## Bridge Chestnut - "A change of suit by an unpassed responder is forcing"

This chestnut is by partnership agreement. It is meant to apply to uncontested auctions not starting with 1NT or a pre-empt. When our auctions start with 1NT or a pre-empt, our responses have different meanings.

1♥	1♣
1NT	2♣
?	

Here is a typical auction where opener must keep bidding. Responder's hand is unlimited.

On the contrary:-

1♣	1NT
2♣	2♦
?	

This 2D bid "begs to be dropped". Responder has shown less than 10 HCP, at least 6 diamonds and hopeless holdings in opener's black suits.

1♣	(2♣)	2♦
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Whether 2D is forcing depends on partnership agreement. Here, the opponents have overcalled at the two level showing a goodish hand. Many pairs play 2♦ here as a Negative Free Bid showing about 8 – 11 HCP and a 5 card suit, not forcing.

Again this bidding is by partnership agreement, a negative free bid of 2D here does not promise invitational values, but is similar to a weak 2 preemptive opening bid as responder would X first with enough strength to compete.