

# Modified Flannery



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Flannery is often played as a 2♦ opening showing 5 Hearts, 4 Spades, and 11-16 High Card Points. If responder favors Hearts, the responder would often end up playing the hand. Personally, I think the person with the majority of Hearts should be playing the hand if Hearts is to be the contract. For that reason, I prefer the opening bid of 2♥ to show the Heart/Spade combination.

Of course, you lose the opportunity to open a weak 2♥. I do not consider this to be a great loss. Consider the opening bid of 2♥ as the modified Flannery opening bid with the following responses.

As an opening bid, 2♥ would promise a hand having 5-6 Hearts, 4 Spades, and 11-16 High Card Points. Rarely 6 Hearts, and 5 Spades.

OPENER	RESPONDER	BIDDING INTENT	
2♥	Pass	To Play	
	2♠	To Play	
	3♣	To Play, opener may still	raise
	3♦	Slam try forcing 3♥	
	2NT	Forcing Inquiry	
	3♥, 3♠	Invitational fit, 7-9	
	4♣	South African xfer to 4♥	
	4♦	South African xfer to 4♠	

Let's take a look at the 3♦ and 2NT responses and see how the bidding progresses.

OPEN/

REBID	RESPONDER	BIDDING INTENT
2♥	3♦	Slam try forcing 3♥
3♥	4♣/4♦	Control bids in support of ♥
	3♠	Confirms slam try in Spades

OPEN/

REBID	RESPONDER	BIDDING INTENT
2♥	2NT	Forcing Inquiry
3♣		1 Club, 3 Diamonds

3♦	1 Diamond, 3 Clubs
3♥	minimum 4-5-2-2
3NT	maximum 4-5-2-2
4♥	maximum 5-6-1-1

I have used this pattern for some time now and have found it to be very effective. As any other convention, use it if you like it and have fun with it. ♣