

A Basic Modern Acol Bidding System

LESSON 5: BIDDING 2C AS OPENER

2♣ is artificial and needs to be alerted. It is a STRONG GAME-FORCE bid and shows:

- A balanced or semi-balanced hand with 23+ high-card points OR
- An unbalanced hand that is simply too strong to open a suit at level 1

Unbalanced guideline is: 9 winners in a MAJOR suit or 10 winners in a MINOR suit. Otherwise it is better to open big shapely hands at the level 1. You can catch up later.

Because responder doesn't know the type of hand that his partner has, it is suggested for simplicity that responder can make only two responses.

Either

- 2♦ 'WAITING' this shows any hand with 4+ points OR with a KING. This is an unconditional game-force and SLAM is possible
- 2♥ 'NEGATIVE' this shows less than 4 points AND/ OR NO KING. Game may not be possible and slam is unlikely.

After a 2♦ response, if opener is balanced he rebids:

- 2NT with 23-24 high-card points
- 3NT with 25-27

Responder who 'WAITED' can then pass, play "system-on" (i.e. stayman, puppet stayman, transfers) or place the final contract.

After a 2♥ response, if opener is unbalanced he rebids:

- Suit at the lowest level showing 9 winners in a MAJOR suit or 10 in a MINOR suit

Responder who 'WAITED' now knows the type of game-forcing bid partner has made and can bid according to their hand to find the best place to play in game or slam.

After a 2♥ response, if opener is balanced he rebids:

- 2NT with 23-24 high-card points

the NEGATIVE responder can PASS, correct to 3NT with something, or make a "system-on" best contract try bid as above to continue the conversation and find the best place to play

- 3NT with 25-27

knowing that partner may have nothing, not even an entry!

After a 2♥ response, if opener is unbalanced he:

- RAISES 2♥ to 3♥ if that is his suit. He has 9 winners and is inviting game. Responder can pass or bid on.
- can bid his own suit to describe his hand. Responder with something can chance a raise to game in a MAJOR, continue by raising opener's suit (suggesting a fit) or chance 3NT, the 9 trick game.

The 2♥ bid is a "LIMIT" warning bid. It does not state that game or even slam are not possible if opener, the game-forcer is super-strong and needs little or no support. They may have an unbalanced hand with more winners than shown by their opening bid.

This approach is of a "hybrid" nature. There are many others. It is a combination of lessons from different sources.