



The strong 2 ♣ bid

28 January 2020

Two criteria for bidding 2 ♣

1. 23+ HCPs in a Balanced or Unbalanced hand

or

2. 9 certain tricks in an Unbalanced hand

i.e. You can win at least 9 immediate tricks in a trump contract with:

i. no help for your Partner

ii. a reasonable expectation of the split of trumps between your opponents

N.B. For **2.** there are a couple of EBU requirements of minimum strength,

the main one being to have 16+ HCPs

Responses to a 2 ♣ bid

Content of your hand		Response bid
Strength	Shape	
< 8 HCPs	Any	2 ♦
8+ HCPs or 7 HCP with Ace and King	Without a 5+ card suit	2 NT
	With a 5+ card suit	2 ♥, 2 ♠, 3 ♣, or 3 ♦

These are your only responses

Rebid by 2 ♣ Opener after 2 ♦ response

Shape of Opener's hand		
Balanced		Unbalanced
23 – 24 HCPs:	2 NT	Rebid longest suit
25+ HCPs:	3 NT	
Responder's next bid		
Responder would only Pass 2 NT with < 2 HCPs		Responder can bid No Trumps to show lack of support for Opener's suit or too few points to think Game is in reach
Game forcing	With 2+ HCPs, Responder can use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 3 ♣ Stayman ii. 3 ♦ & 3 ♥ Red Suit Transfers iii. 3 ♠ to show 5 ♠ s and 4 ♥ s 	Otherwise, Responder can : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Support Opener's suit with 3+ cards (probably also with 2 cards because opener likely to have 6+ cards) ii. Bid her own longest suit

Continuing after a strong 2 ♥, 2 ♠, 2 NT, 3 ♣, or 3 ♦ response

- ♦ If you have 23+ HCPs, your Partnership has a combined strength of 31+ HCPs (23+ and 8+), which leaves your Opponents with a maximum combined strength of 9 HCPs
- ♣ **You know you should make a Game contract, but can you make at least 12 tricks in a Slam contract? This is a Game forcing situation.**
- ♥ All subsequent bids are informative and should be kept to the lowest level until bidder is certain of most suitable final contract

For example, in the Majors - ♥ s and ♠ s,

- ♠ A Game bid of 4 ♥ or 4 ♠ closes the auction
- ♠ Whereas a bid of 3 ♥ or 3 ♠ is stronger and invites exploration of a Slam

Example 1 of 2 ♣ bidding

1 HCP

♠	J	8	7	
♥	10	6	4	2
♦	9	8		
♣	8	5	3	2

2♥ Pass

Pass

Pass

	North	
West		East
	South	

2♣ 2NT Pass

♠	A	Q	10	5
♥	K	Q	J	
♦	A	K	J	4
♣	K	J		

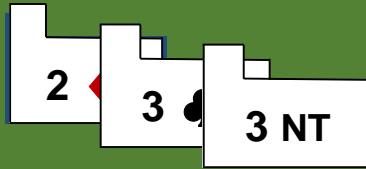
24 HCP

Example 2 of 2 ♣ bidding

5 HCP

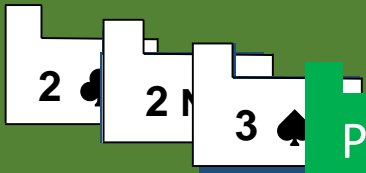
♠	J	8	7	
♥	A	6	4	2
♦	9	8		
♣	8	5	3	2

Pas Pas Pas Pass



Pas Pas Pass

	North	
West		East
	South	



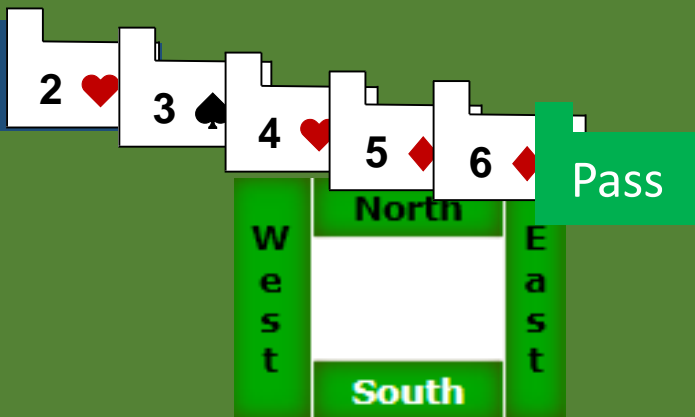
Pass

♠	A	Q	10	5
♥	K	Q	J	
♦	A	K	J	4
♣	K	J		

24 HCP

10 HCP

♠	9	7	3		
♥	A	Q	10	7	3
♦	J	8	3	2	
♣	K				



♠	A	K	Q	J	10	5	2
♥	K	J					
♦	A	K					
♣	Q	J					

24 HCP

Example 4 of 2♣ bidding

Pas Pas Pas Pa Pas Pass
 Pas Pas Pas Pa Pas Pass

Pa Pas Pas Pa Pas Pass
 Pas Pas Pas Pa Pas Pass
 Pass

Blackwood asking for Aces with 4 NT and Kings with 5NT

4♦ bid shows control of ♦s, without control of ♣s

4♥ bid shows control of ♥s