

Strong 2 Opening





Beginning Bridge with 2 over 1
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Agenda:

- Review of Weak 2 Bids
- Strong 2 Club Openings
- Blackwood/Gerber - Ace/King asking conventions
- Bid, Discuss and Play sample hands

Review: What are Weak Two Bids?

- Weak Two Opening bids are called **preemptive** bids. They show a weak hand and....
- **6-card suit** and 5-11 HCP with two or more honor cards in the bid suit.
 - Two of the top 3 honors - ex. **AQJ**xxx or **AK**xxxx or **KQ**xxxx
 - Three of the top 5 honors - ex. **AQT**xxx or **AJT**xxx or **KQT**xxx
- You would not generally use a Weak Two bid **if you have a 4 card major or a VOID** in addition to your 6 card suit.
- Weak Two Bid examples: 2 , 2  & 2 
- So, what does 2  mean????

Strong 2 Opening

- Two kinds of hands open 2  - this bid is artificial and forcing
 - Two types of hands
 - Balanced hands with 22+HCP points
 - Strong, 22+HCP points, unbalanced hands, usually one suited , 8 ½ quick tricks

Emphasis should be more on trick taking potential than points

What are “Quick Tricks”?

Quick Tricks are calculated suit by suit as follows:

- **2 quick tricks** = AK of the same suit.
- **1 1/2 quick tricks** = AQ in the same suit.
- **1 quick trick** = A.
- **1 quick trick** = KQ in the same suit.
- **1/2 quick trick** = Kx (not K singleton).

Example: AKQJxxx of ♠ and an AQ in another suit is likely to be 8 ½ quick tricks. Notice only 16 HCP

What would you bid as the Opener?

1. ♠ KQ94
♥ AKQ1084
♦ AK
♣ J (22 HCP - 24 total points)

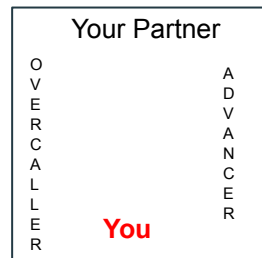
Ans: 2 ♣

2. ♠ AKJ4
♥ K3
♦ AJ108
♣ AK9 (23 HCP - 23 total points)

Ans: 2 ♣

3. ♠ KJ953
♥ AKJ6
♦ A4
♣ Q3 (18 HCP - 19 total points)

Ans: 1 ♠



Opener

Responding to a 2♣ opening

- Responder's options
 - 2♦ - called a "waiting bid" and is forcing for one round - most common response
 - Responder has a minimum of 1 Ace or 1 King - minimum of 3 HCP
 - 2♥
 - Responder **does not have** an A or K
 - Opener's 2nd bid is not "forcing"
 - 2♠, 3♥, 3♣
 - All suggest at least 8+ points, a good 5 card suit with at least 2 of the top 3 honors or 3 of the top 5
 - Any of the above are considered a Game forcing bid

What would you bid as the Responder?

Responder's hand

1. ♠ 9 8 7 4
♥ J 8 6 5 2
♦ 8 3
♣ 7 4 (1 HCP)

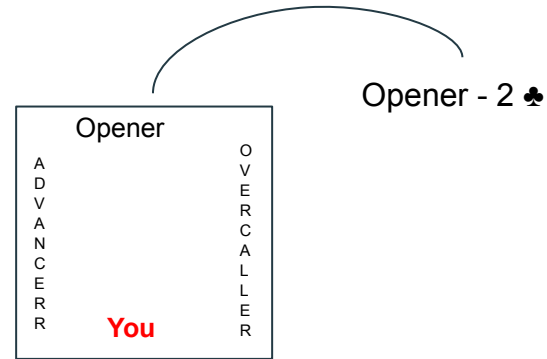
Ans: 2♥

2. ♠ J 5
♥ A Q J 8 3
♦ 8 7 6 3
♣ 9 4 (8 HCP - 9 Total)

Ans: 3♥

3. ♠ K 2
♥ 9 5 4
♦ A J 10 8 6 3
♣ 7 2 (8 HCP - 10 Total)

Ans: 3♦



Responder ?

What would you bid as the Responder?

Responder's hand

1. ♠ Q 9 3
♥ K 10 8 4
♦ Q J 4
♣ J 5 4 (9 HCP)

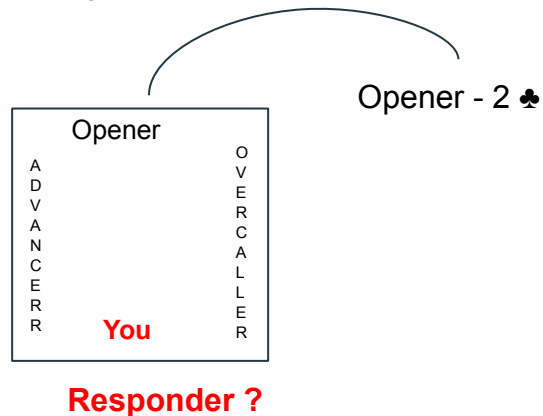
Ans: 2 ♦

2. ♠ 6
♥ J 7 6 5 3
♦ K 8 5
♣ A 8 7 4 (8 HCP)

Ans: 2 ♦

3. ♠ Q 9 7 5 4 2
♥ 8 3
♦ A 6 2
♣ 5 3 (4 HCP)

Ans: 2 ♦



Opener's rebids following 2♦ waiting response

- When opener has a “balanced” hand....
 - With 22 - 24 points, rebid 2 NT. Systems on (Stayman/Jacoby Transfer)
 - With 25 - 27 points, rebid 3 NT. Systems on (Stayman/Jacoby Transfer)
- When opener has an “unbalanced” hand....
 - Bid your long, strong suit (5+ card suit) naturally

Opener's rebids following 2♥, 2♠, 3♣, 3♦ by Responder

- Responder bids 2♥ - shows a lack of an A or K. Opener bids 2 NT with 22+ HCP but is NOT forcing to game. Stayman and Transfers on ON!
- Responder bids 2♠ - shows 8+ HCP and 5+♠. Raise Responder's suit with 3 or more in Responder's suit or bid 2 NT
- Responder bids 2♦ - shows an A or K - Bid Opener's long strong suit or 2 NT
- Responder bids 3♦ - shows 8+ HCP and 5+♦. Raise Responder's suit with 3 or more♦ or bid 3 NT with a doubleton in Responders bid suit (Systems are "OFF")

Basic Slam Bidding

- Three fundamental requirements
 - Combined strength
 - Agreement on whether the final contract will be Suit or NoTrump
 - Controls
- Combined strength? - “Slam Zone” (one of the partners must be in a position to add up combined strength)
 - 31 - 33 HCP points - small slam (six level or making 12 tricks)
 - 35 - 37 HCP points - grand slam (seven level or making 13 tricks)
- Simple example: East opens 1 NT (15 to 17 HCPs), West has 18 HCPs. West knows that there are 33 to 35 “combined points” West will likely bid 6 NT





To consider slam, you also need “controls”

- What is a “control”?
 - Aces are 1st round control - so are voids when there is a trump suit established
 - Kings are 2nd round control - so are singletons when there is trump suit established
- To bid small slam
 - Assumes you have something near 33 points between partners
 - You should have 1st round control in 3 suits and 2nd round control in the 4th suit

Slam finding tools

- There are multiple ways to reach slam
 - Quantitative NoTrump -
 - Ex. Opener bids 1 NT, Responder bids 4 NT.
 - Responder is asking Opener if the 1 NT bid is on the high side or low side
 - If on high side, bid 6 NT, if on the low side P or bid 5 NT
 - Asking for Aces and maybe Kings
 - Use Blackwood convention if suit has been determined from previous bids
 - Use Gerber convention if NT is the likely contract
 - Use Control bids to determine stoppers (A's and K's)

Basic Blackwood - asks partner for # of Aces

- Trump suit must have been established first. Partner responds accordingly:
 - 5  - shows no Aces or 4 Aces (4 Aces would be very unusual)
 - 5  - shows 1 Ace
 - 5  - shows 2 Aces
 - 5  - shows 3 Aces

Partner bids 4 NT (Blackwood) asking for Aces. What is Responder's bid?

1. ♠ A J 5 4
♥ A Q 7
♦ K J 3
♣ 9 7 6

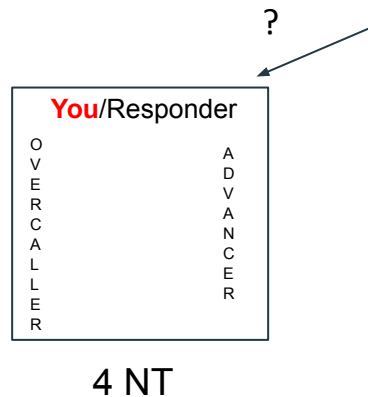
Ans: 5 ♥

2. ♠ K Q 5 4
♥ K Q 7
♦ K J 3
♣ Q 7 6

Ans: 5 ♣

3. ♠ A 6 5 4
♥ A 8 7
♦ A 9 3
♣ A 7 6

Ans: 5 ♣



Using Gerber convention to ask for Aces/Kings

- Requirements
 - **Partner has bid NT as a natural bid**
 - **Jump to 4♣ is Gerber and asking for Aces**
- Responses to Gerber
 - 4♦ - 0 or 4 Aces
 - 4♥ - 1 Ace
 - 4♠ - 2 Aces
 - 4 NT - 3 Aces
- A follow on bid of 5♣ is asking for Kings
 - 5♦ - 0 or 4 Kings
 - 5♥ - 1 King
 - 5♠ - 2 Kings
 - 5 NT - 3 Kings