



Strong Twos

In a "pure" (old fashioned) ACOL bidding system an opening bid of 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ shows a strong hand, capable of taking 8 tricks in the major suit without help.

♠ K Q J 7 4 2

♥ A K

♦ Q J 10

♣ 3 2

N

E

S

W

() 2♠



"Strong"

This bid shows a hand whose strength is between:

- the 1 of a suit opening showing 12-19; and
- the 2♣ opening showing 23+ or the capability of taking 9 tricks in a suit.

It does not come up very often. BUT it does come up.



Weak Twos

A common variation on "pure" Acol is to agree that an opening 2 shows:

- a weak hand (6-9HCP)
- with six cards exactly in a quality (two honours or more) suit.

♠ K Q 8 7 4 2
♥ 5 2
♦ Q 7 6
♣ 3 2

NESW

(STOP!) 2♠



"Weak"

These hands are more common than Strong 2 hands.

The bid is pre-emptive, making it difficult for the opposition to enter the auction and find their best contract.

The weak two hand should produce a good result doubled and two down, or three down, depending on vulnerability.



Weak seven card suits 6-9 HCPs opened at the three level.

♠ K Q 8 7 4 3 2

N

E

S

W

♥ 5

♦ Q 7 6

♣ 3 2

() 3♠



♠ K Q 8 7 4

♥ A 5

♦ Q 7 6 3

♣ 3 2

Weak hands with five card suits, meeting the Rule of Twenty (or Nineteen), should be opened at the one level.

N

E

S

W

1♠

Weak hands with five card suits, not meeting the Rule of Twenty (or Nineteen), should be passed.

If there is a four card major suit in the possible weak two hand, the holder is advised to pass in case there is a fit in that major.



Which suits?

Benjaminised ACOL, or “Benji”, is an agreement to open 2♥ or 2♠ on weak hands (6-9HCP) with six cards in the suit.

A further development is “Weak Two’s in Three Suits”, where the partners agree that an opening bid of 2♦ also shows a similar hand but with 6 diamonds.

Announcing Weak Twos

Any opening 2 of a suit, where the suit bid is the long suit in the hand, requires an announcement by partner.

Where the opening hand is weak, partner must say “Weak”. Where the opening shows a strong hand, partner must say “Strong”.



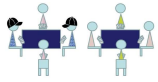
Other pre-emptive opening bids

Note that a similar strength hand with 7 in the suit is opened at the 3 level, and with 8 in a major, the suit is opened at the 4 level. These are neither announced nor alerted.

Remember the STOP card



Opening weak two’s are skip bids and require the use of the STOP card at the table.



Weak Opening Tactics

The weak opening makes it harder for opponents to find their contract. The opening bid is not expected to succeed as a contract, but is intended to give away less, even doubled, than the opponents can make.

This means that the vulnerability should be checked, and adverse vulnerability treated with caution.

It's all about partnership agreement

You need to agree which version of ACOL you and your partner are playing.

Misunderstandings can be disastrous.

You also need to understand weak twos so that you and your partner can compete against them when opponents use them.



Responder's Role



When partner opens 2 of a suit showing a weak hand, responder must promptly make the "Weak" Announcement at the table and Alert or Announce in the chat line playing online.

NESW

() 2♠



"Weak"

If Right-Hand Opponent doubles or bids, responder should try to keep the interference level up.

With three cards in partner's suit and minimum values, he should raise the suit.

NESW

() 2♠



"Weak"

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A 6 5
♦ K 7 6 3 2
♣ 3 2

P

3♠



With a strong hand (16+ HCP; or 6 or fewer losers), responder may choose to raise to game. Most weak two opening hands have eight losers, and you can make game calculations accordingly.

NESW

(STOP!) 2♠



"Weak"

P

4♠

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A K 5
♦ A K 6 3 2
♣ A 2



Responder needs more detail

Sometimes responder is in a "grey" area, 14 or 15 HCP or perhaps seven losers...

The Ogust convention starts with a response of 2NT (alerted) to the weak two opening bid. The replies are as follows:

<u>Opening HCPs</u>	<u>Quality of Suit Bid</u>	<u>Response</u>
6-7	Poor (One of the top three honours)	3♣
6-7	Good (Two of the top three honours or a good sequence of cards)	3♦
8-9	Poor (Two of the top three honours)	3♥
8-9	Good (Two of top three honours or a good sequence of cards)	3♠
9	All three top honours in the suit	3NT

All the responses are also alerted. The reply to Ogust tells responder enough to pick the correct contract.

Ogust ExampleNESW

(STOP!) 2♠



"Weak"

P

2NT

West has a potential game supporting hand and uses Ogust to ask for further detail about East's hand.



P

3♣



Receiving a disappointing answer, West abandons hope of game and opts for 3♠. All pass.

P

3♠