2♠/2NT response to a weak 1NT opening bid *Beyond the Basics*

Description: ***2♠/2NT*** is a practise used to split the standard 2NT (11/12 hcp) invitational response bid to show a more precise point count. (11 hcp or 12hcp). It provides an opportunity for opener to accept the invite with less than a maximum 14 hcp hand.

Rationale:

- Required HCP for a 3NT contract is 25 chcp.

- The standard 2NT invitational response Is accepted when opener holds a maximum (14 hcp) hand. This only occurs in 25% of such hands.

Open 1NT	Probability
12 hcp	44%
13 hcp	31%
14 hcp	25%

- This standard approach will decline a potential 3NT contract, when responder has a balanced 12 hcp hand and opener has opened with a 13 hcp INT bid!

- Showing the precise point count overcomes this problem, increasing the occurrence (of accepting the invite) to 35% of such hands. `

When to use: When opener has opened 1NT (12-14) and responder holds a balanced hand with 11-12 hcp, intending to invite opener to a NT game.

- Bid **[2♠(A)]** with 11 hcp - '*Balanced hand with 11hcp'.*
- Bid **[2NT(A)]** with 12 hcp - '*Balanced hand with 12hcp'.*

Response; Opener must re-bid as follows;

- In response to **2♠ (11 hcp)**, **Opener either;**
  - *Accepts* the invite with a maximum hand (14hcp) and bids **[3NT]** (sign off),
  - Or, **rejects** the invite (holding 12/13hcp) and bids **[2NT]** (sign off)

    Opener must NOT leave you in 2♠!
- In response to **2NT (12 hcp)**, **Opener either;**
  - *Accepts* the invite with a 13/14 hcp hand and bids **3NT** (sign off)
  - Or, **rejects** the invite (holding a minimum hand) and makes a **NB** bid.

<u>Examples</u> Partner (West) has opened a weak 1NT 12-14 hcp.

♠ K 9 7
♥ K J 6   (13)
♦ K J 7 3
♣ Q 8 5   ♠ Q 8 2
♥ A 10 3 (12)
♦ Q 6 4
♣ K J 6 3
	Responder with 12hcp bids **[2NT(A)]**
	Intent is a 3NT invite.
	    Opener, with 13 hcp, replies **[3NT**]
	    Responder will **[NB]**

♠ A 9 7
♥ Q J 6   (11)
♦ Q 9 7 3
♣ Q 10 5   ♠ Q 8 2
♥ A 10 3 (11)
♦ J 6 4
♣ K J 6 3
	Responder with 11hcp bids **[2♠(A)]**
	Intent is a 3NT invite.
	    Opener, with <14hcp, converts to
	    [2NT] (sign off)