

**McKendrick 2♠**

**Description:** *McKendrick 2♠* is a *convention* invoked by responder after partner's 1NT opening bid. It is a multi-function bid that can indicate *intent* for either;

- ❖ An invite to 3NT with precisely 11 hcp
- ❖ Or, a minor suit weak take-out.

Opener will make their re-bid as if it a balanced hand with 11 hcp (i.e. reject or accept the invite to 3NT), but must make an artificial acceptance bid that allows responder to pursue either *intent*!

Opener must **Alert** partner's [2♠(A)] bid; '*Either a balanced hand with 11hcp or a weak minor suit take-out*'. Opener will then either;


- ❖ Reject the invite (with less than 14 hcp) and bid [2NT].
- ❖ Or, accept the invite and bid [3♣(A)] ~ *not 3NT!*

As responder, if your intent was an invite to 3NT, with 11hcp, you either;


- ❖ [NB], when opener bid 2NT
- ❖ Or, alert opener's 3♣ bid '*Relay*' and convert to [3NT]

Otherwise, alert and **sign-off** in your intended (6+card) *weak minor suit* at the 3-level.


**Examples** Partner (West) has opened a weak 1NT 12-14 hcp.

♠ K 9 7		♠ Q 8 2
♥ K J 6		♥ A 10 3
♦ K 10 7 3 (12)		♦ J 6 (11)
♣ Q 8 5		♣ K J 6 4 3


Responder with 11hcp bids [2♠(A)]  
*Intent is a 3NT invite.*  
 Opener, with < 14 hcp, replies [2NT]  
 Responder will [NB]

♠ A J 6		♠ Q 9 8
♥ Q J 9 2 (14)		♥ A 10 5 (11)
♦ Q 10 4		♦ K 8 2
♣ K J 7 3		♣ Q 9 6 4

Responder with 11hcp bids [2♠(A)]  
*Intent is a 3NT invite.*  
 Opener, with = 14 hcp, replies [3♣(A)].  
 Responder will convert to [3NT]

♠ K 9 7		♠ Q 8 2
♥ K J 6		♥ 10 3
♦ K 10 7 3 (12)		♦ J 6 (7)
♣ Q 8 5		♣ K J 9 6 4 3

Responder with 7hcp bids [2♠(A)]  
*Intent is a weak take-out into ♣-suit.*  
 Opener, with < 14 hcp, replies [2NT].  
 Responder will bid [3♣] (sign-off)

♠ K 6 3		♠ Q 8 2
♥ K Q 4		♥ 10 3
♦ Q 10 (14)		♦ K J 9 6 4 3
♣ A 8 5 7 3		♣ J 6

Responder with 7hcp bids [2♠(A)]  
*Intent is a weak take-out into ♦-suit.*  
 Opener, with =14 hcp, replies [3♣(A)].  
 Responder will bid [3♦] (sign-off)

**Notes:**

◆ If you, as responder to 1NT, have a balanced hand **with 12 hcp**, you bid **[2NT(A)]** ‘A balanced hand with 12hcp’, inviting opener to consider accepting your invite to 3NT with 13/14 hcp.

◆ The McKendrick convention uses up bidding space. The full hand from example 3 shows how this can work to your advantage:-

Dealer; West  
Vuln; None

♠ A 10 6 3	(HCP)
♥ 9 5 2	(10)
♦ Q 9 4 2	(LTC)
♣ A 7	

♠ K 9 7	N	♠ Q 8 2
♥ K J 6	W	♥ 10 3
♦ K 10 7 3	E	♦ J 6
♣ Q 8 5	S	♣ K J 9 6 4 3

♠ J 5 4	(11)
♥ A Q 8 7 4	
♦ A 8 5	
♣ 10 2	

If using Stayman, it may allow opponents to bid in ♥-suit! You only score +50.

W	N	E	S
1NT	NB	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♥
NB	3♥	NB	NB

<sup>1</sup>Ext. Stayman (minor suit take-out) intending to bid 3♣

However, using McKendrick, it will require an intervention bid at 3-level! You can score +110.

W	N	E	S
1NT	NB	2♠(A)	NB <sup>1</sup>
3♣(A)	NB	NB(A)	NB

<sup>1</sup>South is not likely to bid ♥-suit

◆ The primary concern, is for opener to remember to make the artificial 3♣ ‘invite acceptance’ re-bid, hence leaving room for a minor take-out intent ... rather than make a potentially expensive 3NT bid.

◆ *It is usually used when playing Stayman and Transfers, where the minor suit weak take-out bids of 2♣ and 2♦ are not available*