

Opening Bids with Strong Unbalanced Hands

All strong unbalanced hands that you would not want your partner to have a chance to pass if you opened with a suit bid at the one level are opened with 2C. A 2C opening bid shows a strong hand, but says nothing about the length of your clubs.

Requirements for an opening 2C bid are as follows:

- a) 20+ HCP
- b) a good suit of at least 5 or more cards in the suit
- c) If your suit is a major suit you should have at least 8 to 9 tricks in your own hand
- d) if your suit is a minor suit you should have at least 9 or 10 tricks in your own hand

Once you have opened with 2C and partner responds, you will bid your “real” suit at your next turn. Partner should not pass after you open with 2C until you get to game.

Responses by partner are as follows:

- a) 2D- artificial (says nothing about what you have in diamonds) and less than 6 HCP
- b) 2H, 2S, 3C, or 3D- shows a five card or longer suit with at least 6 or more HCP
- c) 2NT- 6-9 HCP with a balanced hand
- d) 3NT- 10+ HCP with a balanced hand

An opening bid of 2C should show a strong hand as far as HCP, a very good suit, and potential for making game in your own hand with very little help from your partner.

Hands with just one long suit (example: AKQJ7654 A54 87 --) are best opened with 4S instead of 2C.

You should also be cautious about opening 2C with a broken suit, especially a minor suit (example: A7 KQ A KJ765432)

What would you open the following hands with?

- a) AQJT65 AK6 AK5 8
- b) AJT76 AK7 K7 AJ8
- c) AK654 9 AK765 KJ
- d) K6 A7 AKQ765 A32

What would you respond if partner opens 2C?

- a) 876 876 8 J76543
- b) K76 QJ76 87 Q987
- c) 87 K65 KJT76 987