

Opening Bids at the Two Level

Any hand worth at least 13 HCP should be opened with a suit or NT at the one level. What about a hand with less HCPs than 13 but a hand that will take a lot of tricks because of a long suit. Suppose you have KQT987 98 A765 2. Although this hand does not meet the requirements for an opening bid of 1S in terms of strength, it will take a lot of tricks with spades as trumps. We want to open these types of hands with a weak two bid.

Requirements for a Weak Two (2D, 2H, or 2S):

- a) Good six card suit (good suit quality along with length)
- b) 6-12 HCP (counting length)

Responses:

- a) Raise partner with support either to 3 or 4 level
- b) Bid a new suit, but remember partner is saying that his hand is probably only good for playing in the suit he bid
- c) 3NT with enough points to make game opposite a weak hand
- d) 2NT artificial and asks partner to bid an outside ace or king if he has one or go back to his suit if not.

What would you open with the following hands?

- a) KJT7642 76 KJ6 54
- b) J76542 KJ K65 65
- c) QJT965 A3 6543 8
- d) AK7654 A5 9876 7

What would you respond if partner opens 2H?

- a) 87 A5 AKQ76 A873
- b) 865 KJ6 A876 KQ7
- c) AQ 87 AKJ765 AJ7
- d) 764 K76 AK7 A986