

2 ♣ Strong Artificial and Forcing

30 Minute Mini Lesson

What Does a Two Club Opening Look Like?

- Balanced hand: 22+ points
- Unbalanced hand– Count tricks, not points -- 9 tricks in the hand.

Some Examples

♠ A K Q
♥ A K 3
♦ K Q 10
♣ Q 10 7 3

- Balanced hand
- 23 points
- Open 2 ♣
- Plan to rebid 2 no trump.

Some Examples

♠ A K Q 9 8 7
♥ A K 3
♦ A 3 2
♣ 3

- 9 Tricks
 - 6 spades
 - 2 hearts
 - 1 diamond
- Open with 2 ♣ and rebid 2 ♠.

Some Examples

♠ 7
♥ K Q J 3
♦ A K
♣ A K J 10 8 3

- 9 Tricks
 - 5 clubs
 - 2 diamonds
 - 2 hearts
- Open with 2 ♣ and rebid 3 ♣ .

Some Examples





A K Q 10 9 7 3








A K 10



10 8 3

- 9 Tricks
 - 7 Hearts
 - 2 diamonds
- Open with 2  and rebid 2 .

Responses to a 2 Opening Bid

- There are a number of response systems. The three most common are:
 - 2  “Waiting” (most popular)
 - 2  Waiting with 2  as immediate negative.
 - 2  is waiting but shows at least 4 points.
 - 2  shows 0-3 points.
 - Control showing step responses.

2 ♦ “Waiting” System Responses

- 2 ♦ Shows 0-7 points
- 2 ♥ Shows 8+ points and a 5-card or better suit.
- 2 ♠ Shows 8+ points and a 5-card or better suit.
- 2 nt Shows 8+ points and a balanced hand.
- 3 ♣ Shows 8+ points and a 5-card or better suit.
- 3 ♦ Shows 8+ points and a 5-card or better suit.

Some Response Examples

♠ A 7 4
♥ A K Q
♦ A K 10
♣ K 8 3 2
Open 2 ♣



♠ K 10 5 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ J 7 6 4
♣ 9 7
Response 2 ♦
Shows 0-7 HCP.

Some Response Examples


♠ A 7 4
♥ A K Q
♦ A K 10
♣ K 8 3 2
Open 2 ♣

♠ K J 9 5 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ J 7 6 4
♣ A
Response 2 ♠
Shows 8+ HCP,
with 5-card suit

Opening Bidder's Rebid After 2

- With a balanced hand: (2  ...2 )
 - 22-24 points bid 2 nt.
 - 25-27 points bid 3 nt.
 - 28-30 points bid 4 nt.

Responder's Rebid After(2 ...2 ...2nt)

- With 3-7 points and no 4 card major suit bid 3 nt.
- 3  clubs is Stayman.
- With a 5 card or longer major suit, you can transfer.

Some Response Examples

♠ A 7 4 3
♥ A K Q
♦ A K 10 9
♣ K 8

Open 2 ♣

2 nt

3 ♠

♠ K J 6 5
♥ J 6 2
♦ 8 7 6 4
♣ 9 6

Response 2 ♦

3 ♣

4 ♠

Some Response Examples

♠ A 7 4 3
♥ A K 8
♦ A K 10 9
♣ A 8

Open 2 ♣

2 nt

3 ♥

4 ♥



♠ Q 8
♥ Q J 9 6 2
♦ 8 7 6 4
♣ 9 6

Response 2 ♦

3 ♦

3 nt

Opening Bidder's Rebid After 2

- With an unbalanced hand: (2  ...2 )
 - Just bid your suit.
 - Let partner help you find the best contract.

Some Response Examples

♠ A K J 10 4 3

♥ A K 8

♦ A 3

♣ A 8

Open 2 ♣

2 ♠

Pass

♠ Q 8 5

♥ Q 9 6 4

♦ 8 7 6 4

♣ 9 6

Response 2 ♦

4 ♠

Opener's Rebid After A Positive Response

- If responder's bid is 2nt, showing 8+ points with a balanced hand.
- Opener may use Stayman to find a 4-4 major suit fit.
- **The strong hand never transfers to the weak hand.**
- If opener has a suit of his/her own, they must bid it and let responder help find the best contract.

Some Response Examples

♠ K Q 7 4

♥ A K

♦ A K Q J 10 9 7

♣

Open 2 ♣

3 ♣

4 ♠

♠ A J 8 3

♥ Q J 9 6

♦ 6 4

♣ Q 6 3

Response 2 nt

3 ♠

4 nt

Some Response Examples

♠ K Q 4
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ A K
♣ K 10 7

Open 2 ♣

3 ♥

4 ♣

6 nt

♠ A J 8 3
♥ 9 6
♦ Q J 6 4
♣ Q 6 3

Response 2 nt

3 nt

4 ♥

Some Response Examples

♠ A Q
♥ A K Q J 10 5 2

♦ 2

♣ A J 7

Open 2 ♣

3 ♥

4 nt

5 ♥

♠ K J 8
♥ 9 6 3
♦ Q J 6 4

♣ Q 6 3

Response 2 nt

4 ♥

5 ♦

What Do You Do With a Really Weak Hand?

- Some partnerships like to have a second negative bid to show a really poor hand (0-3 points).
 - The cheapest available minor
 - 3 nt when no minor is available at the 3 level.

Second Negative Examples

Opener Responder

2 ♣

2 ♦

2 ♠

3 ♣ (0-3 points no fit for spades)

Opener

Responder

2 ♣

2 ♦

3 ♣

3 ♦ (Cheapest available

minor 0-3 points no fit for clubs)

Second Negative Examples

Opener	Responder
2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♦	3 nt (No minor suit available at the three level, 0-3 points no fit for diamonds)

**Second negative only on over
openers' suit response. It is off when
opener rebids no trump.**