## Opening 2 🍁

The Pluses and Minuses

## Most of us Love to Open 2 ♣

- Most experts hate to open 2 ♣.
- They recognize it as necessary some times, but experts see the 2 ♣ opening as a violation of one of the fundamental concepts of constructive bidding.
- Keep the bidding low when you have extra values.
- When you open 2
  - You start at the two level.
  - And sometimes you are making your first natural bid at the three level.

### Suppose You Are Dealt This Hand

```
Hand 1

♠ K Q 7

♥ A Q J 2

♠ A K 7

♠ K J 3
```

All your 2nt conventions are on (Stayman, Transfers, even Puppet). You can trust partner to get you to the right contract.

### Suppose You Are Dealt This Hand

```
Hand 2

♠ A K Q J 2

♥ 7

♠ A K Q 7 5

♠ A S
```

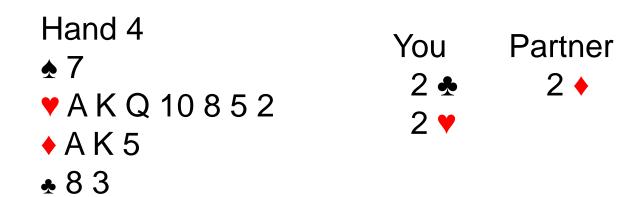
Partner's most likely bid is 3 ♥

#### Another Difficult Hand to Bid



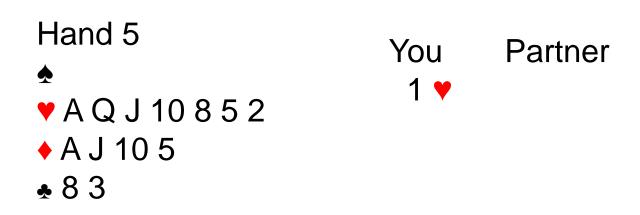
This will work just fine when partner bids 2 ◆, but look what happens if partner should happen to bids 2 ♠.

# When You Have a 1 Suiter, Opening 2 ♣ is Usually Not a Problem



With this hand, you will insist on hearts no matter what partner says. Notice, however, that partner still needs one trick to make your game possible.

## Here's Another 1 Suiter, Probably Not Worth a 2 ♣ Bid



1 ♥ is the best way to start with this hand. .

#### This One Is Not Worth a 1-Level Bid

Hand 6

 $\spadesuit$ 

♥AQJ108532

♦ J 5 2

**★**83

You Partner

The best way to describe this hand is by bidding 4 ♥. With adverse vulnerability, 3 ♥ might be better. .

## When Partner Opens 2 &

- You will usually bid 2
- The exception is when you have 8 or more points and a good 5+ card suit.
  - Two of the top 3 honors
  - Three of the top 5
- If your suit isn't a good suit, don't bid it, even if you have 8 or more points.
- If your good suit is spades, think carefully about the bidding space your are using up.

- All your normal no trump options are available.
  - Stayman
  - Transfers
  - Quantitative.
- Partner has 22-24 and your job is to lead her to the best contract.
- You know, of course, if partner says 3nt, it shows 25-27.

Hand 7

- **♠** Q 9 7 4
- **Q** 10 7 2
- ↑ 7 5 2
- **◆** 5 3

Bid 3 ♣ Stayman. If partner bids a major suit you will bid game in that suit. If partner bids 3 ♦, you will place the contract in 3nt.

#### Hand 8

- **★** K 9 7
- ♥ J 10 7 5 2
- ↑ 7 5 2
- **◆** 5 3

3 ◆ Transfer to hearts. When partner bids 3 ♥, you will bid 3 nt to tell partner you have only 5 hearts. Partner will know whether to bid game in hearts or pass and play 3 no trump.

Hand 9

- ♠ 9 7
- **Y** 10 7 5 2
- ♦ 7 5 4 2
- **◆** 5 4 3

Pass. Partner will have a difficult time making two no trump, but there is no place to go with a hand like this.

Hand 10

- **★**A97
- **♥** K 5 2
- ♦ 7 5 4 2
- **♣** Q 5 3

4nt Quantitative. Partner will bid 6 nt if she has 24 points and pass with less.

#### 2 ♣... 2 ♦...2 ♥

Hand 11

- **A** A 9 7 4
- **♥** K 5 2
- ♦ K 5 4 2
- **◆** 5 2

3 ♥ Slow arrival tells partner you have some values and you are open to a slam try.

#### 2 ♣... 2 ♦...2 ♥

Hand 12

- ♠ Q 9 7 4
- **9** 5 2
- ♦ 10 5 4 2
- **◆** 5 2

4 ♥ fast arrival tells partner you have a fit but very little else. .

#### 2 ♣... 2 ♦...2 ♥

Hand 13

- ◆ 9 7 4 2
- **♥** 5 2
- ♦ 10 5 4 2
- **◆** 5 3 2

3 ♣ Tells partner you have a bust hand. Partner should bid what he thinks he can make, because you will pass the next bid.

#### 2 ....

Hand 14

- **AQ742**
- **y** 5
- ♦ K 5 4 2
- **◆** 5 3 2

2 ♦ You could bid 2 ♠, but partner is probably going to bid hearts. If you bid spades, it will make it difficult for partner to fully describe his hand.

#### 2 ....

Hand 15

- **♠** 2
- ♥AQJ975
- ♦ K 5 4
- **◆** 5 3 2

2 ► Here you need to bid 2 ► .
So when partner bids the likely
3 ♠ , you can rebid hearts to show six.

#### Final Point

- There is not one correct system of responses to a 2 ♣ opening.
  - There are several systems you could use.
  - The one I've given you here will handle most hands.
- The important thing is...
  - Be sure you and your partner have discussed thoroughly what you will do.