

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

You Partner

2 ♣

2 ♦

2nt (22-24)

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 3

You

2 ♣

2 ♠

Partner

2 ♦

Partner's most likely bid is 3 ♥

Another Difficult Hand to Bid

Hand 3

♠ 7

♥ A K Q J 2

♦ A K Q 7 5

♣ A 3

You

2 ♣

2 ♥

Partner

2 ♦

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

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

Hand 4

♠ 7

♥ A K Q 10 8 5 2

♦ A K 5

♣ 8 3

You

2 ♣

2 ♥

Partner

2 ♦

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

Hand 5

♠

♥ A Q J 10 8 5 2

♦ A J 10 5

♣ 8 3

You

1 ♥

Partner

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

This One Is Not Worth a 1-Level Bid

Hand 6

♠

♥ A Q J 10 8 5 3 2

♦ J 5 2

♣ 8 3

You

1 ♥

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 you are using up.

2 ♣... 2 ♦... 2 nt

- 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.

2 ♣... 2 ♦...2 nt

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.

2 ♣... 2 ♦... 2 nt

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.

2 ♣... 2 ♦... 2 nt

Hand 9

♠ 9 7

♥ 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.

2 ♣... 2 ♦... 2 nt

Hand 10

♠ A 9 7

♥ 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 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

♠ A Q 7 4 2

♥ 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

♥ A Q J 9 7 5

♦ 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.