

Using The Weak-Two Bid Effectively

30 Minute Mini Lesson

Why Use Weak-Two Bids?

- In general a weak-two bid is a defensive weapon.
- If you use weak-two bids in a disciplined manner, they can also be an offensive weapon.
 - Partner knows your hand.
 - Can help the partnership find game and even slam bids.

How Good Does Your Suit Need to Be?

- This is a partnership agreement.
 - Maximum defensive pressure – loosen suit requirements.
 - Maximum offensive power – tighten suit requirements.

Does Vulnerability Matter?

- Yes in bridge vulnerability always matters.
- Some say you should have a stronger hand in general when vulnerable.
 - 6-11 not vulnerable
 - 8-11 vulnerable.
- My personal view is that high card strength should be 6-11, but suit strength should be tightened.

Examples Not Vulnerable

♠ K Q 10 9 4 2
♥ 9 2
♦ K 10 5
♣ 4 3

Easy bid 2 ♠
any vulnerability

♠ A Q 10 8 4 2
♥ 9
♦ 8 7 6 5
♣ 3 2

Borderline not
vul. 2 ♠
Vulnerable NO

Examples Not Vulnerable

♠ Q J 10 9 5 4 2
♥ K 7
♦ J 10 5
♣ 3

3 ♠ Don't open
weak two with 7
cards

♠ A 10 9 8 7 2
♥ 9
♦ 6 5
♣ K J 10 4

Yes even vul. 2 ♠
Good middle cards
and a nice 4-card
side suit

Examples You Are Vulnerable

♠ 7 2
♥ A K J 8 7 4
♦ Q J 4
♣ 10 4

Good suit with
reasonable side
values

♠ K Q 2
♥ Q J 10 9 7 4
♦ 4
♣ 10 8 4

Solid Suit with
good side values

Can You Open a Weak Two With a Void?

- This is also a partnership agreement issue, but most experts say it is a bad idea.
- If you have a void, then you have something like a 6 4 3 0 distribution.
- You have a possible side suit fit and your weak-two bid will make it difficult to find it.

How Do Stray High Cards Effect Your Decision to Open Weak Two?

- Often high cards in side suits are worthless, because they will never take a trick.
- Cards like K, Q, Qx, Jx, Jxx are often worthless

♠ K Q 9 7 6 5

♥ Q 5

♦ Q 4

♣ J 9 6

♠ J 10 4 2

♥ 10 8 4

♦ K 10 8 6

♣ Q 4

Here Are a Couple Hands to Illustrate

♠ K Q J 10 6 5
♥ Q 5
♦ J 4
♣ Q 9 6

Some wasted values, but a good suit.

♠ K J 9 6 5 3
♥ Q 5
♦ J 4
♣ Q 9 6

Weak suit and wasted values

One More Example

♠ K J 9 6 5 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A J 10
♣ 9 6

Weak suit but no wasted values.

Responding to Partner's Weak-Two Bid

- Simply the possession of 13 or 14 points is no reason to be excited.
- If you have 2 or fewer cards in partner's suit and 14 or fewer points, your best bid is pass.
- With support, you don't need quite so many points, **use the law of total tricks.**

Responding to Partner's Weak-Two Bid

- If you have 15+ points and an invitational hand, the bid is 2nt.
 - Forcing for one round.
 - With a minimum hand (8 or fewer points) and a normal weak-two suit. Rebid your suit.
 - With a max hand (9+ points) and an outside ace or king, rebid the outside feature.
 - With A K Q suit and no outside feature, rebid 3 no trump.


Responding to Partner's Weak-Two Bid

- If you have a good suit of your own and 16+ points, bid that suit. New suits are forcing. You play **RONF**
 - Opener supports the new suit with 3+ cards.
 - Rebids the opening suit without support.

Partner Opens 2

 A 5 2

 6

 K J 10 5 2

 A J 9 6

 K Q 2


 9 6

 A 5 2

 A Q 9 6

 7 5 2

 Q 7 6

 Q J 10 5 2





 K 9





Pass nothing
here

2 nt.
Inviting
game


3  Use
the law

Partner Opens 2

 2
 Q J 10 7 5 4 2
 A 5 2
 Q 6

 2
 K Q 10 8 6
 A Q 2
 A K J

Pass-New
Suit Forcing

3  . Game in
Hearts or no trump



Partner Opens 2♥ RHO Passes

♠ 9 2
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ A J 5 2
♣ 6 5 2

4♥ Use the Law

♠ 2
♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ A J 5 2
♣ 6 5 4 2

4♥ At even or favorable vulnerability Use the Law

Partner Opens 2  RHO 3 

 2


Double for penalty

 K J 10 4

 A Q 9 7 2

 A 5 2



Partner Opens 2  RhO bids 2 

 Q 8 7 4

 A J 3

 7 2

 K 5 2

Compete to 3 , but
if they go to 3 
pass. You might have
enough defense to
beat it.