

## Responding To Preempts III - A Different Very Modified Ogust

So far we've been talking about preempting in a major. The nice thing about majors is that we are often going to want to play in them even if partner wants to be in game. Today we're going to discuss the other weak 2, namely 2D. When partner opens 2D if we want to be in game, the most likely game is not 5D, it's 3N. Therefore, when partner invites us to game by bidding 2N, we should be focussed on answering that question and that question only.

We should still be basing out acceptance on whether or not we are at the upper or lower end of our expected range for the # of tricks promised. But because there's only 1 game that we're interested in, we only need 1 bid to tell partner about that. So let's make 3C yes we want to be in game and 3D no we don't want to be in game.

After that we've got 3H and 3S available to play with. There are 2 main reasons why we might not want to be in 3N and that is shortness in some other suit or that we have a major suit fit. Depending upon your friskiness level you can either use 3 of a major to show shortness or you can use 3 of a major to show a hidden 4 card suit. I recommend using it to show shortness.

### A Different Very Modified Ogust (When you opened 2D)

Response to 2N	Meaning	Shape	Suit Quality*	HCP*
3C	Accept game	No shortness in a major	Good	Typically 8-10
3D	Do not accept game	Unknown	Typically not good	Typically 5-7
3 of a major	Accept game and shortness in this major	Singleton or void in bid major	Good	Typically 8-10

\* Remember, Suit Quality and HCP are relative to the seat and vulnerability. So it's less about that then it is about the expected # of tricks.

- |    |         |    |         |
|----|---------|----|---------|
| 1. | ♠QJx    | 2. | ♠Kxx    |
|    | ♥xx     |    | ♥x      |
|    | ♦KQxxxx |    | ♦KQJxxx |
|    | ♣xx     |    | ♣xxx    |

Let's consider the above 2 hands.

For hand #1 The expected # of tricks is about 5. Say 4.5 for diamonds and 0.5 for spades. If I am opening when vulnerable, I am almost minimum for my bid. If partner invites me to bid game then I might not accept because I am almost minimum. I certainly would not accept if I was in 2nd seat red. Whereas the same hand when not vulnerable is a clear accept.

Hand #2 is a clear accept, but 3N might be in peril if partner has weak hearts. We can pinpoint this by bidding 3H as the response and stay out of a bad 3N contract

For instance partner might hold

A.	♠QJT <sub>x</sub>	B.	♠AQJ	C.	♠Ax
	♥AK <sub>x</sub>		♥Q <sub>xxx</sub>		♥QT <sub>xx</sub>
	♦ <sub>xxx</sub>		♦ <sub>xxx</sub>		♦A <sub>xx</sub>
	♣AQJ		♣AQJ <sub>x</sub>		♣AQJ <sub>x</sub>

Opposite hand 2, A will still make 3N most of the time. B should head towards the safer waters of 5D and C. is a finesse away from making slam.