

Audrey Grant Bridge Basics III

Popular Conventions

Chapter 3

Strong Opening Bids

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Strong Opening Bids

How do you bid this hand?

♠ A K Q J 10 9 8
♥ A K
♦ A Q 3
♣ 4

An opening bid at the one level is not forcing

Responder can pass with fewer than 6 points

Strong Opening Bids

Strong Artificial 2 ♣ Opening

All strong hands of:
22 or more points or
9 Quick Tricks
are opened 2 ♣

This bid is artificial – it has nothing to do with clubs.

This bid is forcing - Responder must bid

How would you open the following hand?

♠ A
♥ K Q J 9 8 7 3
♦ 6
♣ A K Q 8

How would you open the following hand?

♠ A
♥ K Q J 9 8 7 3
♦ 6
♣ A K Q 8

2 clubs – with 19 HCP's and 3 length points, open a strong 2 club

How would you open the following hand?

♠ A K Q 10 9 7
♥ 5
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 6 3

How would you open the following hand?

♠ A K Q 10 9 7
♥ 5
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 6 3

2 clubs – with 18 HCP's and 2 length points, but at least 9 quick tricks, open this hand 2 clubs because it is 2 suited and worthy of a game forcing bid.

Responding to a 2 ♣ Opening Bid

Since the 2 ♣ bid is forcing, responder cannot pass

**Opener will further describe his hand
on his second bid.**

**In most cases, responder will bid 2 ♦, leaving
opening bidder maximum room on the bidding ladder.**

2 ♦ is called a “waiting bid”

How would you bid this hand?

Partner
2 ♣

RHO
Pass

Responder
?

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ 9 7 4
♦ 8 3
♣ 10 6 5 4

How would you bid this hand?

Partner	RHO	Responder
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ 9 7 4
♦ 8 3
♣ 10 6 5 4

- 2 ♦ - Responder is forced to bid. The 2 diamond bid is a waiting bid and gives opener a chance to describe his hand.**

How would you bid this hand?

Partner
2 ♣

RHO
Pass

Responder
?

♠ J 9 8 6 4
♥ 9
♦ Q 8 2
♣ A J 6 3

How would you bid this hand?

Partner
2 ♣

RHO
Pass

Responder
2 ♦

♠ J 9 8 6 4
♥ 9
♦ Q 8 2
♣ A J 6 3

- 2 ♦ - With 8 HCP's and a five card suit, responder knows there is enough for game. But, responder needs to bid 2 diamonds (waiting) to allow opener to further define his hand.**

Opener's Rebid

Showing an Unbalanced Hand

A bid in a suit shows an unbalanced hand and is forcing.

With an unbalanced hand, opener bids the longest suit or the higher ranking of two five card or six card suits.

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
?			

♠ A K J 10 5
♥ 3
♦ A K Q 9 4
♣ K Q

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠			

♠ A K J 10 5
♥ 3
♦ A K Q 9 4
♣ K Q

2 ♠ - This hand is not balanced and opener rebids the spade suit to show at least a five card suit. After responder bids, West will have a chance to show the second suit.

Showing A Balanced Hand

A rebid in Notrump shows a balanced hand and is not forcing

2 NT – shows 22 - 24 points

3 NT – shows 25 – 27 points

4 NT – shows 28 – 30 points

How would you bid this hand?

West

2 ♣

?

North

Pass

East

2 ♦

South

Pass

♠ A Q 6
♥ A K J
♦ K Q 7
♣ K J 6 3

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT			

♠ A Q 6
♥ A K J
♦ K Q 7
♣ K J 6 3

**2 NT – This hand is balanced with 23 HCP's.
Responder is not forced to bid as opener
has limited his hand.**

Positive Responses with 8+ Points

Only Exceptions to 2 ♦ “waiting bid”

Our only exceptions are if responder holds:

A five card suit with 2 of 3 top honors

A six card or longer suit with 8 or more points

Then, responder will bid this suit as this information is very descriptive and may help the opening bidder in evaluating slam potential.

How would you bid this hand?

Partner
2 ♣

RHO
Pass

Responder
?

♠ Q 10 9 7 5 4
♥ 9 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ Q 6 2

How would you bid this hand?

Partner	RHO	Responder
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
	♠ Q 10 9 7 5 4	
	♥ 9 3	
	♦ A Q 4	
	♣ Q 6 2	

2 ♠ - With 10 HCP's and a six card suit, responder bids the spade suit. This bid is very descriptive and helpful to opening bidder.

How would you bid this hand?

Partner	RHO	Responder
2 ♣	Pass	?

♠ Q 10 4

♥ Q 7 5

♦ J 8 4

♣ A 10 6 3

How would you bid this hand?

Partner	RHO	Responder
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦

♠ Q 10 4
♥ Q 7 5
♦ J 8 4
♣ A 10 6 3

2 NT - With 9 HCP's and a balanced hand.

After a Positive Bid by Responder

If partner has bid something other than 2 ♦, the partnership is committed to at least a game contract.

Slam is possible with a suitable fit.

Opener makes a descriptive bid

How would you bid this hand?

West

2 ♣

?

North

Pass

East

2 ♥

South

Pass

♠ **A K Q 9 7 6**

♥ **4**

♦ **A K J 3**

♣ **K 4**

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠			
	♠ A K Q 9 7 6		
	♥ 4		
	♦ A K J 3		
	♣ K 4		

2 ♠ – After a 2 heart response, the partnership is headed at least for game. The first priority is to find a fit. With no support for hearts, opener shows an unbalanced hand with a five card or longer spade suit.

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			
	♠ A Q J 5		
	♥ Q 4		
	♦ K Q J 5		
	♣ A Q J		

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT			
	♠ A Q J 5		
	♥ Q 4		
	♦ K Q J 5		
	♣ A Q J		

2 NT – With 22 HCP's, rebid 2 NT, showing a balanced hand and 22-24 points.

Responder's Rebid

When opener shows an unbalanced hand by opening 2 clubs, and then bidding a suit,

Responder Can Not Pass

Play Hand #9

Play Hand #10

When Opener Rebids in a Suit

When Responder Has A Very Weak Hand of **0 to 3 points**

Cheaper Minor Negative

To show a weak hand, about 0 to 3 points, responder makes an artificial rebid to tell opener not to expect much help.

Cheaper Minor Negative

After opening bidder bids a suit showing an unbalanced hand, responder bids the following Cheaper minor negative bids to show 0 to 3 points

3 ♣ if opener rebids 2 ♥ or 2 ♠

3 ♦ if opener rebids 3 ♣

3 NT if opener rebids 3 ♦

Cheaper Minor Negative

If opener rebids the same suit, after responder has used “Cheaper Minor Negative”, responder may now pass.

This is the **only time responder can pass below game when opener has a strong unbalanced hand.**

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			

♠ 9 8 3 2
♥ 6 5
♦ J 7 5 2
♣ 8 6 3

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♣			
	♠ 9 8 3 2		
	♥ 6 5		
	♦ J 7 5 2		
	♣ 8 6 3		

3 ♣— With 1 HCP's, responder bids 3 clubs (Cheaper Minor Negative) to show less than 3 Points.

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			
	♠ 8 3		
	♥ Q 7 4 3		
	♦ 10 8 4 2		
	♣ 7 6 2		

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			
	♠ 8 3		
	♥ Q 7 4 3		
	♦ 10 8 4 2		
	♣ 7 6 2		

- 4 ♥ – With 2 HCP's, plus one dummy point and four card heart support, responder bids 4 hearts. A jump to game is actually weaker than a 3 heart bid. Shows good trump support but a hand with few values.**

When Responder has 4 or more points

Responder should keep bidding until game is reached.

Responder can raise with 3 or more card support

Responder can bid a 5 card or longer suit

Responder can bid No Trump

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			

♠ 8 4
♥ Q 7 5
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ 10 9 6 5

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			
	♠ 8 4		
	♥ Q 7 5		
	♦ K 7 6 2		
	♣ 10 9 6 5		

- 4 ♥** – With 5 HCP's, plus one dummy point and 3 card heart support, responder bids 4 hearts. A jump to game is actually weaker than a 3 heart bid. Shows good trump support but a hand with less than 8 points.

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			
	♠ Q 10 7 6 5		
	♥ 6 2		
	♦ Q J 7 4		
	♣ 9 5		

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠			
	♠ Q 10 7 6 5		
	♥ 6 2		
	♦ Q J 7 4		
	♣ 9 5		

2 ♠ – With 5 HCP's, but only 2 card trump support for partner, we bid our five card support. The bid is forward going as we would have bid cheaper minor negative with a weak hand.

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
?		2♥	Pass

♠ Q J 5
♥ 10 4
♦ J 10 7 3
♣ Q J 9 3

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT			
	♠ Q J 5		
	♥ 10 4		
	♦ J 10 7 3		
	♣ Q J 9 3		

2 NT – With 7 HCP's, but only 2 card trump support for partner, and a balanced hand, we bid 2 NT.

Stayman and Transfer Bids after Opener's 2 NT Rebid

Systems are On!

- 3 ♣ is Stayman, asking partner for a four card major suit.**
- 3 ♦ is a Transfer, showing partner five or more cards in the heart suit**
- 3 ♥ is a Transfer, showing partner five or more cards in the spade suit**

Stayman and Transfer Bids after Opener's 2 NT Rebid

Systems are On!

Minor Suits? We generally do not transfer in a high level No trump for the minor suits. Partner has a lot of points and can likely make 3 NT with minimal support.

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
?		2 NT	Pass

♠ J 7 5
♥ 10 8
♦ 9 7 5 4 2
♣ 8 6 5

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
Pass			

♠ J 7 5
♥ 10 8
♦ 9 7 5 4 2
♣ 8 6 5

Pass – Partner has 22 to 24 points. With only 1 point, it is best to pass.

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
?			

♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ J 10 7 2
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 6 2

How would you bid this hand?

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣			

♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ J 10 7 2
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 6 2

3 ♣ - How High is game. Where is to be decided. With two four card majors bid 3 clubs stayman. If partner bids 3 ♦, then bid 3 NT. If partner shows a four card major, then bid 4 of the major.

The 2 NT Opening Bid

Shows 20 to 21 Points

A Balanced Hand

How would you bid this hand?

♠ K Q
♥ A J 7 2
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ K J 9

How would you bid this hand?

♠ K Q
♥ A J 7 2
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ K J 9

2 NT – This is a balanced hand with 20 HCP's.

Responding to 2 NT

2 NT is Not Forcing

Responder can pass with 0 to 5 points

“Systems are On”

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ 8 7 3
♥ J 4
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ 9 8 5 2

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ 8 7 3
♥ J 4
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ 9 8 5 2

Pass – Do the Math! Your 3 points and partner's 20 to 21 is not enough for game.

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ 8 2
♥ 7 4
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ Q J 8 7 3

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ 8 2
♥ 7 4
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ Q J 8 7 3

3 NT – Do the Math! Your 6 HCP's plus one length point is enough for game in no trump.

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ 6 2
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 9 3
♣ J 6 2

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ 6 2
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 9 3
♣ J 6 2

**3 ♦ – Do the Math! Transfer partner to hearts and pass.
Not enough for game.**

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A 8 6 2
♣ 7 4 3

**Your partner has opened 2 NT.
How would you bid this hand?**

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A 8 6 2
♣ 7 4 3

3 ♣ – Do the Math! How high is game. Where is to be determined. Bid 3 Clubs (Stayman) convention. If partner bids 3♦ or 3♥, then rebid 3 NT.

Opening Balanced Hands Summary

12 to 14 points – open 1 something, rebid 1 NT

15 to 17 points – open 1 NT

18 to 19 points – open 1 something, jump to 2 NT

20 to 21 points – open 2 NT

22 to 24 points – open 2 clubs, rebid 2 NT

25 to 27 points – open 2 clubs, rebid 3 NT

28 to 30 points – open 2 clubs, rebid 4 NT

Play Hand #11

Play Hand #12