

2NT OPENING BIDS AND RESPONSES

The 2NT bid is made on a 'balanced' hand in the 20-22 *point range*. In this context, a balanced hand is any hand not containing a singleton or void. It is not forcing (i.e. responder can pass).

a)	♠ KQ7 ♥ AQ42 ♦ J4 ♣ AKJ7	b)	♠ KQ2 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ 95 ♣ AKQ8	c)	♠ KQ7 ♥ AKJ73 ♦ A86 ♣ A7	d)	♠ K75 ♥ AKJ73 ♦ AK94 ♣ Q
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- a) - open 2NT.
- b) - open 2NT despite the poor diamond suit.
- c) - open 2NT even with the 5-card heart suit
- d) - do **not** open 2NT. Open 1♥ (yes – I know this should be a maximum of 19 points, but devalue the hand with the singleton ♣Q).

(20-22 point hands where the singleton is not an honour are more problematical – not for discussion with beginners at this stage).

Responses

The following responses will suffice for beginners. More comprehensive responses will be learnt with a little more experience.

These responses also serve as an introduction to '**transfers**', an approach generally used after a 1NT opening bid. They are best initially understood in the context of a 2NT opening bid – much easier.

0–3 points **without** a 5-card major – **PASS**

0–3 points **with** a 5-card major bid the suit below the five card suit (a 'transfer')

Partner (i.e. the 2NT opener) **must** bid the next suit up, 3♥ or 3♠. The responder then passes this.

4+ points **without** a four card major – bid 3NT

4+ points **with** a four card major – bid 3♣ Stayman to try to find a 4-4 major fit (partner responds 3♦ without a 4-card major or 3NT with both. Responder should then bid 3NT).

4+ points with a 5-card major – bid the suit below the five card major (a 'transfer').

Partner (i.e. the 2NT opener) **must** bid then next suit up, 3♥ or 3♠. The responder then bids 3NT with a five-card suit (and opener can judge accordingly), or bids 4 of the major with a six-card suit.

Methods of looking for a slam will be ignored at this stage.

Exercises:

Partner opens 2NT. What do you respond with:

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| a) | ♠ 9842
♥ 76
♦ K52
♣ 8742 | b) | ♠ 98742
♥ 74
♦ K52
♣ 742 | c) | ♠ Q64
♥ K95
♦ 76
♣ J9743 | d) | ♠ Q643
♥ K952
♦ 76
♣ J97 | e) | ♠ Q8742
♥ AJ9
♦ 76
♣ 874 |
| f) | ♠ Q97432
♥ AJ9
♦ 76
♣ 87 | g) | ♠ 74
♥ 98742
♦ K52
♣ 742 | | | | | | |

a) **PASS**

- b) 3♦ - (transfer) - partner **must** bid 3♠ over which you pass.
- c) 3NT
- d) 3♣ - (Stayman). If partner bids a four card major you raise to 4 of the major. If partner bids 3♦ (no 4-card major) you now bid 3NT.
- e) 3♥ - (transfer) - partner **must** bid 3♠, and you then bid 3NT giving partner the choice to pass or bid 4♠ (with ideally 3 cards with an honour).
- f) 3♥ - (transfer) - partner **must** bid 3♠, and you then bid 4♠ (showing a six-card suit), which partner will pass.
- g) 3♦ - (transfer) - partner **must** bid 3♥ which you now pass.