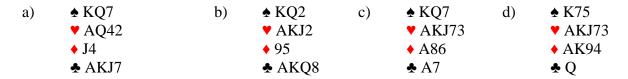
2NT OPENING BIDS AND RESPONSES

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) 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 the 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:

- **◆** 9842 a) b) **♦** 98742 **♦** Q64 d) **♦** Q643 **♦** Q8742 c) e) **7**6 **7**4 **♥** K95 **♥** K952 **♥** AJ9 ♦ K52 ♦ K52 **♦** 76 **♦** 76 **♦** 76 **♣** 8742 **♣** J9743 **♣** J97 **♣** 874 **♣** 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.