



LESSON 15 – STUDENT NOTES

WEAK 2 OPENING BIDS IN THREE SUITS 2♦, 2♥ OR 2♠ (BUT NOT 2♣!)

Weak 2 level Opening bids in three suits i.e. 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ (BUT NOT 2♣!), are not played by everyone. They are subject to partnership agreement. Opening weak 2 bids have become very popular because they come up a lot, and because of their disruptive effect on opponents!

WHAT IS AN OPENING WEAK 2 BID?

These are opening bids made at the 2 level when holding:

- a 6-card suit in ♦, ♥, or ♠ with
- a limited HCP range e.g. from 6-10 HCP
- But NEVER in ♣, as a 2♣ opening bid has a totally different special meaning – more later.)

Note If you have a 6-card suit and 12+ HCP (or meet the rule of 20) open at the 1 level as normal. Your hand is too strong for a weak 2 opening bid!

- Weak 2 opening bid are pre-emptive bids. They take up a lot of bidding space making it more difficult for opponents to enter the auction! 😈
- They also describe your hand in 1 bid to your partner (and everyone else at the table.)
- You will not bid again unless invited by partner.

WHY MAKE PRE-EMPTIVE WEAK 2 BIDS?

Opening bids of 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ are **Disruptive** (for opponents) and **Descriptive** bids in that these bids tell all other players exactly the shape and point range of your hand. These hands are unbalanced showing a 6 card potential trump suit where part game or even game might be possible for the partnership.

WEAK 2 OPENING BIDS IN THREE SUITS*

2-level openings in diamonds, hearts and spades show **6 - 10 HCP** and a **good* 6 card suit**

* i.e. including 2+ honours in the Weak 2 suit i.e. from A K Q J T

In other words when you have so few HCP most of them should be in the Weak 2 suit!

(*NB excluding a 2♣ which has a different specific meaning)

Examples:				
a)	b)	c)	d)	e)
♠ K J T 7 5 4	♠ 7 2	♠ 2	♠ A Q J	♠ 9 4
♥ J T 3	♥ A 7 3	♥ A Q 8 7 6 2	♥ J 9 8 5 4 2	♥ J 6 2
♦ K 8	♦ A Q 9 8 5 4	♦ 9 6 2	♦ 7 4	♦ 5 4
♣ 7 2	♣ 9 2	♣ K 7 2	♣ 9 8	♣ K Q J 8 7 6
8 HCP	10 HCP	9 HCP	8HCP	7 HCP
6 card suit with 3 hons in suit	6 card suit with 2 hons in suit	6 card suit with 2 hons in suit	6 card suit but only 1 honour in suit	6 card suit with 3 hons in suit BUT it's CLUBS!
Open 2♠	Open 2♦	Open 2♥	Pass – poor suit	Pass – No weak 2 in the club suit!

Vul: None	♠ A J 9 6 3 2 ♥ 7 6 ♦ J T 2 ♣ J 4	Dealer N
♠ Q 8 4 ♥ K 8 4 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ A 6 5 2	N W E S	♠ K ♥ A Q J T 3 2 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ Q T 7
	♠ T 7 5 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A K 9 8 ♣ K 9 8 3	

North
2♠ (1)

East
3♥ (2)

South
3♠ (3)

West
P (4)

- 1 - Weak Two with 6-10 HCP and 2 honours
- 2 - With opening points, shortage in spades and a good 6 card heart suit
- 3 - Responder bids to the *level of the fit* to continue the pre-empt.
- 4 - West passes reluctantly

A Weak 2 opening bid is a **disruptive** and **descriptive** bid!

Once you make a weak 2 bid you will **not bid again unless partner requests more information from you by his bid**. It is up to partner now to pass, or bid on.

As with other pre-emptive opening bids do not open with a Weak 2 bid, before your partner has a chance to bid, **if you also hold a 4 card major**. You may miss a major game if you do!

If partner does not make a bid, you may have the chance to Overcall your six-card suit.

WEAK JUMP OVERCALLS

(six card suit 6-10 HCP)

Three Weak 2 bids are not only Opening bids but can also be made as **Weak Jump Overcalls** (WJOs).

Remember, a simple suit overcall can be made at the 1 level with a good 5 card suit with a few as 8 HCP and at the 2 level with 10+ HCP

To differentiate, a weak 2 overcall i.e. a hand with 6-10 HCP and a six card suit, you must **jump one level** to bid your suit, hence the descriptor a **Weak Jump Overcall**

REQUIREMENTS TO BID A WEAK JUMP OVERCALL

(same as for opening a weak 2)

- 6 - 10 HCP
- GOOD* 6-card suit
- *(including 2+ honours in the suit i.e. from A K Q J T)
- **Jump one level** to show a weak 2 overcall i.e. a **weak jump overcall**

Vul: All	♠ Q 6 5 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K J 8 6 ♣ Q T 8 7	Dealer S
♠ A T 4 ♥ Q J 9 6 4 3 ♦ 7 ♣ 6 5 4	N W E S	♠ 8 7 ♥ A K T 2 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ K J 9 2
	♠ K J 9 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A Q T 5 3 ♣ A 3	

South West North East
 1♦ (1) 2♥ (2) 3♦ (3) 4♥ (4)
 All Pass (5)

- 1 – South opens his longest suit
- 2 – West bids a Weak Jump Overcall – good 6 card suit, 6-10 HCP
- 3 – After 1♦ - 1♥ North would have an easy 1♠ bid and NS would bid to 4♠ which might only go down with a diamond lead never found by East. North is too weak to bid 2♠ so bids to support partner's suit.
- 4 – After an overcall, bidding to the *level of the fit* – 10 cards so bid for 10 tricks!
- 5 - Can South really chance 4♠? Tough problem!

RESPONDING TO A WEAK 2 OPENING BID OR A WEAK 2 JUMP OVERCALL

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 0 - 13 HCP with 0-2 card in suit | Pass |
| 0 - 15 HCP with 3+ cards in suit | Support to the 'level of the fit' Continue the pre-empt! There must be a game their way! |

BUT WHAT IF PARTNER HAS A STRONG HAND?

e.g. 16+ HCP and 2+ cards i.e. a 'suit fit'

Might there be a game our way?

When partner to the weak 2 bidder has a suit FIT (only 2 cards needed) and a strong hand e.g. 16+ HCP, use the **2NT Conventional bid** to enquire about the strength of the weak 2 bid.

AIM: TO EXPLORE FOR GAME

- If Weak 2 is in either ♥ or ♠ - possible Game in the Major?
- If Weak 2 ♦ - possible Game in 3NT? (preferable to 5 of a minor)

N.B. The **2NT** bid made by the partner of the person who bid the Weak 2 is a **Conventional bid in this situation**. Therefore, it must be **alerted** by the person who bid the weak 2!

2NT CONVENTIONAL BID BY PARTNER OF THE WEAK 2 BID

asks for more information about the Weak 2 hand. In particular, its point count

- is it nearer the bottom or top of the 6-10 range? And, if nearer the top does he have an Ace or King in an outside suit? This is known as a **'Feature'** in the outside suit

OPTIONS AFTER THE CONVENTIONAL 2NT BID BY PARTNER

- If the Weak 2 bidder really is **weak** with a minimum point count for his bid, he **rebids the Weak 2 suit at the 3 level**. This is to play unless partner is super strong and decides to bid game anyway!
- If the Weak 2 bidder has a better hand and an Ace or King in outside suit i.e. not his Weak 2 suit he bids that suit at the lowest level.
- If the Weak 2 suit is in **diamonds** you can rebid 3NT **ONLY** if holding A K Q in diamonds. This **ONLY** applies to the diamond suit as it's preferable to play in 3NT rather than 5♦.

N.B. In this situation, partner should NOT use the 2NT convention if he is void in diamonds obviously as he can't get to the diamond suit!

Logic: A positive response to the 2NT convention can provide an additional entry to the Weak 2 hand, particularly needed if the partnership end up in 3NT.

HOW CAN THE WEAK 2 OPENER / OVERCALLER WORK OUT HIS REBID AFTER THE 2NT ENQUIRY BID BY PARTNER?

- Add your HCP to the number of honours in his bid suit to determine whether your hand is the 'upper' or 'lower' range.
- The upper range = 10+ The lower range = 9 or fewer

Example 1

♠ 2
♥ A Q 8 7 6 2
♦ 9 6 2
♣ 9 7 2

2♥ - P - 2NT - P

3♥

6 HCP + 2 honours = 8. Doesn't reach the 10+ threshold to be in the upper range. Rebid your 6-card suit to show you are weak.

With a 'lower' range, the Weak 2 bidder rebids his suit at the 3 level

The 2NT bidder now adds his HCP to the minimum his partner may have. If he knows the partnership doesn't have enough for game, he is happy to pass 3♥.

Example 2

♠ K Q T 7 5 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ 9 8
♣ 7 2

2♠ - P - 2NT - P

3♥

8 HCP + 3 honours = 11. Meets the 10+ threshold to be in the upper range so can bid an outside suit to show a 'Feature' i.e. the King of hearts

With a 'upper' range, the weak 2 bidder rebids the suit showing his 'Feature'
The 2NT bidder now with 16+ HCP and 2+ cards in spades can bid 4♠

Example 3

If your Weak 2 suit is in diamonds headed by AKQ, AK, AQ, or KQ, the weak 2 bidder can rebid 3NT – see below

♠ 2
♥ 9 8
♦ A K Q 8 7 6
♣ 9 7 2

2♦ - P - 2NT - P
3NT

9 HCP + 3 honours = 12. Meets the threshold to be in the upper range and with 3 top honours in the bid minor (knowing partner must have at least 2 diamonds and 15 HCP) bids 3NT!

With A K Q in a minor suit (diamonds here) you prefer to play in 3NT rather than 5♦.

The 2NT bidder now with 16+ and 2+ cards in diamonds will pass, happy to play in 3NT.

SUMMARY

These are pre-emptive bids at the 2 level. They are Disruptive and Descriptive Bids: once bid opener/overcaller, will rarely bid again unless invited by partner.

Bid Requirements:

6 - 10 HCP + a GOOD* 6 card suit in diamonds, hearts or spades (NEVER clubs!), open at the 2 level

A pre-emptive weak 2 overcall meets the same requirements as a Weak 2 opener and is called a **Weak Jump Overcall (WJO)**. To Bid a WJO bid your suit at one level higher than you would for a simple overcall.

Partner's response options to Weak 2 openers/overcalls:

- **Pass** You either have no suit fit and 0-13 HCP If on lead – lead partner's bid suit.
- Bid to the '*level of fit*' with 2+ cards in the suit and 0-15 HCP to continue the pre-empt as in all pre-empts
- After a **Weak 2** Opener, if responder has a suit 'fit' and 16+ HCP use the **2NT Features Convention** seeking game.

Weak 2 Opener/Overcaller rebid options after the 2NT enquiry by partner

- In the **lower** range (9 or fewer) rebid your Weak 2 suit at the lowest level
- In the **upper** range (10+) show a '**Feature**' i.e. Ace or King in an outside suit, rebid that suit at the lowest level.
- In the upper range (10+) with 3 top honours in the Weak 2 suit rebid 3NT

Opponent's response options to Weak 2 Openers

- **X for Takeout**, meeting **S.O.S.** (**S**hortage in the bid suit, **O**pening HCP & **S**upport for other 3 suits)
- Overcall your own good suit, or
- Bid NT with 16+ HCP and '**stops**' in the Weak 2 suit.