



# LESSON 19: 2NT STRONG OPENING BID TEACHER'S NOTES

**AT THE END OF THE LESSON STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:**

1. As Opener, recognise when you have a hand suitable for a 2NT Opening bid
2. As Responder, recognise and use your bid options after partner opens 2NT i.e. to Pass, use Stayman or Transfers, bid onto games in NT or a suit, or use enquiry techniques to bid onto small or grand slams in NT or a suit.

**LESSON CONTENT:** The lesson is in 2 parts.

## Part 1

Opening 2NT with a balanced hand 20-22 HCP

Discuss responder's options– Pass, 3NT, or 4 of major with a 6+ card suit

3♣ – Stayman – Asking Opener for a 4 card major?

3♦ / 3♥ Transfers to 3♥ / 3♠ respectively, Telling Opener Responder holds 5+ cards in that major

## PLAY AND SCORE HANDS 1 - 4 Part 2

Slam enquiry Methods used by Responder with a strong hand namely,

Quantitative 4NT **Slam Enquiry Bid**

4♣ **Gerber Ace Asking Bid**

## PLAY AND SCORE HANDS 5 - 12

### MAIN POINTS TO EMPHASISE

#### Part 1

2NT describes your hand and responder generally makes the final decision.

Responder is in charge – he knows openers hand!

As with 1NT bids, Stayman and Transfers can be used but with points adjustments. Responder can use Transfer bids as a weak take out provided he holds a 5+ card major.

#### Part 2

Introduce Quantitative 4NT Quantitative bid by responder and Opener responses.

Stress the different meaning of 4NT as a Quantitative bid made by responder immediately and ONLY after partner opens with a NT bid.

Explain the partnership HCP count for slam bidding 33+ HCP or 37+ HCP

So, after partner opens 2NT (20-22 HCP), Responder needs a minimum of 11 HCP

4NT Quantitative Bid says to opener, *'if you have maximum HCP for your opening bid, bid 6NT, but if you are minimum, Pass'*

e.g.  $22 + 11 = 33$  HCP enough for a NT slam

If 4NT is bid in round one it MUST be **alerted**.

Similarly, if partner opens 1NT (12-14) The bid asks the (12-14 HCP) responder needs 19 HCP

e.g.  $14 + 19 = 33$  HCP enough for a NT slam

Introduce the use of 4♣ Gerber to ask for aces when the final contract is NT

### **USING 4♣ GERBER ACE ASKING BID WHEN NT IS THE CONTRACT TO PLAY**

Because we are using 4NT as a quantitative bid, when your partnership wants to ask for aces when the final contract is to play in NT you need another bid!

4♣ (Gerber) is used if you think the partnership has enough HCP for slam (33+ HCP) It is a conventional bid and its only purpose is to check that you are not missing 2 Aces.

Responses to 4♣ Gerber ace asking are:

4♦ - no Aces

4♥ - 1 Ace

4♠ - 2 Aces

4NT - 3 Aces

Explain the logic of using 4♣ (Gerber) when the final contract is to be played in NT i.e. it allows responder to 'bail out' at the lowest NT contract if he finds the partnership is missing 2 aces!

Introduce Slam Scoring in NT and revise the impact of going down and being Doubled **X**

## NT Slam Scoring

	Small Slams 12 tricks	Grand Slams All 13 tricks
<b>Non Vulnerable</b>	<b>990</b> $6 \times 30 + 10 = 190 + 300 = 490 + 500$	<b>1520</b> $7 \times 30 + 10 = 220 + 300 = 520 + 1000$
<b>Vulnerable</b>	<b>1440</b> $6 \times 30 + 10 = 190 + 500 = 690 + 750$	<b>2770</b> $7 \times 30 + 10 = 220 + 500 = 720 + 1500$
<b>Bonus Non Vulnerable</b>	Add <b>500</b>	Add <b>1000</b>
<b>Bonus Vulnerable</b>	Add <b>750</b>	Add <b>1500</b>

Scoring 'Small Slams' seems on first sight complex! Really It's quite simple you just add **500 to non vulnerable game scores** and **750 to vulnerable game scores**

Similarly with 'Grand Slams' add **1000 to non vulnerable game scores** and **1500 to vulnerable game scores**

## LESSON SUMMARY

- This is the second of two strong 2 Opening bids
- 2NT – 20-22 HCP and balanced - **not game forcing!**
- Responses after 2NT opening, same as after 1NT opening but with points adjustment
- After a 2NT Opener, responder can use Stayman and Transfers
- With 33+ HCP in partnership explore NT Slam using **the Quantitative 4NT Conventional bid** which asks: *"Pass if you have minimum HCP, bid 6NT if you are maximum"*
- **4♣ Gerber Conventional bid** is used for ace asking when the partnership have not found a suit fit and have bid NT later.