



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
Non Vulnerable	990 $6 \times 30 + 10 = 190 + 300 = 490 + 500$	1520 $7 \times 30 + 10 = 220 + 300 = 520 + 1000$
Vulnerable	1440 $6 \times 30 + 10 = 190 + 500 = 690 + 750$	2770 $7 \times 30 + 10 = 220 + 500 = 720 + 1500$
Bonus Non Vulnerable	Add 500	Add 1000
Bonus Vulnerable	Add 750	Add 1500

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.