

## Mini Lesson 4: Weak Two Bidding

An opening of 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠ promises 5 -11 HCP and:

- Any six-card suit
- A weak hand with a 7-card suit when both the suit and the hand points are weak (i.e. unsuited for pre-empting at the 3 level).

**Why might you use Weak Two Bids?** These bids are pre-emptive and are meant to interfere with your opponents' bidding. It is a defensive bid. If you play Weak Two bids, you and your partner agree to not use two-level suit bids as "strong" bids, with the exception of 2♣.

**Responses to Weak Two Bids.** New suits are forcing, as is 2NT. If partner bids a Weak Two, you then bid:

• Pass.	<i>"I have nothing, partner."</i> (See also footnote.)
• Raise.	Further preempt; w/ at least 3 of the suit. ( <u>Not</u> invitational.)
• A new suit.	16+ points, and asking if Weak Two bidder has 3+ in that suit
• 2NT	<i>"Describe your hand, partner."</i>
• 3NT	To play.

It is good to agree with partner about each of the above responses. Let's cover a few in particular. First, a "**raise**" can be of two kinds. (In both cases, Weak Two bidder then passes.)

- A **simple raise** shows 3+ card support and usually 6-11 points. (*Why?*<sup>1</sup>) It is preemptive and completely non-forcing. It is named "*Raise Only Non-Forcing*" & written in as **RONF** on your convention card.
- A **jump raise** can either show a weak, preemptive hand with at least 4-card support, or a strong hand (16-19 points) if you are sure of the contract.

Second, a **new suit**. A new suit is natural and forcing for one round. It typically shows at least a 5-card suit, 16+ points, and denies support for partner's suit. Opener should raise that new suit with 3, or rebid her Weak Two suit with fewer than 3.

Third, the **2NT bid**. 2NT here is strong (15+ points), artificial, and forcing for one round. In this sequence,

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
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2♦, 2♥, or 2♠

2NT

<sup>1</sup> With 6-11 points, your partnership has insufficient values for a game contract, but does have nine trump together. Three level may be possible to make. More importantly, you are interfering further. Note: With 12-14 points, you can choose to either "Raise" or you could "Pass," as your opponents are unlikely to have game-going values and you don't need to further preempt.

the responder's 2NT is asking the Weak Two bidder to further describe her hand. People at the St Cloud Club respond to this 2NT inquiry in three different ways:

1. Some people at our Club play "**Feature**" – asking "Do you have an Ace or King in a side suit?" Opener is expected to bid the cheapest side suit containing an ace or king, if he has one. Otherwise, he rebids his suit. You do not reply with a singleton or void.
2. Many people at our Club play "**Kory points**," where:
  - a. 3♣ means "5 or 6 points"
  - b. 3♦ means "7 or 8 points, scattered"
  - c. 3♥ means "7 or 8 points, with 2 of top 3 honors"
  - d. 3♠ means "9 to 11 points"
  - e. 3NT shows A,K,Q of the Weak Two suit
3. Some of us (including Jim and I) play "**Ogust**," where:
  - a. 3♣ means "Weak suit and a weak hand (5-7 points)"
  - b. 3♦ means "Strong suit (2 of top 3; 3 of top 5), but weak hand."
  - c. 3♥ means "Weak suit, but strong hand (8-11 points)"
  - d. 3♠ means "Strong suit and a strong hand."
  - e. 3NT shows A,K,Q of the Weak Two suit

### Other Considerations

- In the fourth chair, there is no benefit to opening a Weak Two bid.
- A weak two bid usually does not contain a side four-card major, although this is up to partnership agreement. The reason it is dangerous to preempt with a side four-card major is because the partnership may miss a good fit in that major.
- When an opponent doubles, bids have these same meanings.
- You can bid a Weak Two with a void, but don't bid a Weak Two if the void makes the hand too good for a preempt.

### Test Your Weak Two Bids

1. ♠AJ43 ♥1052 ♦1094 ♣K54 Partner opens 2♦. What do you bid?  
Pass 2♠ 2NT 3♦
2. ♠AKJ ♥A103 ♦K9652 ♣42 Partner opens 2♠. What do you bid?  
Pass 2NT 3♦ 3♠ 4♠

**You open a Weak 2. Your partner bids 2NT. Use Feature, Kory Points, and Ogust to respond.**

3. ♠Q52 ♥AJ9832 ♦1083 ♣5
4. ♠AQJ842 ♥Q4 ♦52 ♣963