

WEAK TWO BIDS by Maritha Pottenger

Opening 2D, 2H, or 2S is a Weak Two Bid. It promises a 6-card suit and *less* than an opening hand in high card points. Remember: **2C is a strong bid** (cannot be passed!).

It is probably advisable to play **disciplined** Weak Two bids in 1st and 2nd position. That promises:

- 1) 5-10 HCP
- 2) a 6-card suit
- 3) Two of the top 3 honors in your suit if vulnerable
- 4) Two of the top 4 (or 3 of the top 5) honors in your suit if non-vulnerable (or partnership agreement)
- 5) No outside 4-card major (some people do not insist on this)

Some people also play that a Weak Two in 1st or 2nd position denies having a void.

You can play **undisciplined** Weak Twos in 3rd chair. You might, for example, open a “Weak Two” with a good 5-card suit (trying to take up the opponents’ bidding room). In 4th position, a “Weak Two” is actually an intermediate bid (usually 11-15 HCP) but still a 6-card suit. [For example, with AKQJxx xx Qxx xx, you should probably open 2S in 4th seat, rather than 1S.]

Responses

When your partner opens a Weak Two, respond according to HCP & number of cards in your partner’s suit. If your HCP + number of cards in partner’s suit add up to 17, you should be looking for a possible game.

- 1) 15+ - 18 HCP (like an opening 1NT bid), at least 2 cards in partner’s suit. Bid game in the major. Tricks are more important than points per se. Bid game if you can count a likelihood of 10 tricks in the major or 9 in no trump.
- 2) 13-15 HCP, if you also have a good side suit (that is probably running) or a big trump fit, bid the game. (In this range, remember the Law of Total Tricks. If you have 2 trumps—an 8-card fit—pass at the 2 level. If you have 3 trumps—a 9-card fit—you should be able to make a bid at the 3 level. If you have 4 trumps—a 10-card fit—you will often make at the 4 level.)
- 3) Bad hand and a big trump fit, bid the game or even the slam. (If you have a very weak hand with just lots of trumps, you should probably bid the slam as an advance sacrifice, e.g., if you have Kxxxx xxx xx Qxx and your partner bids 2S, think about bidding 6S if the vulnerability is right. The opponents almost certainly have a slam. So, 6S would be an advance sacrifice.)

Asking for a Feature

If you need more details about partner’s hand, 2NT by you asks partner for a feature.

- 1) If partner has an Ace or a King OUTSIDE his/her trump suit, s/he bids the suit of that Ace or King at the three level.
- 2) If partner has no outside Ace or King, s/he rebids the Weak Two suit at the 3 level.
- 3) If partner has a SOLID SUIT (i.e., AKQJxx or AKQJ10x) in his/her suit, the rebid is 3NT to guarantee you 6 running tricks in a no trump contract.

Asking for Aces

If you ask for Aces (4NT—Roman Key Card Blackwood), partner will assume that his/her suit is the agreed-upon suit and will make responses accordingly—showing the King and (where appropriate) the queen of that suit as well as any Ace.

RONF

Putting “RONF” on your convention card stands for “Raise Only Non Force” which means that raising your partner’s Weak Two bid (e.g., 2S-P-3S) is only continuing the preempt. It is NOT an encouraging bid. It is NOT an invitation to game. **A New Suit by you is forcing.** 2NT (asking for a feature) by you is forcing. If, for instance, your partner opens a weak 2H and you have 20 HCP and a good 5-card spade suit with only 1 or 2 hearts, you can safely bid 2S, knowing that partner must take one more bid. (Partner might, for example, be able to support your spades.)