

## Strong Opening Bids

### 2NT Opening

- **20-22 High Card Points (HCP)**
- **Balanced hand, non-forcing**
- Responder needs only 4+ points to bid 3NT or 4-Major game over a 2NT opening.
- Otherwise, the responses to a 2NT opening are like responses to a 1NT opening (except for the HCP difference).

### Responses to 2NT

Pass	0-3 HCP	no game
3♦	4+ HCP	6+ card suit
3♥/3♠	4+ HCP	5+ card suit (Opener chooses 4♥/4♠ or 3NT)
4♥/4♠	4+ HCP	6+ card suit
3NT	4+ HCP	balanced, no 5+ card major, may have 5-card minor
<i>[Note: 3♣</i>	<i>4+ HCP</i>	<i>Set aside for Stayman – may be covered later in the Improvers course]</i>

Note: if responder has a 5-card minor, the best contract is usually 3NT

### 2♣ Opening

- **Either 20+ Distributional hand, game force**
- **Or 23+ Balanced hand, partner must respond to the 2♣ opening**

The 2♣ opening is an **artificial** bid – it has **nothing** to do with clubs. It just describes a very strong hand. Responder **must** bid even with no points at all! (As the 2♣ Opener may well have game values on their own)

### Responses to 2♣

2♦ is an artificial bid. It has nothing to do with diamonds. The message is that responder is not interested in bidding slam (i.e. bidding to the 6 or 7 level).

Any other response to 2♣ promises 7+ points. **Bids of a suit promise 5+ cards. (With 7+ points and no 5+ card suit you respond NT)**

*Tip: When responding to a 2♣ opening with a positive suit bid, note that aces and kings are more valuable than queens and jacks. Discount your points in queens and disregard jacks.*

Remember, after a positive bid by responder the partnership is committed to game. Also, after a new suit rebid by opener, this is still forcing.

2♦	0-7	any shape, nothing to do with diamonds
2♥/2♠	7+	5+ card suit
3♣/3♦	7+	5+ card suit
2NT	8+	balanced hand, no good 5+ card suit

## Examples of Strong Opening Bids

♠ AK2	♠ KQ32	♠ AKJ9	♠ AK5	♠ 8	♠ AKQJ43
♥ AQ85	♥ K2	♥ AQJ5	♥ AKJ	♥ AKJ53	♥ K8
♦ A954	♦ KQJ3	♦ KJ5	♦ 63	♦ KQJ52	♦ AQJ4
♣ K8	♣ AJ7	♣ KQ	♣ AQ983	♣ AK	♣ 2

*Bid:*

2NT	1♦	2♣	2NT	2♣	2♣
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## Opener's Rebids after 2♣ Opening

After 2♣ – 2♦:

2♥/♠/3♣/♦	20+	5+ card suit
2NT	23-24	balanced hand
3NT	25+	balanced hand

After 2♣ – 2♥/♠:

3♥/♠	20+	Raise with 3+ card <b>fit</b> in hearts or spades
2NT	23+	<b>no fit (23-24)</b>
New suit	20+	5+ card suit, <b>no fit</b>

After 2♣ – 3♣/♦:

3♥/♠	20+	5+ card suit
3NT	23+	balanced

After 2♣ – 2NT:

3♥/♠	20+	5+ card suit – responder chooses 4♥/4♠ or 3NT
4♥/♠	20+	6+ card suit
3NT	23+	balanced, no 5 card major

## Bidding to Slam

If the partnership has **32+ points** between both hands, they **may** have enough for slam. (It often will be the responder that needs to take control as they will have a better idea of the total partnership point count).

*However, it may be necessary to check that the partnership is not missing 2 Aces:*

### 4NT asks for Aces

After suit bidding (but **not after NT bidding**), 4NT is an **artificial bid** which asks:

*How many aces do you have partner?...*

Partner **must** respond one of the bids below, it is **NOT** a suggestion to play in 4NT:

### Responses to 4NT (Ace Asking) – the Blackwood Convention

5♣	No Aces
5♦	1 Ace
5♥	2 Aces
5♠	3 Aces

Then **the partner who has used 4NT** (to ask for Aces) then sets the final contract.

*Note: More on ace-asking and other slam bidding is included in the Improvers topics.*

## Module 12 Quiz

### Strong Opening Bids

1. What is you open with these hands?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ AK ♥ AKJ765 ♦ KQ7 ♣ A2	♠ AQJ3 ♥ KQ8 ♦ AJ94 ♣ A8	♠ AQJ9832 ♥ A ♦ 5 ♣ AKQ6	♠ Q5 ♥ AK62 ♦ KQ9 ♣ AKQ4	♠ A105 ♥ K2 ♦ AKJ65 ♣ KQJ

2. Partner opens 2NT - what do you respond with these hands?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ KJ8754 ♥ J5 ♦ 743 ♣ 97	♠ AQ32 ♥ J532 ♦ 85 ♣ 1097	♠ 52 ♥ KJ762 ♦ 865 ♣ A72	♠ 9852 ♥ Q62 ♦ J1085 ♣ 97	♠ Q9852 ♥ KQ542 ♦ 85 ♣ 9

3. Partner opens 2♣ - what do you respond with these hands?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ 6532 ♥ 964 ♦ J5 ♣ 9542	♠ J98742 ♥ K6 ♦ K65 ♣ 64	♠ Q52 ♥ J96 ♦ K985 ♣ A85	♠ 54 ♥ AJ64 ♦ KJ532 ♣ 52	♠ KJ643 ♥ 85 ♦ Q4 ♣ AK85

4. What is your rebid after the following auctions:

(A) 2♣ - 2♦ and (B) 2♣ - 2♠

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ A52 ♥ AK62 ♦ AK ♣ AJ52	♠ AK ♥ AKQ32 ♦ KJ832 ♣ 3	♠ 8 ♥ KQJ ♦ AK5 ♣ AKQ854	♠ KQ87 ♥ AQ ♦ AKQJ ♣ KQ3	♠ Q76 ♥ AK3 ♦ AKQJ98 ♣ A
(A)				
(B)				