

Weak 2 Bids

As explained in the strong 2C lecture, American players have eschewed the ACOL strong 2 structure for a different structure that uses 2C as the catch-all “Strong” bid and employs weak 2’s as the default meaning for 2D, 2H and 2S.

A “weak” 2 bid contains the following characteristics

- 6-11 HCP
- 6 cards in the suit bid
- solid honors in the suit bid (2 of the top three, or three of the top five)
- No more than one outside ace or king
- Bid shows a one suited hand – both descriptive and preemptive
 - Partner should know 80-90% of your hand in one bid. Much like when you open 1NT your hand is very well defined when you open a weak 2. Compare that to a 1C opening which may have 3-8 clubs, and 11-20 HCP.
 - If it is their hand, you force them to start describing their hand at the two or three level which makes it far more difficult to arrive at the correct contract.
- You should not have a side 4 card major (side four card minor OK)
- You should want partner to lead your weak 2 suit on defense

8 KQJT85 952 KT4

This is a “perfect” weak 2 in my opinion. Open 2H in any seat and any vulnerability if there hasn’t been any bidding by the opposition. This hand has high suit quality, the right amount of defense, and one outside king. Unfortunately, you only get the perfect hand dealt to you once a year, so most weak 2 decisions aren’t as easy as this.

AQJ765 87 5 JT54

Open 2S. Even though you have four clubs, it is better to open 2S and describe your hand immediately to partner. This hand has very nice spades and reasonable shape. It is a solid 2S opener.

J87643 KQ 87 T54

Pass. Even though you are within the 6-11 HCP range, your spades are anemic and you don’t necessarily want a spade lead. If partner opens, you plan to bid 1S followed by 2S which shows 6-9 points, six + spades and a hand that could not open a weak two for some reason (either poor suit quality, too much defense, or a side suit that way too good to potentially squelch). .

AQJ854 KT J2 432

Open 2S – this is about as good a hand as you want to have for a weak 2.

AT5 AKT975 6 T93

Open 1H. This hand has much too much defense and power for a weak 2. If you add your HCP (11) plus length points (2), you get enough to open at the one level. You should never open a hand with two aces with a weak 2.

KQ2 876432 KJ5 T7

Pass. Don't even think about opening 2H. Your hearts are an embarrassment!

KQ76 KJT954 75 9

Pass. Even though your hearts possess the proper suit quality for a weak 2, your spades are too good to preempt the auction. Holding ten cards in the majors, you are likely to win the auction without preempting, and so you shouldn't give up on finding a spade fit with partner.

Responding to a weak 2 by partner

All new suits are forcing, and show very good hands (15+Hcp, six card suits).

Jumps to game are nonforcing and show either good hands with support for partner (jumps to 4 of partner's major) or self sufficient hands.

The asking bid is **2NT**. This asks the weak 2 bidder to show a feature, which is typically an outside ace or king. If the weak 2 bidder does not have any feature, he or she rebids 3 of the major.

Partner opens 2H and right hand opponent passes: You hold:

AKT65 4 A65 9843

Pass. Partner has a one suited hand with hearts, and you hold a likely misfit. Pass and hope that partner makes 2H.

AKQ754 T5 A943 6

Bid 2S. If partner raises to 3S, you can bid 4 and expect to make it. If partner bids 3D, bid 4H and partner should find his or her way to ten tricks. If partner bids 3H, you have a close decision between pass and 4H.

AT3 J984 AT543 8

Bid 4H. You expect to make this contract easily opposite a weak 2 from partner.

974 J984 T6543 8

Bid 4H again. Even though it may not make, the opponents have at least a game and maybe a slam in a black suit with their 30+ points. Your 4H bid forces them to start describing their hand at a high level. If they double and you go down one or two, it figures to be a very good board versus their game or even slam.

A76 J6 AJ543 A87

Bid 2NT. If partner can show a feature outside of the heart suit, 4H figures to make. If partner can't, you will have a reasonable dummy for 3H with your three entries and side suit.

K76 2 AQ AKQJ942

Bid 3NT. Partner won't have the values to make 6c after opening 2H (expecting only one outside ace or king). Note that the preemptor (the one who bid 2H) is not being asked to choose a game here' he or she should trust partner's choice and pass 3NT regardless of his or her weak 2.

AKQJ6543 _ A7 J54

Bid 4S, which assigns the final contract. A good partner will have something useful such as QTx of clubs.