

Weak Twos Revisited

The Weak Two Bid is an opening bid of 2D, 2H, or 2S (not 2C) which portrays a hand with a strong 6-card suit along with 7-9 HCP (6 or 10 HCP are exceptions, particularly 10). **You also will rarely have a (or the other) 4-card major.**

It can be compared to an opening three bid, the difference is that a three bid normally shows a seven-card suit. The distribution of the weak two bidder's hand rates to be 6-3-2-2, 6-3-3-1 or 6-4-2-1. Notice: **no five card side suits and no side suit voids.**

Suit strength can vary with the vulnerability and seat. **Ideally three or four of the top five honors** will head the suit. Practically, two of the top five honors along with the 98 or 97 attached will do just fine thank you. Suits that look like: AK10765, AK9732, KQ9732, AJ9843, QJ10432, KJ9765 are acceptable. **Not vul. Vs. vul. liberties are allowed.**

Third seat weak twos (after partner has passed) are often made with a strong 5-card suit. Partner is supposed to have four card support plus a side suit singleton or two side suit doubletons to raise a third seat weak two. Discipline!

Opening the following hand-type with 2S in THIRD seat eliminates the necessity for many light third hand openings:

- S. KQJ105
- H. K8
- D. J76
- C. 765

The advantages of opening with a weak two bid are: (1) limiting the hand immediately; (2) directing the opening lead; 3) taking away bidding space from the opponents.

Assume you deal and hold:

- S. 98
- H. AKJ986
- D. 98
- C. 1076

In **fourth seat**, there is no reason to preempt with a weak hand. Pass and take your chances on the next deal if you hold:

- S. 97 H. KQJ8754 D. 75 C. J6

Any preempt in fourth seat is not really a pre-empt at all, since Opener could simply pass out the hand. Rather, they show a MINIMAL legitimate Opener with a 6-card suit and good chances of making--but NO interest in game opposite a passed partner. This usually implies GOOD trumps--including good trump spots. The idea is to prevent the opponents from finding a makeable PART SCORE. It is important to TAKE A PLUS SCORE here to justify the non-passout.

- S. QJ109xx H. KQJ D.x C. A10x

Open 2S in 4th seat, to make it tough for the opponents to find their Diamond fit and to prevent partner from making a limit raise.

RESPONDING TO A WEAK TWO BID

Before considering your response, keep in mind that your partner has about 7/8 HCP along with a reasonable looking 6-card suit.

Your response depends to a large extent on how well you fit partner's suit-unless you are blessed with an independent (can play opposite a singleton without trauma) suit of your own.

With a singleton in partner's suit and no strong suit of your own, do not even think of bidding on unless you have 16+ HCP.

With a small doubleton in partner's suit, you need about 15 HCP to bid on. However, with a doubleton honor in partner's suit (Ax, Kx, Qx), and an interesting looking hand (no wasted jacks or queens) 14 HCP will suffice.

Hands with three or four-card support for partner's suit normally do something. Frequently you "further the preempt" by raising partner to three or four level. All you need is a little distribution and not much in the way of strength! Be brave! Keep in mind the opponents surely have game, possibly a slam!

Rule: WHEN YOU AND YOUR PARTNER HAVE A 9-CARD FIT OR LONGER, THE OPPONENTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST AN 8-CARD FIT OR LONGER IN ANOTHER SUIT.

Your advantage is that you know where your fit lies; the opponents have yet to find theirs. By raising partner's suit, you make it that much more difficult for your opponents to uncover their fit.

Assume for the moment that your partner opens 2H and your right hand opponent passes. What are your options?

North (partner)	East	South (you)	West
2H	Pass	?	

(1) Pass: S. AJxx H. 2 D. KJ54 C. K943

(2) Bidding a new suit: **A new suit in response to a weak two bid is forcing for one round.** Responder must have at least a strong five card suit, more likely a 6/7 card suit along with opening bid values. Holding: S. AKJ943 H. 2 D. AQ10 C. 109x

(3) Raising to 3H: This is strictly preemptive and opener is not allowed to bid on. Ever!
S. 87 H. K43 D. A9432 C. 976 Raise to 3H.

(4) Raising to 4H: A two-edged sword. You may have a good hand with hopes of making 4H, or you may be furthering the preempt, taking an advance sacrifice, so to speak. The opponents now have to find their fit at the four or five level never having had a chance to exchange any information.

S. AKJ3 H. Q5 D. 4 C. A76432

S. 4 H. KJ43 D. KJ743 C. 1087

Raise to 4H with either hand.

(5) Responding 2 NT: A one round force which asks partner to further describe his hand. At this point the opener has several options. Opener can:

(a) Return to the original suit, the weakest of all rebids.

(b) Raise to 3NT:

This should only be done with a suit headed by the AK, AKJ, AKQ, or AQJ;

(c) Show a feature-something like Ax(x) or Kx(x).

For example, having opened 2H with:

S. 54 H. AJ10xxx D. 54 C. K105

In response to 2NT, rebid 3C to show where your side strength lies. If, after the 2NT response, responder returns to 3H, you are allowed to pass, but you would not with the above hand, which is a super maximum. If the responder changes suits after bidding 2NT, the bid is forcing.

(6) Responding 3NT: A response that ENDS the bidding. Responder is not interested in hearing any more about your hand. Responder usually has a solid minor perhaps with a singleton or void in your suit. An example of a 3NT response to a 2H opening:

S. K4 H. 2 D. AKQJ876 C. K76

(7) Responding 4NT: Blackwood or Key Card Blackwood.

DEFENSE TO THE WEAK TWO BID

When your opponents open with a weak two, you should have some simple defense to counteract the preemptive effect of the bid. Here is a suggested defense. Assume the opening bid is 2H.

East	South (you)
2H	2S/3C/3D

Five card suit minimum at the two level, six card suit presumed at the three level with opening bid values.

2H	Double
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Takeout: same strength as needed to double a 1H opening bid.

2H	2NT
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16-18 balanced. The same strength as a 1NT overcall of an opening one bid.

2H	3H
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The cue bid shows a solid suit and asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in opener's suit.

2H	4C or 4D
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Leaping Michaels. A powerful two-suiter with the minor you are bidding and the unbid major. Your distribution should be 5-5 or 6-5, the six card suit being the minor.

Assume your right hand opponent opens 2H. What would you bid with each of the following hands?

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|----|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | S. AJ54 | H. 65 | D. KJ87 | C. AJ3 |
| 2. | S. K87 | H. 32 | D. KQ987 | C. K98 |
| 3. | S. 54 | H. AJ108 | D. AK87 | C. 654 |
| 4. | S. KQ987 | H. 2 | D. AKJ983 | C. 3 |
| 5. | S. 2 | H. 43 | D. KQ987 | C. AQJ98 |
| 6. | S. A7 | H. 87 | D. A7 | C. AKQJ976 |
| 7. | S. 987 | H. AJ9 | D. AKJ8 | C. K98 |
| 8. | S. 8 | H. AJ87 | D. KQ87 | C. KJ65 |

Solutions:

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|----|--------|--|
| 1. | Double | You would have doubled a 1H opening, so double a 2H opening. |
| 2. | Pass | You either need a 6-card suit to overcall at the three level or two five card suits. |
| 3. | Pass | And hope partner can reopen with a double. |
| 4. | 4D | A powerful diamond/spade two suiter. |
| 5. | 3D | 2NT is natural and the cue bid asks for a stopper (See answer to #2) |
| 6. | Pass | 3H Shows a solid suit and asking partner for a stopper in their suit. |
| 7. | 2NT | Showing 16-18 balanced with at least one stopper in their suit. |
| 8. | Pass | You have no bid to describe this hand. |