

NVBA I/N Teaching
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Bidding Over Opener's Weak Two Bid
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One tough Bridge question is "*Why do the opponents continue to pre-empt?*" You should all know the answer, "*Because it works!*"

For this evening's lecture, we'll look at the opponents opening a weak two bid. In most situations, this shows 5-10 High Card Points, and a 6-card suit. You will find some will open a five-card suit, and on rare occasions, a seven-card suit, but for now believe they open a six-card suit. Do we know more than this?

Yes. Position in the auction and vulnerability give us clues. Some even tell us more on their Convention Card, e.g. "Disciplined, 2 of 3 or 3 of 5"

- * If they are vulnerable and we are not, their opening weak two is probably more sound than if the vulnerability is reversed.
- * In general, a first-seat (Dealer) weak two opening is less disciplined; the pre-empt disturbs twice as many opponents as partners.
- * Second seat disturbs an equal number of partners and opponents, and is in general the most conservative of the weak two bids.
- * In third seat, an opening weak two bid disturbs zero partners, so it is the position in which the most frisky bids are made.
- * Finally, in fourth seat, the bid just tells partner (and opponents) "*We should own this hand, and this is the only suit I want to have as trump.*"

So your opponents disturb your game by opening that weak two bid, and you know what they are saying. Do you want to get into the auction? In many cases, the answer will be "Yes." How do you evaluate your hand?

- * Do you have a good suit? -- if so, consider bidding it.
- * Do you have a balanced hand, with stopper(s) in their suit? -- if so, consider bidding NT
- * Do you have support for the unbid suits, especially unbid Majors, and opening count or more? -- if so, takeout double
- * Do you have a huge hand, and require that partner not pass? -- if so, sounds like cuebid time.

What else should you consider?

- * How much room remains in the auction? -- over their 2 ♦ bid, it's easier to bid a Major (or ask pard to do so), while over their 2 ♠ bid, any suit for your side is first introduced at the three level.
- * Has partner passed already before their weak two? -- if so, pard has a limited hand -- so you have a good idea of the partnership's upper limit.
- * Has partner passed after their weak two bid? -- if so, he may have something in their suit and be trap passing.
- * Have opponents bid and raised the weak two? (you are in fourth seat) -- a raise to 3 just extends the pre-empt, while a raise to four or more either does the same or is a "*We're strong enough to make this contract!*" bid. If unsure of which, be very careful.
- * Are we vulnerable? -- again, be a little more cautious -- but at IMPs, also a little more adventurous when considering the possibility of bidding and making game.

What do you need to bid a suit?

What do you need to bid NT?

We'll look at some examples here, perhaps more on the whiteboard. It doesn't matter a great deal what your answer is, just that you and your partner are both on the same page with this.

- ♠ AKxx ♥ xx ♦ AQxx ♣ QJx -- Auction (2 ♥) ? Auction p (2 ♥) ? Auction (2 ♥) p (p) ? -- change ♠ K to ♠ J
- ♠ T ♥ KJxxx ♦ QJx ♣ AKQx -- Auction (2 ♠) ? Auction p (2 ♠) ? Auction (2 ♠) p (p) ?
- ♠ AQ ♥ AQ ♦ KQxx ♣ JT9xx -- Auction (2 ♠) ? Auction p (2 ♠) ? Auction (2 ♠) p (p) ? -- or they bid 2 ♥