

Weak Twos and Pre-empts

You will have encountered the situation where you have a lot of cards in one suit but not enough High Card Points to open the bidding. As the shape of a hand becomes more and more extreme, HCPs become less and less relevant in deciding how to treat them. With weak hands including very long suits, we will open the bidding at the two and three level (or even sometimes at the four or five level!)

Pre-emptive Opening Bids (at the three-level and beyond)

With a **good suit** consisting of **seven or more cards** and a **weak hand**, you should open at the three level or higher.

♠ AKQT942	♠ 92	♠ KQ2	♠ 92
♥ 4	♥ KQJ9432	♥ Q4	♥ 83
♦ 983	♦ T987	♦ Q	♦ 4
♣ 42	♣ void	♣ J976532	♣ AKQT7652
Open Three Spades	Open Three Hearts	Pass	Open Five Clubs (!)

When you hold a weak hand, it is likely that the opponents have good hands. By Pre-empting, we use up several levels of bidding space they would like to be using to find their best contract. When our partner has the good hand, we have described all of the important features of our hand.

A Weak Two Opening

With a good suit (that isn't clubs!) consisting of six cards, you should open at the two level.

♠ 5	♠ AJT952	♠ A65432	♠ 763
♥ QT3	♥ 54	♥ KJ3	♥ JT3
♦ AK9652	♦ K432	♦ QT	♦ 6
♣ 763	♣ T	♣ 84	♣ AKJ732
Open Two Diamonds	Open Two Spades	Pass	Pass (Or Three Clubs!)

You will force the opponents to begin their auction uncomfortably high, secure in the safety of a good, long trump suit if you end up playing the hand.

Responding to Weak Twos or Pre-empts

You should only bid over your partner's pre-emptive opening if you have a **good hand** or a **good fit**. When your partner opens at the three level, there is very little more they can tell you. You will probably be able to choose the final contract and if you need more information, you can always bid a new suit, which is *forcing* (the pre-empter must bid again).

Two No Trumps in response to a weak two is an artificial enquiry about the weak two

When it happens that your side opens a Weak Two and it is the responder who has the good hand (typically 16 or more HCPs), you can enquire about the quality of your partner's opening weak two by bidding Two No Trumps. This should be alerted as it is an artificial enquiry. Opener should then evaluate how good their hand is **on the scale of weak twos!** A nine point weak two is a good one!

Opener's responses to the Two No Trump Enquiry are to repeat their suit (with a poor weak two or to make another descriptive bid with a good one (either bid a second suit or bid Three No Trumps).

WARNING! If you play weak twos, you should *never* do so if your suit is clubs. Opening Two Clubs has a special meaning that we will cover in another lecture (it shows *any* super strong hand, typically with twenty one or more HCPs and any suit, any shape. With a weak hand and six clubs you can open Three Clubs or Pass.