



## LESSON 10

# Strong Opening Bids

### 2NT Opening

- 20-22
- Balanced hand, non forcing

Responder needs only 5+ points to bid game over a 2NT opening.  
The responses to a 2NT opening are similar to those over 1NT.

### Responses to 2NT

Pass	0-4	no game
3♣/3♦	5+	5+ card suit
3♥/3♠	5+	5-card suit (Opener chooses 4♥/4♠ or 3NT)
4♥/4♠	5+	6-card suit
3NT	5+	balanced, no 5+ card major, may have 5-card minor

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, game force** – Open 2NT with balanced 20-22

This 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! Both partners must bid on until **game** is reached.

### 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 (ie. bidding to the 6 or 7 level).

Any other response promises 8+. **Bids of a suit promise 5+ cards.**

Remember, the partnership is committed to game.

2♦	0-7	any shape, nothing to do with diamonds
2♥/2♠	8+	5+ card suit
3♣/3♦	8+	5+ card suit
2NT	8+	balanced hand, no 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
<b>2NT</b>	<b>1♦</b>	<b>2♣</b>	<b>2NT</b>	<b>2♣</b>	<b>2♣</b>

## 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+	no <b>fit</b>
New suit	20+	5+ card suit , no <b>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 the two hands, they **may** have the values for slam.

However, it is necessary to check that the partnership is not missing 2 Aces.

### 4NT asks for Aces

4NT is an **artificial bid** which asks – how many aces do you have partner?

Partner **must respond** as this is **not** a suggestion to play in 4NT.

### Responses to 4NT (Ace Asking)

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

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