

Partner Opens a Weak 2 bid. What should I do?

By Bill Voedisch

When partner opens a Weak 2 bid, when is it right for me to bid?

The “Rule of 17” ... looking for a game in partner’s major

First, if partner opens 2H or 2S, the “Rule of 17” can apply to see if you should investigate for game. It goes like this: add your high card points and your number of cards in partner’s suit, and if it totals 17 or more, bid 2NT. This is forcing on partner to tell you more about their weak 2 opener.

You can play “Feature” or “OGUST.” Playing “Feature” says that if opener has 8-10 hcp, the top half of the Weak 2 HCP (5-10) range, bid an outside A or K. Sometimes you have to bid a Q.

But I recommend you play *OGUST* which is very precise in describing the weak 2 opener:

- 3C = Poor hand (5-7 hcp) and a poor suit (only 1 of the top 3 honors)
- 3D = poor hand (5-7 hcp) and a good suit (holding 2 of the top 3 honors)
- 3H = good hand (8-10 hcp) and a poor suit (only 1 of the top 3 honors)
- 3S = good hand (8-10 hcp) and a good suit (holding 2 of the top 3 honors)
- 3NT = the “big” weak 2 holding at least 9 hcp and the AKQ of the suit.

The 2NT bidder will place the contract.

What if partner opens 2D?

Here the requirements to make the forcing 2NT call are higher, for two reasons. First, game in the minor normally needs 28/29 hcp. Second, if you are heading to 3NT it takes more high card strength than a suit bid. Try the Rule of 20. Say partner opens 2D and it passes to you.

Holding: xx AKx Kxx KJxxx you meet the Rule of 17 but not the Rule of 20. Just pass. If 4th chair comes in with a double or 2 of a major, when it comes around to you, of course bid 3D.

What do I bid with weaker hands opposite partner’s Weak 2 opener?

Holding 8+ hcp and support for partner’s suit and RHO passes, just pass. It may pass out and partner buys it at the 2 level. If you raise to 3 and 4th chair was not going to bid, you are now a level higher than you needed to be. Plus 110 beats -50 by a ton. But if RHO bids a suit or doubles, raise partner to 3. And if you are weaker than 8-10 and have support for partner and RHO bids a suit or doubles, also raise partner. They may reach game anyway.

And remember the “LAW of Total Tricks.” If you have 4 of partner’s suit compete to the 4 level, especially at favorable vulnerability.

As the auction progresses and becomes competitive, does the Weak 2 bidder ever bid again?

Generally they are done bidding, except in one situation. When it gets down to deciding whether to sacrifice, that decision can be made by either partner.

Consider playing “McCabe.”

McCabe is a bidding convention to consider using as part of your Weak 2 bidding. It happens when partner opens a Weak 2 and RHO doubles. McCabe goes like this:

- 2NT ... This bid ignores the double and the Weak 2 opener responds OGUST.
- 3 of a new suit ... This is lead directing but must also contain some support for partner's weak 2 suit. Ideally the new suit has a 1 loser holding: AKx AQJ KQJ or longer.
- Re Double ... You are stiff or void in partner's Weak 2 suit and your LHO could have 5 or 6 of partner's suit and will leave it in for penalty. After the re double the Weak 2 opener then makes the next highest bid and we just see where we end up. We are likely heading to a run-out bid in your 6+ card suit.