

WEAK TWO OPENING BIDS – Part Four

By Baloney Bill

OK, so you are aware that you shouldn't open a weak two if you have a **four-card major** in your hand as well. Correct?? YES!!! _____ Oh, why not once in a while? _____

Dr. James Sternberg, a Bridge Bulletin author with lots of good tips, noted these two hands in his April 2021 article:

A) A J 10 7 5 3 8 6 4 2 K 6 3 (spades first, then _____, then _____, then _____)
B) A J 10 7 5 3 8 6 2 K 6 4 3

If you selected the YES!!!! In the first paragraph, then you would open two spades if you held hand B, but pass with hand A, correct? Dr. Sternberg sure wouldn't pass Hand A. He would open two spades. He likes to interfere with his opp's bidding, and describe his hand to his partner. Do you? Yes _____

He goes on to explain that if his heart holding in hand A was something like K J 10 4, then no, he wouldn't open it two spades. He doesn't say what, if anything, he would bid, but I'd sure open it ONE SPADE, if I had those hearts in addition to my six-card spade suit. Would you? Yes _____

Another topic pertaining to weak twos... Does your *position in the bidding process* affect whether or not you open a weak two? Yup!

Dr. Robert Todd, another Bridge Bulletin author, in his December 2019 contribution, said that we should think about first, second, and third seat two bid openers, but don't put much thought into opening a weak two in 4th position. He suggested that you be most aggressive (willing to open two of a suit) in first seat, and most conservative in second seat. Third seat varies.

If you open two of a suit with 6-10 points, your hand has fewer points than an average hand (10 points – you know, 40 possible points divided by 4 players). If you open two in first chair, then opps are favored to hold more points than your partnership, twice as likely! So, get in their faces – be aggressive. Mess up their bidding.

If RHO is the opening bidder and passes, that increases the odds that partner has a good hand, and your preempt might mess up not only your opps, but your partner as well. Thus, the suggestion above to be a little more conservative (careful).

After two passes, have fun. You can be extremely aggressive with a very light hand, or very conservative with a good hand where you know you and partner won't be bidding a game, and setting competing opponents might be more pleasurable.

And lastly, vulnerability. We aren't vulnerable, but they are: be very aggressive. Open really minimal hands. Neither side vulnerable? Be aggressive! Both sides vulnerable. Be more conservative. They aren't vulnerable, but we are? Be really conservative!!