

Strong Two Club Opening

1 NT shows 15 – 17 balanced HCP

2NT shows 20 – 21 balanced HCP

What do I open with 20+ HCP points and an unbalanced hand or 22+ HCP and a balanced hand?

Two Clubs: This is an artificial, strong and forcing bid. It *does not* promise clubs ~ merely a strong hand. This is a game-force bid and bidding must continue until at least a game contract has been reached **UNLESS** you have fewer than 3 HCPs. **Note:** By partnership agreement, the point range for bidding game may be altered.

My partner opens 2♣, what do I bid?

Two Diamonds: *waiting bid*. This gives your partner bidding room and allows her to tell you about her hand.

Let's look at opening bids:

	Your Hand	# Points	Your Bid	Partner Bid	Your Bid
	♠ K10 ♥ AKQ962 ♦ AJ10 ♣ A8	_____	_____	2♦	_____
	♠ KQ10 ♥ AKJ9 ♦ AJ10 ♣ AJ8	_____	_____	2♦	_____
	♠ KQ ♥ AKQJ9862 ♦ A3 ♣ A	_____	_____	2♦	_____

Opener's rebids after two diamond response with a balanced hand:

- 22 – 24 HCP 2NT
- 25 – 26 HCP 3NT

What would the bidding look like?

- 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT = 22 – 24 HCPs and a balanced hand
- 2♣ - 2♦ - 3NT = 25 – 27 HCPs and a balanced hand

Responding after a 2NT rebid by opener: (Bid shows 22 – 24 HCPs and a balanced hand)

- Pass with 0-2 HCP. This shows a “bust” hand. This is the **ONLY** response by the opening 2 club bidder that may be passed ~ all other bids are **FORCING!!!**
- Raise to 3NT with 3 HCP
- With a four-card major, bid 3C (Stayman) asking partner if she has a four-card major. Since with a “bust” hand you would have passed, this bid asks for a four-card major and shows points.
- Transfer to your 5+-card major. This can be done with **ZERO** points!!!
- Since 2NT is the first “natural” bid in the sequence, transfers and Stayman can be used.

What do I bid after my partner shows a suit?

- After bidding two diamonds, bid the *cheapest* minor to show a “bust” hand **OR** by partnership agreement, bid 2NT.
- With fewer 3 - 8 HCP points bid game. Example: 2♣ – 2♦ - 2♠ – 4♠. This bid shows no interest in slam (even though opener has shown a strong hand) and should indicate no aces or kings. You should have 3 of partner’s suit.
- With 10+ points and 3 or 4 trumps, bid 3♠. This bid shows more points and an interest in slam. This could show trump support and more than one trick.
- As responder, the slower you go the bigger your hand.

What do I bid if I have fewer than three points?

- After bidding two diamonds, bid the *cheapest* minor to show a “bust” **OR** by partnership agreement 2NT.
- 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ – 3♣ Shows (0-2) and tells partner to place the final contract as you are **not** bidding again. OR if using the 2 NT bid as the negative then the bidding would be: 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT. This still shows (0-2) points and tells partner to place the contract as you are **not** bidding again!!! It also shows 2 or fewer cards in partner’s suit.
- If partner’s suit is clubs, then 3♦ shows a “bust” hand. This would look like the following: 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♣ - 3♦ (bust hand ~ I am not bidding again!)

I have own suit, can I bid it instead of two diamonds?

If you have

- **8+ HCP**
- 5+ cards in a major suit
- 6+ cards in a minor suit
- Two of the top three honors, bid your suit.
- Bids of 2♠, 2♥, 3♦ or 3♣ reflect the above criteria

Are there downsides to using the 2♦ waiting bid? Only if your suit is actually diamonds, then the wrong hand is playing the contract.

Who is the captain when partner opens with a strong 2♣ bid?

- The responder
- She is the smartest person in the room!!!! Why? Because she has all the information at her disposal. She knows your hand and her hand. She can then make the decision as to where the contract should be played!!!
- The only time opener makes the decision is when responder has a “bust” hand.

Now let's look at responder's bids:

Partner Bid	Your Hand	# Points	Your Bid	Partner Bid	Your Bid
2♣	♠ 102 ♥ AQ96 ♦ 8742 ♣ J84	_____	_____	2♥	_____
2♣	♠ A2 ♥ AQ963 ♦ 87 ♣ J1084	_____	_____	3♣	_____
2♣	♠ A2 ♥ Q963 ♦ 8752 ♣ J84	_____	_____	2♠	_____
2♣	♠ QJ8 ♥ 1093 ♦ J87 ♣ KJ84	_____	_____	2NT	_____
2♣	♠ 972 ♥ 9632 ♦ 873 ♣ 984	_____	_____	2♠	_____