

The Weak Two Bid

In the old days any 2-level Opening bid indicated a strong hand, Such hands occur but not as often as another type of hand that can benefit from use of the 2-level; leaving Reverses, Jump-Shifts and 2♣ to handle big hands. This strategy leaves the 2-level to handle semi-long-suited, semi-weak hands. We Open 5-Card majors because it is not unusual to find your Partner with 3-Cards in that same suit. What is the likelihood that Partner is holding 2-Cards in a suit? If you have a 6-Card suit and partner has 2-Cards in that suit you have the Magic-8 which means you have a fair shot at making a 2-level Contract. So why not Open a weak (6-9 HCP) hand holding a 6-Card suit at the 2-level! This strategy is not without its risks so we need put a little control on the use of the Weak-Two bid:

1. 6-9 HCP
2. No other 4-Card Major
3. 2 of top 3 or 3 of top 5 Honors i.e. Good suit especially when vulnerable
4. In 1st or 2nd seat avoid Weak-2 when holding 3 of other Major

Here are some hands you should open:

a) ♠J7 ♥AQT853 ♦75 ♣T52 and b) ♠97 ♥52 ♦AQ9753 ♣Q72, c) ♠QJT986 ♥K6 ♦9 ♣JT75

Here are some hands you shouldn't open:

- a) ♠J753 ♥AQT853 ♦7 ♣T5 4-Card Major
b) ♠K7 ♥52 ♦AQ9753 ♣Q72 Too Strong (11 HCP)
c) ♠QT9865 ♥K6 ♦9 ♣KT75 Suit not good enough

An additional benefit accrues to the use of this bid. If you have a weak hand chances are the opponents might be able to Open, find a fit and win the Contract. Your Weak-Two bid takes away bidding space lessening opponents chance of finding their fit. Recall our earlier admonition to bid whenever you have the cards and opportunity to do so.

Besides making life difficult for the opponents, your Partner may be able to easily envision your hand, and with a decent hand of his own your partnership might find Game with less than 25 HCP total. Consider these complementary hands.

You as Dealer ♠KJT986 ♥K9 ♦97 ♣JT7

Partner ♠Q75 ♥A5 ♦A753 ♣A972

Even with only 22 HCP this hand has a very good chance of making 4♣. The hands have 4 losers 2♣'s a ♦, and 1♠. If you had Passed here, the ♠ fit might be missed and your LHO might be able to Open essentially locking you out of the bidding.

The Weak Two bid is an extension of the Preemptive family of bids. We can now add a 2-level preempt to the 3-level and 4-level preempts.

Note: The Weak-Two bid is not always an Opening Bid. If an Opponent Opens with a suit that permits your 2-level bid to be a Jump, your OverCall can be indicative of a Weak-Two bid. Example: 1♦ – 2♥ is a Weak-Two OverCall while 1♥ – 2♣ is not. Likewise, if your partner opens your jump to the 2-level shows a Weak-2 hand.