

Good bidding is the result of clear partnership agreements and bidding according to your agreements. Trust your partner and listen to them.

THE BONES OF BIDDING

Weak Two Bids

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS ON A QUEST TO FIND A MAJOR SUIT FIT.

1. “Weak 2’s” refers to an opening bid of 2 diamonds, 2 hearts, or 2 spades to show a six-card suit and 5 to 10 HCP. The opening bid of 2 clubs is not a weak bid.
2. No regular standard exists regarding the quality of the six-card suit.

Some players have no suit standards, and they may not even require all 6 cards; their purpose is to disrupt as frequently as possible, at the cost of sometimes suffering damage, either by getting set too many tricks, or else by not finding the best contract for their own side.

Other players have stringent quality standards, such as 2 of the top 3 honors. They seek to reduce any damage done to their own side. But if the standards are overly strict, then the opportunity to use the bid arises less frequently, and when it does, it has less disruptive effect on the opponents.

So our standard will be to require 2 of the top 5 cards in the suit of the weak 2 bid. If the suit is occasionally slightly less good, don’t expect any great harm to befall you.

KQ9862	QJ3	J4	87	Open 2 spades
J9	QJ8632	74	K73	Open 2 hearts
J108654	AK	72	982	Open 2 spades
—	K42	KJ6532	5432	Open 2 diamonds

3. Vulnerability cannot be entirely ignored, but the benefits of weak 2’s make some risk acceptable. If your point count is low AND your suit scarcely qualifies, you may wish to forego a vulnerable weak-2 bid. But if your points are bad and your suit is GOOD, then there is less reason to be fearful.

4. When partner has not yet had a chance to bid, do not open a weak 2 bid when you have a four-card major.

KQ9862	QJ93	4	87	Pass if partner has not.
—	K432	KJ6532	543	Pass if partner has not.

In both of these examples, if partner has hearts, you belong in hearts. If she has anywhere near an opening hand, you may even make game in hearts. Don't pre-empt your opportunities away.

5. If your opponent opens in front of you, jump to 2 of your suit when you have a weak two bid hand. Many jump-bids are pre-emptive, not strong, and this jump is a pre-emptive jump.

KQ9862	93	K4	87
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If opponent opens in a suit, jump to 2 spades.

6. Once you have opened a weak-two-bid, you have said your piece, and you have put partner in control of your partnership.

If your partner passes, you must pass.
If partner doubles, you must pass.
If partner raises, you must pass.

Partner is in charge. Your action is going to be "pass" unless partner uses one of the forcing bids she has at her disposal. More on partner's forcing bids in a moment.

7. When your partner has opened a weak-two-bid, you are in control. But what do you want to do?

Remember that you need only two trump to have a fit with partner. So usually the trump-suit has been determined by the weak-two-bid. You only have to decide HOW HIGH to play.

With 2 or more trump and 15 to 18 points, raise partner to game.

8. Anytime you have 3 or more trump, you should bid.

With 3 trump and 15 to 18 points, bid 4.
You are bidding to make it.

With 3 trump and no game interest (less than 14 points), bid 3.
You are continuing the pre-empt.
If they are vulnerable and you are not, and if they bid a game, consider bidding higher again.

9. With 4 or more trump you want to bid to the 4 level or higher, either because you expect to make it, or because you want to continue the pre-empt, jamming their auction, and forcing them to guess.
10. I do not advise that you follow advice telling you to leap to slam with a big fit and a bad hand. The opponents may or may not even have a slam--partner isn't broke. He may have enough in his own hand to set a slam. Or, if they do have a slam, it may be unbiddable, especially if you offer some additional interference, such as by a leap to the 4 level or perhaps even the 5 level. Don't go bananas. It's enough to make them guess whether or not they should bid a slam. Guessing is only guessing. By bidding immediately to the 4 or 5 level, you've done enough. Watch vulnerability. When you are red and they are white, take it easy.
11. FEATURE ASKING. When responder bids 2NT over the opener's weak two bid, she is not offering to play 2NT. This is an artificial bid. It asks the opener to bid a FEATURE if she has 9 or 10 points.

A "feature" is an Ace or a King.

You have opened at the 2 level.
Partner has bid 2NT (feature asking)



KQ9862 QJ3 J4 87
KQ8632 J3 74 K73
J108654 AQ 72 982
KJ6532 — 5432 K82

Bid 3 spades. You have no feature.
Bid 3 clubs.
Bid 3 spades. Nice feature, but low point count
Bid 3 clubs. Presume a fit & count distribution.

Why does responder ask for a feature? Because responder has either game interest or slam interest, and she is seeking additional info before deciding. (Or responder may just be "blowing smoke" to further forestall the opponents.)

12. FORCING BID. Any new suit by responder is forcing for one round.
13. FORCING BID. 4NT by responder is Blackwood.