

ENTERING THE BIDDING AFTER A WEAK TWO-BID – PART 2

More Overcalls over Weak Two-Bids

An **opening hand** with a good suit is required for an overcall at the **two-level**. While we do not count points for 10's 9's and 8's, they are an important factor in the quality of a suit. You may count one point for the fifth and each additional card in your suit. Do not count points for short suits. To overcall at the **three-level**, you should have at least **15 points**.

How would you bid each of the following hands after an opening bid of two hearts on your right?

(a)		(b)		(c)	
♠	10 8	♠	A K J 8 7	♠	A J 10 8 7 5 2
♥	K 3	♥	3 2	♥	7
♦	A K Q 9 7	♦	A Q 5	♦	A 7
♣	Q J 7 3	♣	A 9 6	♣	K Q 9

Bid three diamonds with hand (a). Your suit is excellent and your K♥ is well placed behind opener's heart suit. Knowing that you have a good hand with a good suit, partner may well take further action.

Hand (b) is too strong for an overcall. Double first and bid your spade suit on the next round. Partner may be able to take further action. 3NT might even be a possibility.

With hand (c), you should make a jump overcall to three spades. This shows a good opening hand and at least six spades. Even though you might normally play weak jump-overcalls, they do not apply in this situation. It wouldn't make any sense to make a weak jump-overcall over a weak bid.

The No-Trump Overcall

A bid of 2NT over a weak two-bid, shows 16 – 18 HCP and a double stopper in opponents' suit. Systems are still "on". Your partner can use both Jacoby transfers and Stayman over you no-trump bid. The requirement is the same in the direct seat or the balancing seat.

After a two-spade opener, Hands (d) and (e) are typical hands for a 2NT bid. It's all right to have one suit unstopped as long as you have good stoppers in the enemy suit. If you are lucky enough to hold hand (f), bid 3 NT. You have nine tricks with a spade or a heart lead. She who knows, goes.

(d)		(e)		(f)	
♠	A Q 6	♠	K J 8	♠	A Q
♥	J 6	♥	A Q 4	♥	K 10
♦	A K 8 7	♦	K 10 7 5	♦	10 6
♣	K 10 7 6	♣	A 9 7	♣	A K Q J 8 7 2

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Responding to Partner's 2NT Overcall

If your partner bids 2NT over a weak two-bid, there is no opportunity to make an invitational bid. You must have at least 10 HCP for a raise to 3NT. The same thing applies to a Stayman bid. If your partner denies a four-card major, you are committed to 3NT (unless you happen to have a long diamond suit). However, if you make a Jacoby transfer bid, it is possible to pass below game.

Your partner has bid 2NT over an opening bid of two diamonds. What do you bid with each of the following hands?

(g)		(h)		(i)	
♠	K Q 7 6	♠	A 10 9 8 5	♠	9 7
♥	A 10 4 3	♥	Q 9 4	♥	A J 10 8 6 3
♦	8	♦	8 3	♦	5 2
♣	Q 9 7 4	♣	KQ 6	♣	10 9 6

With hand (g), you should bid three clubs. If partner bids a major suit, raise to four. Otherwise retreat to 3NT.

With hand (h), transfer to spades and then bid 3NT. Partner will place the contract.

With hand (i), transfer to hearts and pass.