

# Weak Two Bid - OGUST!

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The goal of weak two bids include: (1) preempting the opponents, (2) eating up bidding space, (3) suggesting an opening lead if defending, and (4) making opponents guess about their best contract. Well, that's great, but let's not preempt your partner!

Some partners are ultra cautious, preempting for example only with two of the top three honors. This restriction limits the frequency of your preempts, and you diminish an effective competitive tool.

Out of the bidding lab comes a better approach: **OGUST**

Developed in 1930s by Harold Ogust, founder of Goren International Inc. After partner opens a weak 2 bid, responder can ask and find out in one bid how good a hand, how good a suit.

## Ogust Responses - the Better 2NT Inquiry

Opener's Alertable 2nd bid shows	Suit Quality	Hand Strength	
		Points	Losing Trick Count
3C!	poor (1 honor or less)	5 to 8	8 or 9 LTC
3D!	good (2 of top three)	5 to 8	8
3H!	poor	9 to bad 11	7
3S!	good	9 to bad 11	7
3NT!	<b>AKQxxx exactly</b>	N/A	N/A

Think of the 3C response as - - "crap, crap". Partner can have very little, especially if white on red (not vulnerable when opponents are vulnerable). Alternatively, a 3 Spade bid shows both a top of range hand (partners should decide if they want to use LTC or high card points) and a suit with two of the top three honors. Note, less than 20% of advanced players using Ogust understand the "I am solid" 3NT response holding AKQxxx!

Most responders will want 15+ points to be interested in game and to use the 2 NT inquiry. But...you may find some hands with fewer points and fine distribution and want more information.

Some pairs will use 2NT as a furthering the preempt bid. This might make sense when when partner has opened 2S. This is a very aggressive and experimental bidding style.

## Responders Second Bid

<b>Pass</b>	You wish to play based upon partner's second bid
<b>3 or 4 of Weak Suit</b>	Signing off, <u>partner is not the captain and must pass</u>
<b>3NT</b>	Responder thinks 3NT will be the best contract, <u>partner must pass</u>
<b>New Suit</b>	Responder has accepted the trump suit and now is bidding controls, looking for slam. Opener bids any control or returns to the trump suit with no controls to show. After the 2NT inquiry, this bid is not a sign off, it is <u>forcing for 1 round</u> . (partnership agreement)
<b>4NT</b>	Asking, per partnership agreements (based upon 6 card preempt suit)



## Practice Hands

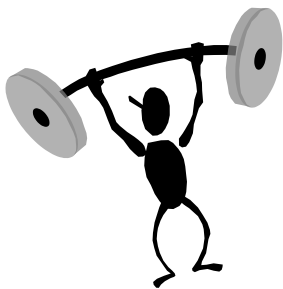
You open a weak 2. Partner bids 2NT, the Ogust inquiry. How do you respond?

A	B	C	D
K Q T x x x	Q J x x x x	x x	x x
x x	K x	A J x x x x	x x
J x x	Q x x	K Q x	A K Q x x x
x x	x x	x x	x x x



Now you are responder. What might you bid after you hear partners response to the matching hands above. Your corresponding hand is below.

A	B	C	D
A x x	T x	K Q x	J T 9 x
A x x x	Q J T x	K x x	K Q T
A	A K J x	A x	x x x
A Q x x x	A Q T	A K J T x	A K x



Make sure your partner understands that responder becomes the "captain" and opener only makes bids in response to questions.

If opponents interfere after 2NT, try these options. X - opener would have made the opponents bid, PASS - opener would have made a bid below the interference, and opener just ignores the overcall (or double) if the response is a suit above interference.

## But I like the feature ask !

We aim to please! There is an OGUST / Feature combination system. Use 3C (alert) as the feature ask and 2NT for Ogust. Partner bids 3NT if the feature is in clubs.

### Openers Answers

A	3 Diamonds, good suit but weak hand
B	3 Clubs "crap crap"
C	3 Hearts, top of range hand but weak suit
D	3 NT, exactly AKQxxx in Diamonds

### Responders Second Bid

A	4 Spades for sure, 6 S needs more than club finesse
B	4 Spades, with many opener hands it will make
C	4 NT, opener's 7 LTC with your 5 suggests slam potential
C	Pass - great contract across from AKQxxx