

Response to an Opening Weak Two

Ogust

When partner opens a weak two (say 6-9 points and a 6 card suit) we have options.

A raise to the 3-level is pre-emptive, usually with 3 card support. This is the only weak bid (RONF – Raise Only Non-Forcing).

A raise to the 4-level may be anything. I could be a pretty strong hand or it could be a very weak hand with 4 card trump support. Only the bidder knows and he is in charge if the opponents bid anything.

A new suit is natural and forcing.

That leaves 2NT. In America it is common that 2NT asks for a feature, but I prefer the Ogust convention. Playing Ogust, 2NT is artificial and asks opener to specify how good his weak two is. So in reply to 2NT we have: -

3♣: min points, poor suit
3♦: min points, good suit
3♥: max points, poor suit
3♠: max points, good suit
3NT: AKQxxx in suit

Note: 3NT as AKQxxx is rather rare as we have max 10 pts, but if we do have this holding, partner needs to know.

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3	Hand 4	Hand 5
♠ AJ8653	♠ 642	♠ AJ9542	♠ J8	♠ 1064
♥ 54	♥ KQJ862	♥ A3	♥ AKJ653	♥ AKQ653
♦ 62	♦ 76	♦ 762	♦ 76	♦ 76
♣ 953	♣ J5	♣ J9	♣ J95	♣ 72

With these five hands, after our weak 2♥/♠ opening partner bid 2NT and we rebid: -

Hand 1 - Bid 3♣. Min points, poor suit.
Hand 2 - Bid 3♦. Min points, good suit.
Hand 3 - Bid 3♥. Max points, poor suit.
Hand 4 - Bid 3♠. Max points, good suit.
Hand 5 - Bid 3NT.

Once responder has used Ogust, he may have enough information to either sign off in a partscore, 3NT or 4 of the major. Other bids, which are slam probes, are common to other sequences (cue bids, RKCB etc.) and are specified elsewhere.