

## Weak Twos

This is a 6 card suit and usually 6-10 points. Openings of 2♥ and 2♠ are commonly played as weak just about everywhere. The weak 2♦ is the most popular choice in USA for those who do not play Flannery. There's nothing wrong with having a weak 2♦ opener, but does it really have much of a pre-emptive effect? I believe that there are much better uses for the bid. So here I'll concentrate on 2♥/♠ although everything is equally valid for a weak 2♦.

♠ 2            This is a classic 2♥ opener. It's nice to have most of your points in your suit,  
♥ KQJ1086    and intermediates in the suit are also important.  
♦ Q873  
♣ 32

♠ Q873        But 2♥ would be a poor opening with hand. It is not recommended to open  
♥ KQJ1086    a weak two when you have a 4 card major as you may miss a 4-4 or better fit  
♦ 2            with partner.  
♣ 32

♠ 1082        This is a fine 2♥ opener. It's one point shy of the minimum but the solidity of  
♥ QJ10876    the ♥ suit is easily enough compensation.  
♦ Q3  
♣ 32

♠ K102        This hand, however, is a little too good and I would open 1♥ or else pass.  
♥ KJ10876    In 3<sup>rd</sup> seat 2♥ would be acceptable as it's opposite a passed partner.  
♦ 93  
♣ A2

♠ 104         This hand is an example from the club – it's owner opened 2♥.  
♥ KJ109874   This is a poor bid with 7 ♥'s and a 3♥ opener is correct (pre-empt to the limit).  
♦ Q5  
♣ 103

### **Response to a weak two opening**

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♠: min 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.