

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 3rd 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.