

Lesson 12 – Strong Opening Bids

2NT Opening

- **20-22 HCP**
- **Balanced hand, non-forcing**

Responder needs only 5+ points to bid game over a 2NT opening.
The responses to a 2NT opening are similar to those over 1NT.

Responses to 2NT

Pass	0-3	no game (with 4 points, upgrade or downgrade)
3♣/3♦	5+	5+ card suit
3♥/3♠	5+	5+ card suit (Opener chooses 4♥/4♠ or 3NT)
4♥/4♠	5+	6-card suit
3NT	5+	balanced, no 5+ card major, may have 5-card minor

Note: if responder has a 5-card minor, the best contract is usually 3NT

2♣ Opening

Balanced hand – 23+ HCP (Open 2NT with balanced 20-22)

Unbalanced hand – 23+ HCP or equivalent in distributional strength (shortage).

This is an **artificial** bid – it has **nothing** to do with clubs. It just describes a very strong hand. Responder **must** bid even with no points at all! Both partners must bid on until **game** is reached.

Responses to 2♣

2♦ is an artificial bid. It has nothing to do with diamonds. The message is that responder is not interested in bidding slam (i.e. bidding to the **6** or **7** level).

Any other response promises 8+. **Bids of a suit promise 5+ good cards.**

Remember, the partnership is committed to game.

2♦	0-7	any shape, nothing to do with diamonds
2♥/2♠	8+	Good 5+ card suit
3♣/3♦	8+	Good 5+ card suit
2NT	8+	balanced hand, or no good 5 card suit

Opener's Rebids after 2♣ Opening

After 2♣ – 2♦

2♥/2♠/3♣/2♦	20+	5+ card suit
2NT	23-24	balanced hand
3NT	25+	balanced hand

After 2♣ – 2♥/2♠

3♥/3♠	20+	Raise with 3+ card fit in hearts or spades
2NT	23+	no fit
New suit	20+	5+ card suit , no fit

After 2♣ – 3♣/3♦

3♥/♠	20+	5+ card suit
3NT	23+	balanced

After 2♣ – 2NT

3♥/3♠	20+	5+ card suit – responder chooses 4♥/4♠ or 3NT
4♥/3♠	20+	6+ card suit
3NT	23+	balanced, no 5 card major