

Ogust 2NT Enquiry after partner's opening Weak 2 bid

NG34Bridge

After a weak two bid the OGUST convention allows for a detailed description of the opener's hand. It is invoked by the artificial 2NT bid made by the responder. The 2NT reply to a weak two bid shows strength (2+ card support and 15+ points* including shortage, and is inviting game. It asks whether the opener is weak (5-7/6-8 HCP) or strong (8- 10/9-11 HCP) and how many of the top three honours are held in the major. Responder will then decide the final contract, which may be in opener's suit or in 3NT or even a slam if responder has a very strong hand (19+ points.)

Opener responses:

- 3♣ = weak suit, weak HCP (6-8 HCP)
- 3♦ = strong suit (2 of top 3 honours), weak HCP (6-8 HCP)
- 3♥ = weak suit, strong HCP (9-10 HCP)
- 3♠ = strong suit (2 of top 3 honours), strong HCP (9-10 HCP)
- 3NT = solid suit, AKQxxx or stronger

** Opener has 6-10 HCP, so 8-12 points including length. Opposite 8 HCP (10 points) a responder with 15 points has just about enough for game, especially if opener has a strong suit (AK+, KQ+ or AQ+). Responder should only count shortage points equal to the number of trump cards on his hand. So, with a void and two trumps he should only count 2 shortage points.*

West ♠74 ♥AJ9865 ♦92 ♣A76	East ♠A62 ♥Q103 ♦AQJ73 ♣42	West 2♥ 3♥	East 2NT 4♥	The good heart fit, good control cards and source of tricks in diamonds make East's hand suitable for OGUST. He has 15 points including 2 for his doubleton. West's 3♥ shows a maximum strength but only one top honour. If West had bid 3♣ or 3♦ then East would have signed off in 3♥.

West ♠74 ♥AKQ953 ♦92 ♣764	East ♠A632 ♥J7 ♦AKQJ10 ♣A2	West 2♥ 3NT	East 2NT 7NT	West's 3NT shows a solid 6 card suit. East can count 13 tricks off the top.
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West ♠AK9752 ♥2 ♦732 ♣986	East ♠QJ4 ♥A83 ♦A95 ♣A542	West 2♠ 3♦	East 2NT 3NT	West shows a weak hand with ♠AK, so has no outside honour strength. East can count 9 tricks in No Trumps and can't offer any ruffing tricks so 4♠ won't make.
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