

The 'Features 2NT' conventional response to partner's Weak 2

NG34Bridge

On hands where our hand suggests that game is possible but the best contract and level is not clear, we need to ask partner for more information. This is done with the conventional 2NT response (forcing). The 2NT response tells partner we are interested in game and asks for more information.

Note: Since it has a special meaning the 2NT bid needs to be alerted.

There are two popular schemes of replies to the 2NT enquiry:

- **'Features'**. Showing a maximum or minimum hand and a 'feature' (an outside high card).
- **'Ogust'**. Showing a maximum or minimum hand and the quality of the Weak 2 suit.

We will use the 'Features' replies, which are of a more 'natural' nature (whereas the Ogust replies are artificial and require more memory work).

What is a 'Feature'?

An Ace.

A protected King (minimum Kx).

A well protected Queen (e.g Qxxx, QJx).

After the 2NT enquiry opener replies as follows:

3 of the weak two suit	Minimum hand (5-7 points)
3 of any other suit	Maximum hand (8-10 points) and a 'Feature'
3NT	Maximum hand (8-10 points) and 2 of the top 3 honours in the weak 2 suit.

What strength does responder need to make the 2NT enquiry?

It depends on the level of support (or lack of!) for partner's suit.

Cards in weak 2 suit HCP needed

Singleton or void	16+	With no strong suit of our own, we MUST have 16+ high card point (HCP). There may be no entry to partner's hand if partner has a minimum hand so partner's values will be useless.
Small doubleton	15+	
Three cards or Doubleton honour and no wasted J's or Q's	14+	
Four cards	13+	With 4 card support we'll normally raise to the level of the fit, but with 4333 shape (or vulnerable and no singleton or void) we might use 2NT to find out more from partner.

Responses:

- Rebid of the Weak-2 suit: ANY MINIMUM (might actually have a "feature" as well).
- Rebid in a new suit: ANY NON-MINIMUM, with a "feature" in the suit bid.
- Rebid of 3NT: NON-MINIMUM with a "solid" suit

Examples:

Opener: ♠Q J 10 9 8 3 ♥K 3 ♦5 4 ♣6 4 2.

After 2♠-2NT: Rebid 3♠ because this is a minimum. Do not show a feature with a minimum.

Opener: ♠K Q J 9 8 7 ♥K 5 2 ♦5 4 ♣3 2.

After 2♠-2NT: Rebid 3♥ to show the heart feature (and extras--not minimum).

Opener: ♠K Q 9 8 7 2 ♥7 ♦K 5 4 ♣4 3 2.

After 2♠-2NT: You must decide if this is a minimum (in which case rebid 3♠) or a non-minimum (in which case rebid 3♦ to show the feature). Position and vulnerability are important. For a 2nd seat vulnerable pre-empt, consider this a minimum and would rebid 3♠. For a dealer favourable-vulnerability pre-empt, consider it a maximum and rebid 3♦.

Opener: ♠A K J 10 9 7 ♥3 2 ♦Q 4 ♣7 6 4.

After 2♠-2NT: rebid 3NT and treat this as a "solid suit." You would prefer to have AKQ—but you can't treat this as a minimum, and should not announce a diamond feature with only Q4 doubleton.

Opener: ♠A Q 10 8 7 6 ♥3 ♦Q J 7 6 ♣4 2.

After 2♠-2NT: Bid 3♦ to show a non-minimum and a diamond feature. Yes, a feature is usually a king or ace, but what choice do you have? You can't rebid 3♠ as that would show a minimum. You can't rebid 3NT as that would show a better spade suit. You can't rebid 3♥, because shortness is not a feature.

Notes:

1. 2NT then 3NT by responder offers opener the choice to correct back to 4 of the major (with unusual shape). Responder's direct 3NT response is not correctable.
2. Be sure you know if a new suit is forcing after a weak two-bid (standard is "YES").