

Practise Strong Opening Bids (2NT, 2♣)

Print off and fold down the middle.

<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1	West	North	East	South					?	♠ AQ92 ♥ AQ2 ♦ 84 ♣ AKJ2	2NT 20-22 balanced. To open 2NT you do not need stoppers in all the suits.
1	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2	West	North	East	South					?	♠ AQ9 ♥ AQ2 ♦ 84 ♣ AK832	1♣ 19 HCP. Open a quiet 1♣, preparing to rebid 3NT over a response from partner. With 6+ points partner has to respond. If partner has less than 6 points then you are highly unlikely to be able to make game.
2	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>3</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	3	West	North	East	South					?	♠ AQJ ♥ AQ2 ♦ AKQJ2 ♣ 92	2♣ 23 HCP. 2♣ is an artificial bid that says nothing about clubs. It shows 23 HCP (or a tad less with great shape). It is 100% forcing. Partner must respond. With a balanced hand too strong to open 2NT you are prepared to rebid 3NT, which will show 23-24 HCP and a balanced shape.
3	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>4</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	4	West	North	East	South					?	♠ 2 ♥ AKQ9652 ♦ KQ7 ♣ AK	2♣ Only 21 HCP but the terrific heart suit is surely worth more than 9 HCP. You can see ten tricks in your hand alone. You plan to play in at least game regardless of partner's response.
4	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>5</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	5	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	♠ 2 ♥ Q109642 ♦ Q98 ♣ 972	4♥ You have a heart fit and with 4 points you have virtually the values for game. In any case there is no weak takeout over 2NT – a bid of 3♥ would be game forcing asking partner to choose between 3NT and 4♥. (Note that if your partnership plays transfers then you would bid 3♦, asking partner to bid 3♥, after which you would bid 4♥. The advantage of transfers is that North would be declarer so the strong hand would be hidden from the defence).
5	West	North	East	South								
		2NT	Pass	?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>6</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	6	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	♠ 63 ♥ J103 ♦ K765 ♣ J953	3NT You have 5 HCP. The partnership has at least 25 HCP.
6	West	North	East	South								
		2NT	Pass	?								

<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>7</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	7	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ J32 ♥ 982 ♦ Q75 ♣ 9832</p>	<p>Pass You have 3 HCP. Although on a good day partner will have 22 HCP and you will have (just) the values for game, but the odds are against it. The percentage play is to pass.</p>					
7	West	North	East	South													
		2NT	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>8</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	8	West	North	East	South			2♣	Pass	?	<p>♠ J32 ♥ Q7543 ♦ K75 ♣ 98</p>	<p>2♦ This is an artificial bid that shows any hand with 0-7 HCP. It is called the 'negative' 2♦ bid because it lets partner know that there are not the combined values for slam (~31 HCP in a suit contract) unless partner has 'extras' over and above the 23 HCP that the 2♣ bid promises.</p>					
8	West	North	East	South													
		2♣	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>9</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	9	West	North	East	South			2♣	Pass	?	<p>♠ 732 ♥ KQ543 ♦ K75 ♣ J8</p>	<p>2♥ Any suit response other than 2D shows 8+ HCP (slam alert!). 2♥ shows 8+ HCP and 5+ hearts.</p>					
9	West	North	East	South													
		2♣	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>10</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	10	West	North	East	South					2♣		Pass	2♦	Pass	?	<p>♠ AKQ ♥ AQJ84 ♦ AQ5 ♣ K3</p>	<p>3NT 25 HCP! With a balanced 23-24 HCP you would rebid 2NT. With this 25 HCP hand you rebid 3NT, because you can't risk a very weak partner passing.</p>
10	West	North	East	South													
				2♣													
	Pass	2♦	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>11</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	11	West	North	East	South					2♣		Pass	2♦	Pass	?	<p>♠ AKQ3 ♥ AQJ84 ♦ AK ♣ 72</p>	<p>2♥ Your 2♣ opener promised a hand worth at least 23 HCP but could be any shape. Now you start to describe your hand by showing your longest suit. Any rebid other than 2NT is 100% game forcing, so partner cannot pass even with zero points! You are prepared to bid spades on the next round unless partner supports your hearts.</p>
11	West	North	East	South													
				2♣													
	Pass	2♦	Pass	?													