

8. Strong Openings

♠ Opening 2NT

The 2NT opening bid is similar to the 1NT opening only much stronger- **20-22**. It's not forcing. The responder normally chooses the final contract immediately.

♠ A94	♠ AKQT	♠ QJ7
♥ AQJ	♥ KJ92	♥ AJ6
♦ KQJT	♦ A72	♦ AKJT8
♣ K43	♣ A6	♣ A7

Open 2NT on all of the hands above.

Responder's choices:

- whether or not to bid game
- whether to play the hand in a suit contract or notrumps.

♠ Opening 2♦, ♥, ♠

2♦, ♥, ♠ openings show at least 1 long 5+ suit or 2 suits. They are never balanced hands. These bids show **20-22** hcp or a very distributional hand.

♠ 4	♠ AKQT98	♠ KJ87
♥ AKQJ76	♥ 9	♥
♦ KQJT9	♦ AK2	♦ AKJT98
♣ 4	♣ KJ3	♣ AK7

Responder's choices:

- Raise = 3+ trumps
- New suit = 5-card suit. Game force

Partner opens 2♥. What is your response?

♠ 43	♠ A82	♠ 87
♥ J76	♥ 93	♥ 65
♦ K543	♦ K642	♦ 87652
♣ J987	♣ J763	♣ 5432

4♥ 3NT Pass



There is a problem if you have 20 hcp and a 6-card club suit. You're too strong for 1♣, but not strong enough for 2♣. You'll just have to decide if you want to be conservative or adventurous! Open 1♣ or 2♣ depending on your decision.

♥ Opening 2♣

2♣ opening is an artificial bid. It shows **23+** hcp and is forcing to game. Partner must keep bidding until game is reached even with no points at all.

♠ AK4	♠ AKQT	♠ AKQ
♥ AQJ8	♥ KJ9	♥ AJ
♦ KQJT	♦ AK2	♦ AKJT98
♣ K4	♣ A63	♣ A7

Open 2♣ on all of these hands. All you are saying is that you have an extremely strong hand.

Responder's choices:

- 2♦ = 0-7 points. Any shape
- 2♠♥3♣♦ = 8+ unbalanced. 5+ card suit
- 2NT = 8+ balanced

Partner opens 2♣. What do you respond?

♠ A84	♠ 6543	♠ A9876
♥ QJ84	♥ 643	♥ K87
♦ T765	♦ 32	♦ 8
♣ J4	♣ 6543	♣ J764

2NT 2♦ 2♠

Opening Bids at the 2 level

2♣	23+ hcp, any shape
<u>Responses</u>	
2♦	up to 7 hcp
2♥, ♠, 3♣, ♦	8+ hcp, 5+ card suit
2NT	8+ hcp, balanced
2♦, ♥, ♠	20-22 hcp, 5+ card suit
<u>Responses</u>	
Raise	3+ card support
New suit	forcing to game
2NT	20-22 hcp, balanced
<u>Responses</u>	
3 suit	4+ hcp, 5 card suit
4 suit	4+ hcp, 6 card suit
3NT	4+ hcp, balanced