

# 8 Pre-emptive Openings

## Opening 2♦, 2♥, 2♠ - Weak 2 bids

2♦, 2♥, 2♠ openings show a 6-card suit. These bids show 6-10 hcp and are pre-emptive. They are designed to obstruct your opponents. Once you have bid, you will rarely have to bid again.

It is important that you points are in your suit. The suit should contain 2 of the top 4 honours.

♠ 42	♠ KQ10986
♥ AQJ876	♥ 932
♦ Q54	♦ K65
♣ 43	♣ 3

### Open 2♥

♠ A2
♥ J87643
♦ Q54
♣ 43

### Open 2♠

♠ KQ10986
♥ AQ2
♦ K65
♣ 3

Pass (poor suit)

Open 1♠ (too strong for a weak 2)

## Responding to 2♦, 2♥, 2♠

Bid Game = 4-card support **OR**  
= 16+ hcp

Bid a new suit = RARELY - 17+ no fit

Partner opens 2♥. What is your response?

♠ A8	♠ -
♥ Q98	♥ 98652
♦ K642	♦ 8765
♣ AK63	♣ K432

4♥                      4♥

♠ A82
♥ Q9
♦ K642
♣ K632

Pass Not enough trumps or points.

## Opening 3♣, 3♦, 3♥, 3♠

3♣, 3♦, 3♥, 3♠ openings show a good 7-card suit. Once again you promise a quality suit - at least 2 honours. You should not bid again unless partner changes suit.

♠ 4	♠ J1095432	♠ J876543
♥ KQJ7652	♥ 9	♥ 43
♦ 854	♦ AK2	♦ KJ2
♣ 42	♣ KJ3	♣ 8

3♥                      1♠                      P  
perfect!              Too strong              bad suit

## Opening 4♥, 4♠, 5♣, 5♦

Bidding game immediately shows at least an 8-card suit and less than an opening hand. Once again you promise a quality suit - at least 2 honours. You need to take care when vulnerable. Estimating that you are only 2 tricks short of your contract is a useful rule of thumb.

♠ -	♠ AQ875432	♠ -
♥ KQJ76532	♥ 9	♥ K3
♦ 854	♦ Q62	♦ AKJ106532
♣ 42	♣ 3	♣ 843

4♥                      4♠                      1♦  
Too strong

## Summary of weak openings

6-card suit - open at the 2-level

7-card suit - open at the 3-level

8-card suit - open game

## Principle

Once you have opened with a pre-emptive bid, you should not bid again, unless partner bids a new suit.