

10a v3 : Opening strong balanced hands

2NT Opening

- 20-22 HCP
- Balanced hand, non-forcing

Responder needs only 5+ points to bid game over a 2NT opening.
The responses to a 2NT opening are similar to those over 1NT.

Responses to 2NT

Pass	0-3	no game (with 4 points, upgrade or downgrade)
3♣/3♦	5+	6+ card suit (<u>very</u> unbalanced hand*)
3♥/3♠	5+	5+ card suit (Opener chooses 4♥/4♠ or 3NT)
4♥/4♠	5+	6-card suit
3NT	5+	balanced, no 5+ card major, may have 5-card minor

* If responder has a 5-card minor, the best contract is almost always 3NT.

Responses if playing Stayman and Transfers (with partner's agreement!)

3♣	5+	Stayman (have you a 4 card major?)
3♦/3♥	0+	Transfer to 3♥/3♠. I have a 5+ card major
Pass	0-4	Neither of the above
3NT	5+	Balanced, no 4+ card major.

2♣ Opening

23+ HCP **Balanced hand, or.....**

20+ HCP **Unbalanced hand with extra 'shape' strength:** (next lesson)

2♣ is an **artificial** bid (alertable)– it has **nothing** to do with clubs. It just describes a very strong hand. Responder **must** bid even with no points at all! Both partners must bid on until **game** is reached, with one exception – see * on next page.

Responses to 2♣

2♦ is an artificial bid (alertable). It has nothing to do with diamonds. It is a 'waiting' bid, 0-11 HCP with no good 5 card suit (2+ good honours)

Any other response promises 8+ and a hand with good enough shape to make opener reconsider his planned rebid. **Bids of a suit promise 5+ good cards - two of the top three honours (e.g. KQ985) or three of the top five honours (e.g. KJ1082).**

2♦	0-7	no good 5-card suit
2♥/2♠	8+	Good 5+ card suit
3♣/3♦	8+	Good 6+ card suit
2NT		Not used, to avoid playing in No Trumps with the strong hand in dummy.

Opener's Rebids with a balanced hand after 2♣ Opening After 2♣ – 2♦

2NT	23-24	balanced hand
3NT	25+	balanced hand

Responder continuations after opener's 2NT rebid (2♣-2♦-2NT)

Pass	0-1	*balanced hand (the only rebid by opener that responder is allowed to pass below 3NT)
3NT	2+	No 5 card major
3♥/3♠	2+	I have a 5+ card major

Responses if playing Stayman and Transfers (with partner's agreement!)

Pass	0-1	balanced hand (the only rebid by opener that responder is allowed to pass below 3NT)
3NT	2+	balanced hand
3♣	2+	Stayman
3♦/3♥	0+	Jacoby Red Suit Transfers