



By: Don Rogers

Opening 2NT

The considerations for opening 2NT are much the same as for 1NT, except that the point range in standard bidding 20 – 21. It is important that you not fudge this range – partner will not be able to make good decisions if they are unclear what you have when you open 2NT.

As with 1NT, opening 2NT describes your hand with one bid and will often prevent some impossible rebid problems. The downside to opening 2NT is that it takes up a lot of bidding space, and with some hands this can prevent reaching a good slam.

A few examples illustrate this:

S-AQx H-Kx D-AKxx C-Axxx

A standard 2NT opener

S-AQxx H-Kx D-AKx C-Axxx

The same as the last example, except 4 spades. Open 2NT – if responder has 5+ points and four spades, they will bid 3C (Stayman). Don't make the mistake of thinking Stayman show 9+ points as it would over 1NT.

If partner makes a transfer, accept it and see what partner does next. Remember, partner is the captain.

S-AKQxx H-xx D-AKxx C-Ax

Still a 20 count, but with two doubletons I open this hand 1S on the theory that if partner can't scrape up a response then we probably have not missed a game. The 1S opener much better describes the shape of this hand, and with half the hand in the spade suit the a 2NT contract looks very shaky unless partner has help in hearts and clubs..

NOTE: Discuss this with partner! Not everybody will agree with this approach, and it does depend on what agreements you are playing