

RESPONDING TO A 2 CLUB OPENER BY PARTNER by Barbara Seagram

When partner opens with 2C, she does not have just any hand with 20 or more points. She has a big hand that is either balanced or unbalanced. You will only know which type of hand she has when she bids the second time.

If she is unbalanced (her hand that is!) then she should have:

- 21 or more points (including distribution) and a 7 card suit
- or
- 23 or more points (including distribution) and a 6 card suit
- or
- 23 or more points (including distribution) and two 5 card suits

If she has one of the above hands, then she really doesn't need a partner in order to make game. It is merely a question of whether there is JUST game in the hand or is there slam (small or grand).

You, as responder to 2C, will most often bid 2D, which we call a waiting bid, **unless** you have 8 or more HCP and a good quality 5 card suit, headed by 2 of the top 3 honours.

With S AQxxx H Kx D xx C xxxx you respond 2S to a 2C opener. (to show 8+ HCP and a good 5 card or longer Spade suit)

With S xx H xx D Kxx C KQJxxx you respond 3C to a 2C opener (to show 8+ HCP and a good 5 card or longer Club suit)

With S x H Qxx D AKxxx C xxxx you respond 3D to a 2C opener (to show 8+ HCP and a good 5 card or longer Diamond suit)

Some people use the response of 2H as a "bust" hand but that is not our preference. Using this method, too often the weak hand will now end up being declarer. 2D usually prevents that from happening, most of the time.

If she is balanced, her rebids will be as follows:

2C - 2D
2NT shows 22-23 HCP and a balanced hand. If she had 20-21 HCP balanced, she would have opened 2NT.

2C - 2D
3NT shows 24-25 HCP and a balanced hand.

If she opens with 3NT, she should have 26-27 HCP and a balanced hand.

Note that you and your partner have to agree on these ranges. It is fine to modify them, but you do have to agree. The No Trump structure is so very precise. It is easier to bid in these (No Trump) scenarios as you have EXACT information about partner's points and shape.

In the following auctions, partner has opened 2C and you have responded 2D. Partner has now bid 2NT as her rebid. Your turn:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
S K1087	S 63	S Q105	S A642	S 543
H Q432	H A10952	H A987	H A98	H 52
D J108	D K643	D 9874	D 8765	D 76532
C 54	C 42	C 65	C 43	C J43

ANSWERS:

- 3C. Stayman. If partner now bids either 3H or 3S, you now raise to game in that major.
- 3D. Transfer. Partner will bid 3H. What will you now bid?
Answer: 3NT. Opener will raise to 4H if she has three Hearts and pass with only two Hearts.
- 3C. Stayman. Opener bids 3D. You now bid 3NT.
- 3C. Stayman. Opener now bids 3H. You must now bid 3NT. Responder to a NT opener may NEVER bid a four card suit. NEVER!
If opener has this hand: S KQ98 H KJ65 D A92 C K5, he now stops to think. "Responder showed a 4 card major by bidding Stayman and yet he did not like it when I bid Hearts. Aha, he must have a four card Spade suit." Opener now bids 4S.
- Pass. Responder does not have to bid when partner opens 2NT or opens 2C and then bids 2NT. Let partner struggle in 2NT. It will be ugly yes but you cannot compound this further by bidding on.

RESPONDING TO A 2 CLUB OPENER BY PARTNER (continued)

On these hands, partner has opened with 2C, you have responded 2D and she has now bid 2H. Your turn:

6.	7.	8.
S K8754	S 6543	S Q532
H A43	H 95	H 953
D K32	D 987	D 9865
C 32	C 965	C 96

ANSWERS:

- 3H. This shows that you have some good stuff. At least an Ace or a King. These are BIG cards in the world of slam bidding. In the world of modern bridge, if you bid slowly, then you have some treasures. If you bid quickly, you have nothing. It is called "The Principle of Fast Arrival."
- 3C. This says: "I have bad news. The waiting is now over. I have the worst possible hand. No Ace, no King and no fit with your suit. This is called the second negative. We believe it is best to only make this bid with NO FIT. If opener now bids 3H only, this is the only time you are entitled to pass.
- 4H. You have a lousy hand but you do have a fit with partner. Remember, she has a big enough hand for game without you. You are telling partner you have a crummy hand with a fit. With some good stuff and a fit, you would have bid 3H only.

RESPONSIVE DOUBLES

by Larry Cohen www.larryco.com

Ed. note: "Cards" is a word used by many experts to say that you have "values" or high card points.

The most simple (and common) responsive double occurs as follows:

West	North	East	South
1H	Dbl	2H	Double

South's double is not for penalty. Surely it isn't likely South would be dealt a hand where he wants to double 2H for penalty. Instead, this "responsive" double shows "cards" but no convenient bid. On this hand, it would show a hand such as:

S A2
H 653
D Q1087
C Q1087

South would not want to guess which minor to bid (possibly landing in a 4-3 instead of a 4-4 fit). Generally, a responsive doubler won't hold 4 cards in the (lone) unbid major. With the missing major, it is usually best to simply bid the suit.

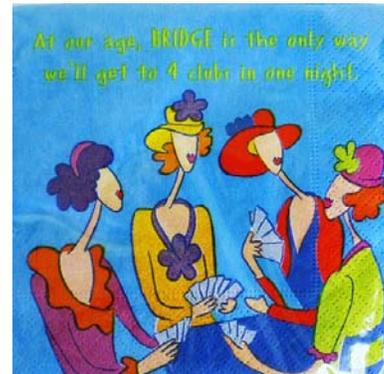
In the example auction above, the opponents bid and raised. Whether it be Hearts or any suit, a double of a BID AND RAISED suit should be "responsive" on any level (not just the two level). If they bid 1H – Dbl – 3H, then double should still be responsive.

The responsive double is still used even if your side starts with an overcall:

West	North	East	South
1H	1S	2H	Double

Again, it makes no sense for double to be for penalties. Instead, it should show "cards" and typically both unbid suits.

From Sunshine Bridge News: ACBL District 9 Nov-Dec 2015 issue



"At our age, BRIDGE is the only way we'll get to 4 clubs in one night!"

ETIQUETTE

by Jeri Edge (President unit 219 ACBL)

From Sunshine Bridge News: ACBL District 9 Nov-Dec 2015 issue

The term etiquette may derive from the old French 'esquitre' (to affix), a reference to the daily rules of a royal court which were affixed to the wall for all to read. While bridge clubs do not customarily hang the bridge rules of etiquette on the wall-although perhaps they should- duplicate bridge does have its own unique rules of etiquette.

North is the host or hostess of the table. As such, North has many responsibilities. It is North's duty to greet each East-West pair, to make appropriate introductions, to ensure that the proper East-West pair is at the table, to check that the proper boards are available for play, to record the score at the end of the hand, and to receive agreement from a member of the East-West pair that the score is correct as recorded.

Unless North has requested that South turn the boards after a hand or pass the boards after a round, the only time any player other than North should touch the boards is to retrieve his/her hand from the board prior to play or to return his/her hand to the board at the completion of play. North should ensure that the boards are correctly passed at the completion of a round. When playing a regular Mitchell movement, players move to the next higher table and boards go to the next lower table. Players go to Heaven and boards go to Hell!

DEFENSIVE STRATEGY

Dir:East	⊆ A Q 10 8 7 5				
Vul: EW	⊆ A 6				
	⊄ 6				
	⊇ Q 10 9 3				
⊆ 6 4 2		N W E S	⊆ K J 9		
⊆ K J 7 2			⊆ Q 10 9 5 3		
⊄ A K 8 7 3			⊄ J 10		
⊇ 7			⊇ A K 5		
	⊆ 3				
	⊆ 8 4				
	⊄ Q 9 5 4 2				
	⊇ J 8 6 4 2				

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		1 ⊆	Pass
2 NT	3 ⊆	4 ⊆	All Pass

The auction may go several different ways. If EW are playing Splinter Bids, the West should bid 4 C in response to East's 1 H opening bid. North is now unlikely to be able to show his spades but nevertheless, South should still lead his singleton spade on opening lead. (If EW are playing neither Jacoby 2NT nor Splinters, then West would bid 2D. North would still bid 2S and E would bid 2NT. West would next bid 4H.

North wins the spade lead and now what should he do? If he returns a spade, South ruffs it and the pair will get only three tricks in total.

CLUE: We love leading short suits. Short suit leads are not always great leads BUT when you have CONTROL of the trump suit (the Ace of trump and a little one or the Kxx of trump) then leading your short suit is a great idea as you know you will get in quickly.

North holds the Ace Hearts. At trick two, he shifts to the 6 Diamonds. Declarer wins the lead with the Ace Diamonds in dummy and draws trump. North must hop up quickly with his Ace Hearts and lead a Spade for South to trump. South ruffs and leads back a Diamond (guided by North's shift at trick two to a Diamond). North ruffs the Diamond and when the smoke clears, East is down one.



STAYMAN OR TRANSFER AND THEN WHAT?

In all cases, partner has opened 1NT, what should you bid and then what?

1.
S KJ43
H 32
D A876
C Q76
2.
S KJ43
H 432
D A87
C Q76
3.
S AKQ76
H 43
D Q54
C 765
4.
S Q8765
H A1076
D KJ7
C 5
5.
S K865
H AJ987
D 65
C 76
6.
S KJ987
H AJ765
D 65
C 6
7.
S K7543
H A9832
D 76
C 5
8.
S KJ10876
H K76
D 54
C 76
9.
S KJ10765
H AJ6
D 43
C 32
10.
S KQ
H QJ10765
D AKJ6
C 6

This quiz assumes that you are not playing either Puppet Stayman or Smolen. While we recommend both of those conventions, those are for another day.

1. 2C. (always use Stayman when you have a 4 card major in your hand). If partner bids 2D, you now bid 3NT. If she bids 2H, bid 3NT and if she bids 2S, bid 4S. NOTE: Responder with a 4 card suit may NEVER advertise it after a 1NT opener by partner.

2. 3NT. NO SHORTNESS, NO STAYMAN. In order to use Stayman, you must have a singleton, a doubleton or a void in your hand. Ruffing values. A reason to wish to avoid playing in 3NT. With 4-3-3-3, bid 3NT and avoid using Stayman.

3. 2H: Transfer. Opener bids 2S, dutifully as he is forced to do. What do you do next? You must now bid 3NT. Responder to a NT opener, playing transfers, may never rebid his 5 card suit. To rebid the suit guarantees a 6 card or longer suit. After you bid 3NT, opener with three spades will now bid 4S and with only two spades, opener will pass 3NT.

4. 2C. Remember we said that if you have a 4 card major, use Stayman? You have a 4 card major in your hand, use Stayman here. Otherwise, your side may have a 4-4 fit in Hearts and it will never be discovered. The 4-4 fit is the best fit of all. If opener bids a major, jump to game in that major. If opener bids 2D instead, you now bid 3S. Opener will wonder why on earth you did not use a transfer when you clearly have five spades. He will know that you must have had five spades and four hearts AND 10 or more HCP to have jumped to 3S.

5. 2C. If partner responds in a major, jump to game in that major as you have ruffing values. If he bids 2D instead, you now bid 2H. This will show 8 or 9 HCP and a 5 card Heart suit and a 4 card Spade suit also.

6. 2H. With 5-5 or 6-6, always show the higher ranking suit first, whether you are responder, overcaller, opening bidder...whoever you are. Thus you bid 2H. Opener now bids 2S as he has been told to do and you now bid 4H. This shows enough values for game and 5-5 in both majors. Opener has to have three of one of the majors and will either bid 4S now or pass 4H. This is a simplified presentation; others have more sophisticated methods.

7. 2H. (See # 6.) Opener bids 2S and you can now bid 3H, inviting opener to game and asking her to choose Hearts or Spades. Once again: This is a simplified presentation; others have more sophisticated methods.

8. 2H. Partner bids 2S and you now raise to 3S, inviting her to game with a maximum. This guarantees a six card suit and 6-7 HCP.

9. 4H. Our preference is to play Texas Transfers with 8 or more HCP and a 6 card major. This sets the trump suit as it promises 6 or more cards in that major. Opener now bids 4S and you pass. You must agree with partner that you are playing Texas Transfers in advance.

10. 4D. Texas Transfer. Opener now bids 4H and you now bid 4NT which is Key Card Blackwood because you HAVE agreed on a trump suit. You have guaranteed a 6 card or longer major.

Note that if you bid 2D instead and opener now bids 2H, if you now bid 4NT, this is a Quantitative bid which can be passed. You have not agreed on a trump suit. If you wish to Ace ask after either a Stayman or a Transfer auction, you have to use Gerber. The exception is when you have used a TEXAS transfer auction since you now HAVE agreed on a trump suit.

DEFENCE AGAINST NO TRUMP

J9
KJ10
642
KQJ106

Q10874
A54
103
432

A63
Q6
AKQJ
9875

S W N E
1N P 3N All pass

K52
98732
9875
A

Declarer plays Jack Spades at trick one from dummy in case it works. No such luck. E plays King and South ducks till the 3rd round.

On 3rd round of Spades, W must lead Q Spades to show where her entry is in her hand.

When you are driving out declarer's last stopper, tell your partner where your entry is. Lead a HIGH card to show an entry in the HIGHER ranking of the leftover suits and lead a LOW card to show that you have an entry in the LOWER ranking of the leftover suits.

When E gets in with Ace Clubs, she leads a Heart as West's Queen Spades said that her entry was in the higher ranking suit.

Note that if E leads back a Diamond instead, declarer takes 9 tricks.

Declarer however is down 2 with a Heart return.

ALEX'S TIPS

1. You have this hand

S x
H AQxx
D KJxx
C Kxxx

What will you open the bidding with? Answer: 1D

Because when you are opening the bidding and have no 5 card major, you open your longest minor. If you have two three card minors, you open with 1C. If you have two four card minors, you open with 1D. So you open with 1D and partner now bids 1S. Now what do you do?

You must NOT now bid 1NT. That guarantees a balanced hand and no singletons or voids. Your next bid should be 2C.

Note that you cannot bid 2H now as that would be a reverse, promising more of the first bid suit than the second and it would also promise 17 or more points.

A reverse is when the opening bidder bids a new suit at the 2 level on his rebid that is higher in rank than the suit with which he opened. This is forbidden for an opener with a minimum hand.

For all these reasons, you must now bid 2C.

2. Another situation:

Partner opens with 1D and you have

S Qxxxx

H xx
D Axx
C xxx

So you respond 1S. Opening bidder now bids 1NT. Your bid. What do you say?

If you pass, how many tricks are you providing for partner in 1NT? You KNOW that opener has at least two spades. NOT four, for sure but maybe even three.

You must now bid 2S. These spades will win tricks as trumps, but likely give you no tricks in NT. You know that opener has at least two spades so you have 7 cards in combined hands (minimum) as trumps.

To the non-believers out there. Remember that if partner had opened 1NT and you held that same hand:

S Qxxxx
H xx
D Axx
C xxx

You would have transferred and bid 2H. When she now bids 2S, you would pass. Reason: You have a 7 card trump fit at least and it is easier to play the hand in a trump suit contract. It is a more optimum contract. You are seeking to improve the contract.

3.

The player on your right (South) preempts: He opens with 3S. You are West and you bid 4H with the following hand.

S 3
H AJxxxx
D Axx
C KJx

Your partner's hand comes down with

S xxx
H K10x
D xxxx
C AQx

S W N E
3S 4H P P
P

You have two D losers, one S loser and a potential H loser. How will you play the H suit. Who do you think has the missing Q of Hearts? Or do you simply use the nursery rhyme? "Eight ever, nine never?" and play for the Q to fall when you play the Ace and King.

You have what we call a two way finesse in Hearts. Who rates to have the Queen?

Answer: South has SEVEN cards in the Spade suit. He has only SIX "vacant spaces" to be occupied by other cards.

He has had fewer chances to be dealt the Queen Hearts. In other words, he has fewer Hearts. North has more.

If South has only one Heart and N has three Hearts, then north has had THREE chances to be dealt the Q Hearts and S only had ONE chance to be dealt the Q Hearts. Thus the odds are with NORTH having the Q Hearts.

You lead the Ace Hearts (in case a singleton Q drops) and now lead towards the Heart 10, finessing N for the Q Hearts.

SUMMARY: When missing the Queen in a long suit, it is usually right to play the partner of the preempter to hold the missing Queen.

Here's another gem for you:

Dir:South \subseteq 8 5 3
 Vul:None \subset 8 7 5 4
 $\not\subset$ J 7 6 4 2
 \supseteq 9
 \subseteq A Q J 6 \subseteq K 10 9 4 2
 \subset A Q J 10 \subset K 9
 $\not\subset$ 10 9 5 $\not\subset$ K 3
 \supseteq Q 2 \supseteq 8 7 6 5
 \subseteq 7
 \subset 6 3 2
 $\not\subset$ A Q 8
 \supseteq A K J 10 4 3



West	North	East	South
			1 \supseteq
Dbl	Pass	2 \subseteq	3 \supseteq
4 \subseteq	All Pass		

East jumps in response to partner's takeout double because he has 9-11 points. If he bids 1S, then that would show 0-8 points only.

South leads Ace Clubs & then King Clubs. What card should North play at Trick 2?

North knows that partner has promised a good hand. South bid twice, even though partner had nothing to say. North should recognize that their side can only score two Club tricks. They need two more elsewhere in order to beat the contract. These needed tricks cannot come from the trump suit and cannot come the Heart suit. The only hope is if partner has the Ace and Queen of Diamonds (it is unreasonable to expect that she has the Ace and King Diamonds). North needs to be on lead to lead a Diamond. How can this happen?

North has to trump South's King Clubs at trick two and shift to a Diamond. BINGO!!! Four winners. Down one!

Hands by Eddie Kantar. Analysis by Barbara