

Strong Hand Opening – 2C

This 2♣ Opening guide follows a method for responder showing the presence of a Feature (an Ace or King).

There are two qualifying hand types that are generally accepted as 2C opening hands:

1. A hand with 22+ HCP
2. A hand with 8 ½ quick tricks or more (an example of a hand with 8 ½ quick tricks would be AKQJxxx in one suit plus AQ in a second suit)

Following a 2♣ opening, Responder has the following options:

Bid	Typical Meaning
2♦ [Alert]	Shows a holding of at least 1 Ace or 1 King and IS game forcing.
2♥ [Alert]	Shows a hand that does NOT have an Ace or King and is NOT game forcing.
2NT [Alert]	Shows a 5+ card Heart suit with 2 of the 3 top honors and IS game forcing.
2♠/3♣/3♦ [Alert]	Shows a 5+ card suit with 2 of the 3 top honors and IS game forcing.

With consideration to the responses above, Opener proceeds as follows:

Bid	Typical Meaning
Any Suit	Opener is showing an unbalanced hand with at least a 5-card holding in the suit bid (should be a good suit). Responder should immediately confirm (by raising the suit) or deny 3-card support for opener's suit (any other bid).

Bid	Typical Meaning
Jump in Any Suit	Opener is showing an unbalanced hand with dominate suit – indicating that this suit can be trump without any help from Responder in that suit. The suit should be AKQJxxx or better. Responder should proceed by Cue bidding any 1 st round control.
2NT	Opener is showing a 22-24 HCP balanced hand without a suit preference – Responder will proceed as if the opening bid was 2NT (meaning Stayman and Transfers are on). I recommend that you do NOT play Puppet Stayman over 2NT and instead you can play Smolen and Forcing Raises.
3NT	Opener is showing a 25+ HCP balanced hand without a dominate suit – Partnership agreement must decide if Transfers are valid after 3NT.
2♣ > Suit > Suit Raise	Opener is showing support for the suit Responder indicated but not enough values to pursue slam with the information Responder has provided.

To learn more about this convention/our books (*Beginning Bridge Using 2 Over 1*, *Beyond Beginning Bridge Using 2 Over 1*, and *The 2/1 Gold Card System* series) visit www.DiamondBooksPublishing.com.