

♣ Gary's ♦ ♥ Top Bridge Tips ♠

#5

Responses to a Weak Two Bid

When partner opens a Weak Two it is important to agree on your response structure. I want to suggest that a New Suit is **'not'** forcing. You can get back in your chair now! A new suit has traditionally always been forcing in response to a Weak Two. Partner opens 2♥ and you hold:

#1 ♠ QJ10983 ♥ 7 ♦ Q109 ♣ A63	#2 ♠ A873 ♥ --- ♦ QJ109872 ♣ K2	#3 ♠ 43 ♥ 5 ♦ Q52 ♣ AKQ8762
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If a new suit is forcing, you are handcuffed. You want to bid your own suit but you don't want to force the auction. (Partner is likely to re-bid 3♥). Hence, you have to pass and let partner languish in 2♥. However, if a new suit is **non-forcing**, then you are sitting well. I believe your style regarding this should be based on the **frequency factor**. **Questions:** How often do you have a hand where you want to bid a new suit as forcing over partner's Weak Two? How often would you prefer to play in your own suit without forcing partner to bid again? I find the latter to be more frequent, hence I play a new suit in response to a Weak Two as non-forcing!

Marty Bergen in his book, 'Marty Sez 2', also suggests that a New Suit response to a 'Weak Two' should not be forcing, so you will be in good company!

Other responses:

2NT: Asks for a feature (an ace or a king) outside opener's suit. Opener simply bids the suit where she has the feature or returns to her first suit. I use 2NT for all forcing auctions. Having gone through 2NT first, if I then bid a new suit, then that is forcing! Hence, 2NT is the only forcing bid. Keeps it clean and simple.

Raise: Raise of Non-Force (RONF). Increasing the pre-empt. i.e. 2♥ - 3♥ Opener must pass the 3♥ bid. 3♥ is not inviting, it is just increasing the pre-empt.

Game Raise: Shows a weak or strong hand. If weak, you must have four trumps!

An Aside

I don't like too many frills in my system as I can forget when I have a million things to remember. But, my long time partner Gylfi Baldursson from Iceland, taught me this frill and I like it. A 3♣ response to a Weak Two asks opener for a singleton. It got us to some feisty games and slams that few got to. Some even made! Responses:

2♠	-	3♣*	asks for a singleton
3♦	→		Singleton diamond
3♥	→		Singleton heart
3NT	→		Singleton club
3♠	→		No Singleton