

21) The two suited 2♦ weak opening. 6-11 HCP and 4+ 4+ in both majors.

The point count requirement for this opening is 6-11 but, in case partner is a passed hand, it could be up to 13-14 HCP. With more points it is not advisable to open 2♦.

This opening is a weak opening and its connotation cannot be totally distorted. At any rate, points should be concentrated in the 2 major suits, avoiding opening 2♦ with 2 bare major 4 carders and points in the short side suits.

The minimum requirement of 4-4 in majors allows a very high frequency of use but it is necessary to exercise some good judgement, keeping a constant check on vulnerability. In case of unfavourable vulnerability, it is very advisable to have at least a 5-4 shape and about 10 HCP concentrated in the 2 major suits. Let us see the bidding sequence:

W	N	E	S
-	2♦	p	p = 5+♦ with maximum 1-2 in majors. 2♥ = 3 or 4 cards fit, conclusive. 2♠ = 3 or 4 cards fit, conclusive 2NT = artificial G.F. 3♣ = 6+♣ with maximum 1-2 in majors, conclusive. 3♦ = 6+♦ with maximum 1-2 in majors, conclusive 3♥ = 5 cards fit, conclusive. 3♠ = 5 cards fit, conclusive.

Over 2♥ or 2♠ response, that are conclusive and not inviting, opener with a maximum hand and minimum 5-5 in majors, can invite partner to game by bidding a minor where he has a singleton / void. If partner repeats his choice at 3 level this is a sign off.

Bidding sequence over G.F 2NT (The Bic sequence)

Over the only G.F. response of 2NT, a string of 7 step responses follows, where:

S/V = singleton / void

LRM = Lower Ranking Major

HRM = Higher Ranking Major.

N S

2♦ 2NT

1° step 3♣ = no S/V , then 4-4 in majors at 70% of times.

2° step 3♦ = longer LRM and LR S/V , that is 5+♥ 4♠ and ♣S/V.

3° step 3♥ = longer LRM and HR S/V , that is 5+♥ 4♠ and ♦S/V

4° step 3♠ = longer HRM and LR S/V , that is 5+♠ 4♥ and ♣S/V.

5° step 3NT = longer HRM and HR S/V , that is 5+♠ 4♥ and ♦S/V

6° step 4♣ = majors 5+ 5+ and LR S/V , that is 5+♥ 5+♠ and ♣S/V

7° step 4♦ = majors 5+ 5+ and HR S/V , that is 5+♥ 5+♠ and ♦S/V.

The above bidding sequence could, at first sight, look complicated but, once understood its mechanism, it does not require any mnemonic effort.

In case of a 3♣ re-bi, showing no S/V, responder can bid a 3♦ relay asking for the longer major with following step responses:

N S

2♦ 2NT

3♣ 3♦

3♥ = majors 4-4

3♠ = longer LRM that is 5+♥ 4♠ and 2-2

3NT = longer HRM that is 5+♠ 4♥ and 2-2

Responses to 2♦ overcalled X

W N E S

- 2♦ X Pass = I am happy with 2♦X.

XX = you choose , with 3-3 or 4-4 in majors

2♥ = I prefer♥ conclusive

2♠ = I prefer♠ conclusive

2NT = artificial G.F. with step responses

3♣ = 6+♣ with maximum 1-2 in majors

3♦ = 6+♦ with maximum 1-2 in majors

3♥ = 5 cards fit conclusive

3♠ = 5 cards fit conclusive .

Responses to 2♦ opening overcalled 2 or 3 in a suit

W N E S

- 2♦ 2x X = it substitutes 2NT G.F. with step responses
 - 2♥ = 4 cards fit
 - 2♠ = 4 cards fit
 - 3♣ = 6+♣ with maximum 1-2 in majors
 - 3♦ = 6+♦ with maximum 1-2 in majors
 - 3♥ = 5 cards fit conclusive
 - 3♠ = 5 cards fit conclusive

The advantages of the 2 suited 2♦ opening consist in the great frequency of use and in the possibility to have a choosing response at 2 level that allows for a good defensibility.

Moreover such opening has a sizable pre-emptive power for it forces opponents to start the bidding at 3 level since it practically takes away both majors from opponents.

When used with good judgement, it can represent a valuable competitive tool providing also the opportunity of a constructive development through the Bic Sequence allowing a complete description of opener shape.