

# The Joys & Perils of Preempting (Part 2)

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## 1 The “Disciplined” Weak 2 Bid:

- 1.1 The details for weak 2's are specified in the bottom right of the front of the card.
- 1.2 Almost everyone agrees on a range of 5-10 high-card points.
- 1.3 Most pairs that insist on quality suits require two of the top three honors. A few allow three of the top five, but that makes it more difficult to know if the suit will run.
- 1.4 Some have other requirements as well: no voids, more if vulnerable, etc.

## 2 Raise with support:

- 2.1 If you have three or four pieces, the corollary to the LAW says that you should raise. This is called “extending the preempt.”
- 2.2 You can use the Rule of 17 to raise to the four-level. Add together the number of points plus the number of trumps.

## 3 The forcing 2NT response:

- 3.1 Almost every pair using disciplined weak 2's also uses 2NT as the “feature-ask.”
- 3.2 The primary purpose of this bid is to determine whether a 3NT contract is feasible.
- 3.3 Most pairs define a feature as an ace or a king in an outside suit.
  - 3.3.1 Some expand this to include, for example, Qxx or shortness.
  - 3.3.2 Some also require that the hand be in the top half of the range, but this is redundant if the trump suit must include two of the top three honors.
- 3.4 If the opener has a suit with a feature, he/she bids that suit at the three-level.
- 3.5 Example: Partner opens 2♠. You hold ♠xx ♥KQx ♦Ax ♣KQxxxx. 3NT looks like a good bet, but only if you can get to partner's hand if you lose a spade. So, you ask for a feature. If partner has the ♥A, ♦K, or ♣A, you can try 3NT. If not, 4♠ might be better.
- 3.6 Warning: Don't bid 2NT if you fear partner might bid past the suit at the 3-level.

## 4 Responding in a new suit:

- 4.1 Forcing or not?
- 4.2 Playing non-forcing allows responder to override opener and play at the two-level. This is alertable.

Playing forcing allows responder to get more information out of opener, who will rebid his suit if he/she has nothing to say.

- 4.3 Which is better?

## 5 Looking for slam:

- 5.1 4♣ response can be played as key-card Gerber.
- 5.2 Responses: 4♦: 0; 4♥: 1 without queen; 4♠: 1 with queen; 4NT: 2 without queen; 5♣: 2 with queen.

Next week: Undisciplined weak 2 bids