

# The Joys & Perils of Preempting (Part 4)

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## 1 The Situation: Your right hand opponent has bid 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠.

- 1.1 If you might bid, should you ask what it means?
- 1.2 You can ask about agreements and style.
- 1.3 If they play Ogust, they are more likely to be undisciplined.

## 2 The 2NT bid:

- 2.1 A good 1NT opener with at least one solid stopper (AJx or KQx) in the bid suit or a running minor with stoppers. If you have a balanced hand, but cannot bid 2NT, just pass.
- 2.2 Systems (Stayman, transfers, etc.) are on.

## 3 Overcalls:

- 3.1 At least an opening hand and a good suit.
- 3.2 Leaping Michaels: Four of a minor shows the unbid major plus a five-card minor. Jump cue bid in the major shows both minors.

## 4 Double is always takeout: 14 support points and at least 3 cards in the unbid suits.

## 5 Responding to partner's double:

- 5.1 Doubler needs to know if you have anything, but there is very little room to explore. If you don't know the lebensohl convention, you should start with this one.
- 5.2 Advancers must ask themselves two questions:
  - 5.2.1 Is your hand weak or game-going? The cutoff is between 7 and 8 points.
  - 5.2.2 What is your best suit?
- 5.3 If your best suit is lower than the opponent's suit (you can't bid it at the 2 level):
  - 5.3.1 If your hand is weak, bid 2NT. You expect to bid your suit after partner bids 3♣.
  - 5.3.2 If your hand is game-going, bid three of your suit.
- 5.4 If your best suit is higher than the opponent's suit (you can bid it at the 2 level)
  - 5.4.1 If your hand is weak, bid two of your suit. Doubler will probably pass.
  - 5.4.2 If your hand is game-going, bid 2NT.
- 5.5 If you bid 2NT, partner is expected to bid 3♣, but with a very good hand he/she might "break the relay."
- 5.6 What do you need to bid 3NT?

## 6 Cue bid asks for a stopper for 3NT?

## 7 Other factors:

- 7.1 If vulnerable be more careful, especially if you must play at the three level.
- 7.2 In the balancing seat you can bid or double with a little less, but the 2NT bid still requires at least 15 points or a running suit.

Next week: Opening in the third seat

Dir: S

11

Vul: None

♠ A 10 4

♥ J 8 4

20

♦ A Q

6 11

♣ A K Q 7 6

3

♠ 9 7 6 2

♠ Q J 5

♥ K Q 7 6 3 2

♥ A 10 9

♦ —

♦ K J 6 4 3

♣ J 9 8

♣ 3 2

♠ K 8 3

♥ 5

♦ 10 9 8 7 5 2

♣ 10 5 4

Double Dummy Makes ?

N/S: 3♣ 3♦ 1♠ 1NT ♥4

E/W: 3♥ ♣4 ♦4 ♠6 NT5

Par Score ?

Par: -100 4♣\*-NS-1/4♦\*-N♠-1