



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2013-14



Week 10 Strong Two Openings



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Post presentation edits included.



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

I had planned to do Blackwood and other slam bidding topics this week. But then I realised that we hadn't done 'Strong Two' openings, and decided that it was more sensible to look at them first.

Let's start with a summary of openings presented so far:

Considering 3 shapes:

A balanced hand (4333, 4432 or 5332).

4441 the oddball shape.

Other hands are unbalanced.

The objective is

- 1) an 8-card fit with partner in a major suit
- 2) an NT contract
- 3) A minor suit contract



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

With a balanced hand

0..11 HCP Pass

12..14 HCP 1 NT *The weak No Trump opening*
RWPB recommends you to open **1 major** if you have
a 5332 shape with a rebidable L5major.

A Robson says always open 1NT.

Discuss with your partner and choose what you do.

15..19 HCP Open 1longest_suit and rebid NT
If 4432, you have a choice of suits:

♥ if you can, else ♣ or ♦.

15..16 Rebid NT

17..18 Jump bid NT

19 Bid 3NT

Many modern authors suggest alternative point distributions for the rebid. We are not covering this.



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

With a 4441 oddball hand

Whatever you do, you will end up lying on your rebid.

(EG bid 2 suits and you show L5+first_suit, L4+second_suit.)

Therefore:

0..13 HCP

Pass

Pass 12..13 points to make the lie easier to manage.

14..19 HCP

1♥ if you can, else 1♣ or 1♦ (choose the WEAKER minor)



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

With an unbalanced hand

0..9 HCP Pass

10..11 HCP and the right shape (otherwise Pass)

A light opening, treat as 12..19 HCP.

RWPB says “A good quality L6+ suit” is needed.

A Robson recommends the “rule of twenty”.

12..19 HCP 1 of your longest suit. If two L5 or two L6 suits, bid higher ranked. (*Two L4 suits would be balanced.*)

Plan your rebid before you make your opening bid.

Remember, if you have an unbalanced fit in a minor suit, you WANT to play in NT, UNLESS the opponents' bids suggest that to be folly.



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

Strong 2 openings.

I am just going to present the outline of how to bid these. Read RWPB chapter 8 for details and examples.

These are 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ - *partner announces "Strong"*.

2♣ is hijacked for other things – *and it doesn't get announced!*

So if you have a hand where you would like to open a strong 2 in clubs, you can't and will probably have to open 1♣ instead.

Thus a 1♣ opening might be thought to mean "12..22 HCP with L4+♣", rather than what we normally say "12..19 HCP with L4+♣".



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

20..22HCP and a balanced hand

Bid 2 NT

But judge the hand,
you may want to downgrade it to 18..19 HCP

With 20..22 HCP, the other 3 players have 18..20 HCP between them, or typically 6..7 HCP each. Assume 3 HCP, 6 HCP and 9 HCP.

Your partner may have 3 HCP or less. Perhaps he can contribute one trick. So you need to see 7 tricks somehow in your hand to be happy bidding 2NT. Consider top tricks, honour tricks, length tricks etc.

With 6HCP, your partner should be able to contribute 2 tricks to the 3NT he will bid.

Check your 2NT hand has 7 likely tricks.



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

Responding to an opening 2NT bid.

0..4 HCP	Pass	<i>No Fear uses 0..3</i>
5..10 HCP balanced	3NT	<i>No Fear uses 4..10</i>
5..10 HCP long minor	3NT	
5..10 HCP L6+major	4major	
5..10 HCP L5 major	3major	
5..10 HCP L4major	3♣ (Stayman)	
11..12 HCP balanced	4NT asking min or max for 6NT rebid.	
13+ HCP balanced	Bid to the level of your combined points (6NT, 7NT?)	
11+ HCP unbalanced	Find a fit and then look for a slam.	



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

An unbalanced hand.

You have probably learnt to open a strong 2 with 20..22 HCP and an unbalanced hand. The HCP matter with a balanced hand but are far less important with unbalanced.

If you have a strong hand – perhaps as few as 16 HCP – but the shape and intermediate cards are good, then a strong 2 may be on.

Have you got 8..9½ playing tricks? Bid a strong 2.

AKQJ	4 tricks
AKQJxx	Should make 6 tricks
AKxxxxx	Should make at least 5 tricks.
AQ	1½ tricks.

See the list on page 83.

RWPB: 8..9½ playing tricks and high quality L6+suit.

With L5+suit and L4+other_suit, bid 2suit and rebid other_suit.



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

Responses to a strong 2 suit opening.

If you have ZERO chance of taking a single trick, Pass. This is rare.

NB An L1other_suit with several trumps will likely get one trick by trumping. Bid the negative 2NT.

0..7 HCP 2NT ‘The negative response’

8+ HCP L3+support, ANY ACE or void raise 1 level: 3♦, 3♥, 3♠

8+ HCP L3+support, NO ACE & no void bid game - 5♦, 4♥, 4♠.

8+ HCP L2-support, BUT 2 playing tricks and a good quality L5+suit
bid your suit at the lowest level.

8+ HCP responding to 2♦, with L2+♦ and HCP scattered in other suits
bid 3NT.



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

Treat Strong 2 openings as forcing

Any strong 2 opening sequence other than

2suit – Pass

or 2suit – 2NT – Pass

is forcing to game. You are discussing whether to bid a slam.



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Week 10 Strong Two Openings

The superstrong opening.

23+ HCP or 10+ playing tricks, bid 2♣.

This is a convention and has nothing to do with clubs.

Responses:

Normally reply 2♦ regardless of your hand as a relay to keep the bidding open.

With a good quality (2+ of AKQ) L5+suit you might bid it.

Opener's rebid

23..24 balanced	2NT	Responder may pass with 0..1 HCP. Responder may use Stayman.
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25+ balanced	3NT
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Unbalanced	bid the suit – forcing to game (or better?).
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Week 10 Play

Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables. Fill in table slips.

NS have the pair number of their table.

EW have the pair number of their table plus 6.

N has his back to the screen.

When you have played a hand, pass it to the next numbered table in sequence. The highest numbered table passes to table 1.

And one last thing – **as part of the learning process** – I would like the **partner** of whoever has just bid to take whatever action is **standardly required** (announcing 1NT as 12-14 points, ALERTing a conventional bid, ...) – **AND ALSO** to give a brief **description** to the other three players on what the bid means.

Any questions?

Tea & coffee. (20p)

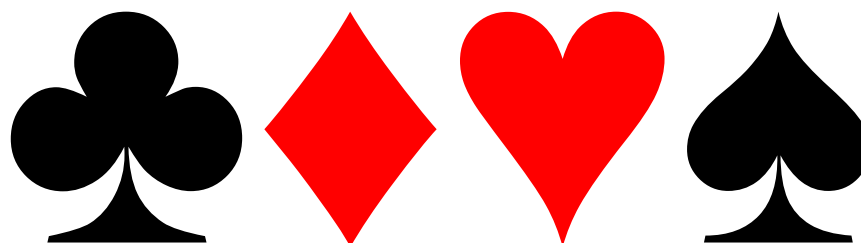
PLAY



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Week 10



The end

(Set hands on next slide)



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Week 10 Set Hands

Set hands

All from Andrew Robson – Bridge Common Mistakes

Book result in blue, Players results in red.

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
1	N	None	BCM#76	A♠=E 3NT= 3NT-1 3NT= 3NT+1
2	E	N/S	BCM#77	A♠=E 4S= 4S+1 4S+1 4S+1
3	S	E/W	BCM#78	A♠=E 5C= 5C-1 5C= 5C=
4	W	Both	BCM#79	A♠=W 4H+2 4H+2 4H= 4H=
5	N	N/S	BCM#80	A♠=N 4H= 4H-1
6	E	E/W	BCM#81	A♠=S 6H= 4H+3
7	S	Both	BCM#82	A♠=S 4S= 4S= 4S-1