

2♣ Openings.

Opening 2♣ is a bid that tells partner that we are going to game in NT or the majors. The draw back of this system is that you only have 2 levels of bidding to find the best contract. It is most important that the opener describes his hand as accurately and as quickly as possible because it is usually the responder who will make the decision as to the level and denomination of the contract. Consequently If the next bidder to the opener passes Responder bids 2♦ to keep the auction open and give opener as much space to describe his hand. Generally this will give the 2♣ bidder 2 bids before reaching game. This is important as he may need to bid his suit twice (showing 6 cards) or he may have a two suiter.

What is required to open 2♣

This is a very strong hand generally about 21+ but this can be reduced if the hand is distributional. A better criteria is the losing trick count. Responder must have 1 winner in his hand therefore if the 2♣ bidder has 4 losers they should take 10 tricks. So a four loser hand or better is a good start to make a 2♣ bid.

I qualify it a bit in that I need the same number of Quick Trick as losers. If I have a 4 loser hand then I need 4 QT or more to open 2♣. This enables me to open 2♣ with maybe as few as 19 pts. I don't go below 19 pts as it could be too weak if partner thinks that a slam is on.

Now lets look at responders bid of 2♦. This is a relay bid and tells opener nothing about his points or his suits. It is there just to keep the bidding open. Sometime responders hand is truly dreadful and the winner that he holds (the 4th card of the suit) may not be able to be establish or there may be no entries to it.

In this case, some people play a convention called "Broken Hearted". Responder bids 2♥ this tells the 2♣ bidder that he is on his own and he should make any bid that he thinks is wise because responder is not going to bid again.

Here is an example;

2♣	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	P	P
Or			

2♣	P	2♥	P
P	P	P	

Here he thinks 2♥ is the best place.

He can still go to game.

2♣	P	2♥	P
4♠	P	P	P

He doesn't need anything from partner.

What do you need to play Broken Hearted.

Not much - less than 3 points or 3 J's a Q and a J is too good particularly if they are in the same suit

The other bid I like after a 2C Opening is 3 of a Major by the **OPENER**.

This sets the suit as trumps because it is self sufficient. It can be played even if responder has a void. It should be a 7+ suit headed by the AKQJ nothing less will do. As this sets the trump suit, 3NT can be used as baby blackwood, and any suit called is either a singleton/void or 1st round control which ever you decide with your partner.

Here is a typical bidding sequence.

2♣	P	2♦	P
3♠ ¹	P	4♣ ²	P
4♥ ³		4NT ⁴	
5♥ ⁵		6S ⁶	

1. I have a self-sufficient ♠ suit
2. I have first round control in clubs (A or void).
3. I have 1st round control in H's but not ♦'s.
4. Roman Keycard just checking we are not missing 2 keycards.
5. I have 2 Keycards but not the Q or trumps.
6. That will do me - good luck partner.

Also note this sequence:

2♣	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	3♥ ¹	P

1. this bid is stronger than 4H and shows slam interest. The opener can then explore with baby blackwood or by cue bidding as above