



Strong openings

Strong openings

Sometimes your hand is very strong with 20 HCP or more (3rd zone). There are 3 bids you can make which show your strength as of the 1st round:

- 2NT with 20-21HCP and a regular hand
- 2♣ with :
 - 22-23HCP and a regular hand
 - or 18-21HCP and a very nice suit with 6 cards.
- 2♦ avec 24HCP or more (french system only)

S	W	N	E
2 NT			

A♠	J♠	6♠	4♠	K♥	7♥	4♥	K♣	6♣	A♦	K♦	Q♦	10♦
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Problem E1811 With 20-21HCP and a regular hand, opening with 2NT is a priority

S	W	N	E
2♦			

A♠	K♠	3♠	K♥	J♥	4♥	K♣	J♣	10♣	A♦	K♦	Q♦	4♦
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Problem E2518 All extra strong hands (24HCP or more) open 2♦ (french system only)



Strong openings

To open 2NT you need:

- 20-21HCP
- and a balanced hand (no 5-card major, void or singleton)

This bid is non forcing: with a very weak hand your partner will pass.

Examples :

S		W		N		E	
2 NT							

A	J	6	4	K	7	4	K	6	A	K	Q	10
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E1811 With 20-21HCP and a regular hand, opening with 2NT is a priority

S		W		N		E	
1 ♣							

5	2	A	3	A	K	J	10	8	A	K	J	9
♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E1820 Even though you have 20HCP, don't open 2NT but 1 club. The little doubleton is too dangerous



Strong openings

2 club openings cover several types of hand:

- balanced hands with 22-23HCP (super NT),
- third-zone one-suiter hands with a strong suit of at least 6 cards,
- fourth-zone hands with a very strong 5-card major (minimum ace king queen x x).

Some advice:

S		W		N		E	
2 ♣							

A	J	9	2	K	4	K	Q	4	A	K	Q	3
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problème E2506

2 clubs All very strong balanced hands (22-23HCP) should be opened 2 clubs followed by a NT rebid.



Strong openings

French system : The 2 diamond opening is the strongest possible opening.

You can use it with any hand. It promises:

- either 24HCP or more
- or the number of tricks for game minus one.

Careful! 2 diamonds is game forcing and your partner cannot pass before reaching game.

S	W	N	E
2♦			

A♠	K♠	Q♠	J♠	9♠	4♠	3♠	A♥	K♥	10♥	5♣	6♦	5♦
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Problem E2514 An excellent criteria for choosing the 2 diamond opening: the strength for game less one trick, ie: 9 tricks in a major contract or 10 in a minor one.

S	W	N	E
2♦			

A♠	K♠	3♠	K♥	J♥	4♥	K♣	J♣	10♣	A♦	K♦	Q♦	4♦
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Problem E2518 All super strong balanced hands (24HCP or more) should be opened 2 diamonds followed by a NT rebid.