



Pre-empt: weak 2 opening bids

Pre-empt opening bids make it difficult for the opponents as they have to overcall at a higher level.

To open with a weak 2 you need:

- between 6 and 9HCP.
- A 6 card including 2 high honors (ace, king or queen) in ♦, ♥ or ♠
- This means 4-6 tricks, according to whether you are vulnerable or not.

A reminder of the requirements for a weak 2 opening bid in 1st and 2nd seat:

- Not to possess 2 high honors in any other suit
- Not 2 aces
- Not 4 cards in the other major

S	W	N	E
2 ♠			

K ♠	Q ♠	J ♠	9 ♠	4 ♠	3 ♠	4 ♥	5 ♣	4 ♣	2 ♣	J ♦	10 ♦	4 ♦
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-----

Problem E2497: A typical weak 2 opening bid.

S	W	N	E
Pass			

Q ♠	J ♠	9 ♠	8 ♠	K ♥	Q ♥	9 ♥	4 ♥	3 ♥	2 ♥	4 ♣	5 ♦	4 ♦
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Problem E2501 In 2nd seat never open with a weak 2 opening bid when you have 4 cards in the other major.



Pre-empt: weak 2 opening bids

In 3rd seat, there are no restrictions!

You can make a pre-empt opening bid with 2 aces or 4 cards in the other major...

- Your partner is weak or he would have bid. Your pre-empt is less likely to cause him a problem than in 1st or 2nd seat.
- On the other hand you can still worry the Opponents, so use the pre-empt every time your hand is right and you aren't vulnerable.

S	W	N	E
		Pass	Pass
2♥			



Problem E4953 In 3rd seat there are no restrictions on pre-empts. A 2♥ opening bid makes life more difficult for the opponents...

S	W	N	E
		Pass	Pass
2♠			



Problem E4926 In 3rd seat you can do anything!



Pre-empt: weak 2 opening bids

You must take into account the vulnerability. Your Opponents won't hesitate to double over-confident pre-empts.

- In a favorable situation, green v. red, you promise 4 tricks. If your Opponents can make game in a major, you can go down by 3 in a doubled contract and mark -500 instead of -620. (-4 takes you to -800... which isn't good)
- In an unfavorable situation, red v. green, you promise 6 tricks.
Careful ! You can only afford to go down by 1 trick: -200 instead of -420 if your Opponents had game (-2 takes you to -500...).

S	W	N	E
			1 ♦
2 ♥			

7	K	J	10	8	4	2	A	J	10	8	6	4
♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem E4404 2♥ Red v. red you are minimum for this pre-empt !



Pre-empt: weak 2 opening bids

The quality of the hand

In a favorable situation, the quality can be medium:
A J 9 x x x or Q J 10 x x x are acceptable suits.

In an unfavorable situation, keep to the rule of 2 high honors:
A Q 10 x x x or else K Q 10 x x x for example.

A singleton is definitely a plus especially if it's in the other major!

S	W	N	E
2 ♥			

5 ♠	A ♥	J ♥	10 ♥	8 ♥	4 ♥	3 ♥	6 ♣	5 ♣	3 ♣	J ♦	10 ♦	9 ♦
-----	-----	-----	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-----

Problem E2498 An ultra mini 2 ♥, everyone vulnerable, so as to obstruct ♠. Having a singleton ♠ is definitely advantageous when opting to make a pre-empt opening bid.
