

Strong 2♣ Opening I

When you are dealt a hand powerful enough that you want partner to respond, begin with 2♣. These hands fall into three general categories: (a) Balanced hands with 22+HCP (22 or more in HCP); (b) Unbalanced hands with an HE of 21+; (c) One-suited hands within a trick of game.

(a) ♠ K Q 9
♥ A K 10 8
♦ A Q 7
♣ A J 5

(b) ♠ A K Q 8 7
♥ K 10 8
♦ 7
♣ A K Q 4

(c) ♠ A K Q 10 9 8 7
♥ A 3
♦ 2
♣ A 10 4

Responses:

Responder's primary responsibility is indicating game forcing values or less and letting Opener describe her hand.

	HCP	Bid	Meaning of Response	Forcing?
Responses to a 2♣ Opening Bid	<5	2♥	A bust hand; may pass over a non-jump	1-round
	5+	2♦	Ace, King or 5+HCP & lacks requirements for the bids below	Game
	8+	2♠	5+HCP and 5+cards in ♠s	Game
	8+	2NT(!)	5+HCP and 5+cards in ♥s	Game
	8+	3♣/3♦	5+HCP and 6+cards in ♣/♦s	Game

Rebids

Following a response of 2♦, Opener does not jump to ensure the partnership gets to game, as the 2♦ response is a Game Force. Opener shows a 5+card suit by bidding it; Responder, with support for Opener's suit, jumps to game with a minimum (*Fast Arrival*) or raises with slam invitational values (HE: 10+). Opener shows a balanced hand and 22+HCP with a 2NT rebid. All conventional bids, such as Stayman and Jacoby, used after a 2NT Opening bid are applicable here.

Over a 2♥ bid, Opener must jump to command that Partner continues to bid until game is reached; 2NT is also passable but Responder may use conventional bids to find a 4-4 major fit or transfer with a long major.

When Responder initially shows a suit, the partnership is in the slam zone provided there's no misfit. Opener raises a major with 3+card support; Opener raises a minor only with a strong possibility of slam and an unbalanced hand.

Interference

In the modern game, opponents take liberties over a 2♣ opening. The recommendation is for Responder to use DOP1 ("Doopy"), where a Pass = "2♦" and Double = "2♥" using the meanings above; other bids as above.

Quiz 33: Strong 2♣ Opening

In the blank for i, enter your opening bid; if it 2♣ continue with ii and iii.

	Bids & Responses	Your Hand		Bids & Responses	Your Hand
1a.	i. _____ ii. 2♣ - 2♦: _____ iii. 2♣ - 2♥!: _____	♠ 7 ♥ AKQT98 ♦ AKQ653 ♣ -	2a.	i. _____ ii. 2♣ - 2♦: _____ iii. 2♣ - 2♥!: _____	♠ T ♥ KQ53 ♦ AKQ52 ♣ AQJ
3a.	i. _____ ii. 2♣ - 2♦: _____ iii. 2♣ - 2♥!: _____	♠ AQ7 ♥ KQT9 ♦ Q6 ♣ AKQ5	4a.	i. _____ ii. 2♣ - 2♦: _____ iii. 2♣ - 2♥!: _____	♠ AKQT987 ♥ A ♦ KQT6 ♣ 4
5a.	i. _____ ii. 2♣ - 2♦: _____ iii. 2♣ - 2♥!: _____	♠ AKQ7 ♥ 9 ♦ AQJ6 ♣ KQJ5	6a.	i. _____ ii. 2♣ - 2♦: _____ iii. 2♣ - 2♥!: _____	♠ KQJ54 ♥ AKQT93 ♦ A4 ♣ -

In the following hands, your Partner has opened 2♣. In i, enter your initial response, assume Opener rebids ♥s and fill in your rebid. Likewise for ii, except that Opener rebids NT. For example, in 1b.i, someone might fill in 2♦ - 2♥: 2♠ f

	Bids & Responses	Your Hand		Bids & Responses	Your Hand
1b.	i. __ - _♥: _____ ii. __ - _NT: _____	♠ 987652 ♥ 9842 ♦ 86 ♣ 4	2b.	i. __ - _♥: _____ ii. __ - _NT: _____	♠ T ♥ 753 ♦ AQT542 ♣ 654
3b.	i. __ - _♥: _____ ii. __ - _NT: _____	♠ QJT7 ♥ KT98 ♦ JT6 ♣ A5	4b.	i. __ - _♥: _____ ii. __ - _NT: _____	♠ JT987 ♥ AK ♦ 864 ♣ 764
5b.	i. __ - _♥: _____ ii. __ - _NT: _____	♠ KT7 ♥ 9 ♦ AQJ65 ♣ T954	6b.	i. __ - _♥: _____ ii. __ - _NT: _____	♠ Q97654 ♥ AK3 ♦ 4 ♣ K42