

MARVIN TWO HEARTS

An opening bid of 2♥ is a three-way bid:

- A strong two bid in hearts, unbalanced, game forcing, or
- A weak two bid in spades, or
- A 25+ HCP notrump hand

If there is no short suit in a strong 2H hand, open with 2C. The reason is that controls are less important opposite an unbalanced hand because a control may be worthless opposite opener's void or singleton. Since responder can't tell whether a side king is valuable, the strong 2H might as well be game-forcing. The hand must therefore have close to game in hand.

A weak two bid in spades should be "disciplined," a good six-card suit and 1-1/2-2 defensive tricks. If a hand can have anywhere from zero to two defensive tricks partner cannot bid or double accurately.

With a notrump hand of 21-22 HCP, open 2NT. With 23-24 HCP, open 2C and rebid in notrump.

Responses

Responder assumes that partner has a weak two bid in spades, and proceeds accordingly. If she would have passed a weak two bid opening in spades, she now *bids* 2♠. One drawback of this convention is that responder cannot make a preemptive spade raise, because opener may not have a weak two bid hand.

If RHO bids or doubles, responder usually assumes the opening was based on a weak two bid and bids, doubles, redoubles, or passes accordingly (but 2♠ over a double is a "positive response" in spades, showing a good suit). Even if RHO bids hearts, however, responder cannot raise spades preemptively. Opener could have a notrump hand, or even a strong two bid in hearts if RHO is lying to create confusion.

Rebids by Opener

With a 23-24 HCP notrump hand, opener usually makes a minimum rebid in notrump. In the unlikely event that responder has made a positive response to a weak two bid type opening (i.e., has bid 2NT, 3♣, 3♦, or 3♥), opener must jump to 4NT in order to show the 23-24 HCP notrump type hand. A 3NT rebid after a three-level suit response shows a weak two bid with support for responder's suit. A 3NT rebid over a 2NT response shows a weak two bid sort of hand with a solid heart suit (see section 7-2, Weak Two Bids).

With a weak two bid in spades, opener passes a 2♠ response. After any other response, opener rebids in accordance with section 7-2, Weak Two Bids. For example:

Opener	Responder
2♥	3♦
3♠	3NT - offers a choice

The 3♠ rebid confirms a weak two bid in spades, whereupon responder offers opener a choice between a contract of 3NT or 4♠. If opener had diamond support, by the way, he would have bid 3NT instead of 3♠. With a 25+ HCP notrump hand (unlikely, when responder has the good hand that 3♦ indicates), he would jump to 4NT over the 3♦ response. Finally, with a strong two bid in hearts he would have gone to the four-level in hearts or a new suit on the second round (i.e., 4♥, 4♦, 4♣). The 4♦ bid would show a second suit and is not just a diamond raise.

With a strong two bid in hearts, opener rebids in hearts to show a one-suited hand, or shows a second suit:

Opener	Responder
2♥	2♠
3♣	- hearts and clubs

Opener has already shown a heart suit, so now shows a second suit.

Rebids by Responder

If opener shows a 23-24 HCP notrump hand by bidding 2NT, the bidding proceeds in accordance with section 5-4, Two Notrump Opening. If opener has had to rebid 4NT to show such a hand because of partner's positive response, the partnership is committed to slam. A five-level suit bid is a Boland response (see section 5-6):

Opener	Responder
2♥	2NT
4NT	5 any - Boland

If opener shows a strong two bid sort of hand, the bidding proceeds naturally, with a minimum minor suit rebid (or 3NT, whichever is cheaper) by responder showing a "second negative," usually denying a king or more than one queen.

Opener	Responder
2♥	2♠
3♣	3♦ - second negative
	3♠ - natural

Opener	Responder
2♥	2♠
3♦	3NT - second negative

There is no danger of 3NT's being passed, since opener is unbalanced.