

2♣ Opening

The **2♣** opening is an artificial bid reserved for a strong opening bid with 22+ HCPs. This bid does NOT specify a suit. The weaker responder has no idea of what the strong opener holds, except it holds more than half the HCPs in the deck. The partnership is still looking for a suit or No Trump contract to play.

To qualify for the artificial **2♣** opening, the strong opener must meet one of these two conditions:

- **22+ HCPs:** This is the only requirement. This bid says nothing about which suit or No Trump the strong opener wants to play.
- **2 Club Equivalent:** This opening is rarely used. The strong opener's hand must hold 9 quick tricks in a specific major suit, or 10 quick tricks in a specific minor suit. This bid says nothing about which suit the strong opener wants to play.

There are three conventions the weaker responder can use with the artificial **2♣** opening. Before the playing session begins, make sure the partnership agrees on which convention to use:

- **2 Diamonds Waiting:** This convention is part of SAYC and attempts to keep the strong opener's hand out of the dummy by trying to get the strong opener to mention the desired suit to play.
- **3 Point Step:** (point range only). This simple convention indicates the weak responder's point count range only, and relies upon the strong opener's experience and intuition to determine the contract to play. The strong opener's hand could end up exposed in the dummy.
- **2 Diamond Bust:** (point range and 5+card suit). This simple convention indicates the weaker responder's point range and 5-card suit without worrying about which partner ends up as dummy. The strong opener's hand could end up exposed in the dummy.

2-Diamonds Waiting Step 1 by Weaker Responder

| Response to 2♣ Opening - 2♦ Waiting Convention | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------|----|----|----|------------|--|----|---|------|----|----|----|----|
| Responder's Shape | Responder's HCPs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Path 1 (most common) | | | | | | Path 2 (all natural bids) | | | | | | | |
| | 0-2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 5+card biddable suit (3+HCPs in suit) | 2♦ (Artificial Bid) | | | | | | 2♥ 2♠ 3♣ 3♦ | | 3♥ 3♠ 4♣ 4♦ | | | | | |
| NO 5+card biddable suit | | | | | | | 2 NT | | 3 NT | | | | | |
| 6/16/2025 | 22-24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 |
| | Partial | Game Major | | | | Game Minor | | | | Slam | | | | |
| Minimum PARTNERSHIP Points (assume opener holds 22 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2-Diamonds Waiting Step 2 by Strong Opener

| Opener's Response to 2 ♦ Waiting | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------|----|----|
| Opener's Shape | Opener's Point Count & Bid | | | | | |
| | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 5+card Major | 2 ♥ or 2 ♠ | | | 3 ♥ or 3 ♠ | | |
| 5+card Minor | 3 ♣ or 3 ♦ * | | | 4 ♣ or 4 ♦ * | | |
| NO 5+card Suit | 2 NT | | | 3 NT | | |

2-Diamonds Waiting Step 3 by Weaker Responder

| Opener's Previous Bid | Responder's Shape | Responder's Point Count & Next Bid | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|----|----|----|----|
| | | 0-2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 2♥ or 2♠ | 3+card Support | PASS Play 2-level Major in the opener's suit | 4♥ or 4♠ | | | | |
| | 4+ other major | | Other Major at 3-Level 3♠ or 3♥ | | | | |
| | NO Support | | 3 NT | | | | |
| 2 NT | 5+card Major | PASS Play 2 NT | 3♦ (Xfr to ♥) or 3♥ (Xfr to ♠) | | | | |
| | 4-card Major | | 3♣ Stayman | | | | |
| | NO 4+crd Major | | 3 NT | | | | |
| 3♣ or 3♦ | 4+major | PASS Play 3-level Minor | 3♥ or 3♠ | | | | |
| | 3+ Suit Support | | 3 NT | | | | |
| | Balanced | | 3 NT | | | | |
| 6/18/2025 | | 22-24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | | Partial Score | Game | | | | |
| | Minimum Partnership Points (assume opener has 22 points) | | | | | | |

Other Response Conventions to **2♣** Opening

3-Point Step Convention

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|-----------|----|----|-----------|----|----|-------------|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Partner's Response to 2♣ Opening (3-Point Step Convention) | Partner's HCPs and Bid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Partner's ARTIFICIAL bid: | 2♦ | | | 2♥ | | | 2♠ | | | 2 NT | | | 3♣ | | | | | | |
| 12/25/2023 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
| | Minimum PARTNERSHIP points (assume opener holds 22 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2♦ Bust Convention

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Partner's Response to 2♣ Opening (2♦ Bust) | | Partner's Points and Bid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | | Bust Hand | | | Game | | | | | | Slam | | | | | | | | | |
| Partner's Shape | 5+card suit | 2♦ | | | 2♥ or 2♠ or 3♣ or 3♦ | | | | | | 3♥ or 3♠ or 4♣ or 4♦ | | | | | | | | | |
| | NO 5-card suit | Artificial Bid | | | 2 NT | | | | | | 3 NT | | | | | | | | | |
| 12/25/2023 | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
| | | Minimum PARTNERSHIP Points (opener holds 22+ points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |