

Strong 2C

When partner opens with a strong 2C, it is normally good practice to let them describe their hand before introducing a weak suit of your own, thus respond 2D, unless you have something important to say.

If partner rebids 2NT (generally 22-23 HCPs), then transfers will apply as if they opened 2NT, but if you are really bad (4HCPs or less) you can pass, or transfer to a 5-card (or longer major) and then pass. Otherwise this should be forcing to game.

If partner rebids a suit (even 3D), then this should either be forcing to game, or at least one more round of bidding. Holding 3 or more cards in partner's 2H or 2S rebid, bid to game with a poor hand, or just raise to the 3-level with something extra. Without 3-card or longer support for the major and some values, bid a new suit, encouraging partner to bid 3NT or show another suit with a highly distributional hand.

If partner jump rebids a suit (even 4C or 4D), this should be forcing to game and show a self-supporting suit, asking for a cue-bid of first or second round control in another suit. A simple raise denies the ability to cue-bid.

To make a positive response to 2C (anything but 2D), the suit should be robust, of at least 5-cards, and the hand should have an Ace and a King, or two KQs. To respond 3C or 3D, which is slightly preemptive on Opener, the suit should be 6-cards, something like AKJ9xx, and a few outside values. A 2NT response to 2C is a positive response without a robust 5-card suit.

A jump response to a 2C opening (3H, 3S, 4C or 4D) shows a self-supporting long suit and invites cue-bids from Opener.

Partner opens 2C, responder holds:

AKT9x, Qx, xxx, xxx – Just worth a 2S response (also if 5-card suit is hearts)

ATxxx, KQx, xxx, xx – Suit not robust enough, but 2NT okay.

ATxxxx, QJx, xx, xx – Not strong enough for a positive response, bid 2D now and await Opener's rebid. Transfer to spades and bid 4S if Opener rebids 2NT.

xx, xx, QJx, AKJ9xx – Worth a 3C response, or 3D if minor suits swapped.

xxx, xx, QJx, AKxxx – Suit not robust enough for 3C (or 3D), but 2NT okay.

xx, xx, xxxx, xxxxx – Respond 2D, and pass Opener's non-jump rebid.

AKQJxxx, xx, xx, xx – Respond 3S, setting spades as trumps and asking for cue-bids (likewise with hearts).

xx, xx, xx, AKQJxxx – Respond 4C setting clubs as trumps and asking for cue-bids (likewise with diamonds).

xx, AKxxx, x, QJTxx – respond 2H and rebid 3C over 2S or 2NT rebid.