

2NT Feature Ask

Useful after a weak 2-level opening bid. Responder with *game interest* bids 2NT to ask Opener to show a *feature*, and to clarify his strength.

Game interest by responder: Use the rule of 17. If Responder's HCP plus the number of cards he holds in Opener's suit is equal to or greater than 17, Responder can explore for game by bidding 2NT. This bid is forcing for one round.

Feature: An ace, king or queen.

The general scenario, bidding 2NT after any opening weak 2-bid

2D - 2NT...

2H - 2NT...

2S - 2NT...

Opener's responses

2D - 2NT - 3D: rebidding 3 of the original suit shows a minimum hand, usually 5-8 HCP. It doesn't deny a feature in a side suit, but since the weak 2-bid opener's long suit should have most of the HCP, with a minimum you are not likely to have a feature elsewhere. Responder should treat it as a signoff.

2D - 2NT - 3NT: rebidding 3NT promises a solid, or nearly solid, opening suit headed by AKQ or AKJ. It does not mean Opener wants to play in 3NT, since with that solid opening suit he won't have stoppers elsewhere.

2D - 2NT - 3 of any other suit: shows a feature as defined above, and 8-11 HCP.

After the first round of bidding

There's a lot more to consider, such as Responder rebids, opener's third bid, what to do about interference. But the first step is to understand the three rebids above.