



Defensive Bidding Over Weak 2 Bids

When the defense opens a weak two bid against us they have destroyed two levels of our bidding.

First of all, let's state a few necessary facts. Does an alarm go off in your head when the opponents preempt at any level? A burglar alarm saying we are being stolen from? Turn it off immediately. This will save you many matchpoints. DON'T BID without the right hand! Remember there are two other bidders at the table. Before bidding ask the partner of the person who made call, "what is your approach to weak 2's".

Over a weak two bid you must have at least a good opening bid to act. Do not let *WEAK* goad you into doing something irrational. Only one side pre-empt.

When they are weak, all your actions are strong; partner must be able to rely on you to have true values.

Look at your hand in this light. Would I have opened the bidding? Right hand opponent opens 2 and you hold

KQJxxx xx Qxx xx

You would only have opened 2S. Tell me honestly, how many of you would have the discipline to pass with this hand. Rule: Don't preempt over a preempt. Partner will expect a good hand if you bid. Remember he still has a bid coming.

This is the hand you would bid 2S with:

KQJxxx xx Axx Kx

You would have opened 1S with this hand and will not be denied. A bid over a weak 2 bid DOES show values. Partner should view his hand as if you had a GOOD opening bid and should proceed on this premise.

With 10xxx xxx KQx Axx Partner raises to 3

Axx Axx Kx Qxxx Partner raises to 4

Axxx x KQx AQxxx Partner bids 4H a splinter bid.

With 10xxx Ax KQx AQxx Partner bids 3H and then jumps to 4S showing a good hand with 1st round control of hearts. All these bids are picture bids, you are picturing (that is almost looking into) partner's hand.

Now we come to a weak 2 bid by opponent and a double by partner. You hold:

Hand 1 Axx xx Qxxxx Kxx

Hand 2 xx xx Qxxxx Qxxx

How do you respond with hand 1? Bid 3D.

With hand 2? Use Lebensohl over doubles of weak two bids, just like when partner opens 1NT and there is interference. The response of 2NT is a relay to 3C and then you bid 3 Diamonds. This describes hand #2. Partner, you forced me to bid and I am bidding 3D under duress. The dichotomy of this is hand #1. A response of 3 Diamonds declares that you are happy to bid. Make sense? Is this forcing? No! Just announces some values.

Take these hands. 2H by opponent Double by partner.

#1 Qxxx xx Jxxxx xx

#2 AJxx xx KJx 10xxx

#3 AJxxx xx Kxx Qxx

Hand 1, bid 2 Spades, shows nothing

Hand 2, bid 2NT a relay to 3C and then bid 3S. Shows a decent hand with 4 spades

Hand 3, bid 3S, shows an invitational hand with 5 spades.

Here we are again-painting a picture of our hand for our dear partner so that he can make an intelligent decision.

Why not bid 3 Spades with hand #2? Partner may have doubled with

Kxx AQx AQx AQx

Too good for a 2NT overcall right? Why create a problem? If he knows that you have only 4 spades and some values he will opt for No Trump. If he knows you have 5 spades he can cuebid the Heart Ace, confirming spades and showing extras. After all you could have:

AQxxx xx xx KJ10x

and slam would be a virtual claimer. Now he is painting a picture. This time a 31 point slam. Don't you want to be in it?

Another bid modern players are using is Michael's Cue Bid over weak twos and threes.

2 D by opponent and you hold:

AQJxx KQxxx Kx x

3 Diamonds is not the old fashioned game forcing bid. It is Michaels and the decision is now up to partner. Don't use this bid with weak 5/5's because it shows a hand that is trying to reach game. Your alternatives are not good. If you overcall three spades and partner had a singleton or doubleton spade with three or more hearts, he will probably leave you hanging in the wrong contract through no fault of his own.

2H by opponent and you hold:

AKJxx x AKJxx Kx

This hand is good enough to bid three Hearts showing spades and a minor.

Let's say that partner holds:

xx xxx Qxxx Axxx

Over a double, your left hand opponent bids four Hearts, partner will pass and you will be back where you started. If you overcall spades he will probably pass, but over three hearts, four hearts by opponent, he can bid 4NT which asks for your minor. If diamonds are 2/2 you will probably make six.

Just don't forget, Michaels in this situation shows a very GOOD hand as opposed to a normal Michaels which is a disruptive bid and may show a weak 5/5.