

# Bridge Theory for the Practitioners

Amit Chakrabarti

## 23. Light Openings --- Part II

### Extension of Weak-2 Bids *a la* Bailey:

Terence Reese has correctly pointed out that “hands with a 5332 distribution, cousin of 4333, are generally unproductive.” [Reference 1] Even if you decide to open light and play according to my suggestions “Game Forcing except When Suit Rebid”, opening 1- any with these hands will often produce unproductive results. On the other hand, holding a hand like these on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> chair with a 5-card suit and 10-11 points, you might want to be in the auction. So what is the way out?

I suggest that you extend your weak-2 bids to include these types of hands with a 5-card suit.

The original idea behind such weak-2 bids came from Evan Bailey, a Grand life Master (deceased in 2008). In his version [Reference 2] the weak-2 is opened *only with 9-11 count hands*. I do not prefer that treatment. Having said that, I have to admit that some of the real superstars of Bridge (such as the multiple world champion Italian pair Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes whose partnership is fondly known as *Fantunes*) favor that type of treatment [Reference 3]. *Fantunes* open almost all hands in the 10-13 range with 2C/2D/2H/2S while 1C/1D/1H/1S bids are restricted for 14+ hands and are forcing for a round.

My suggestion will be to include 10-11 count hands with a 5 card D/H/S suit in your weak-2 bidding arsenal. Thus, this will be the structure of the extended weak-2 bids:

2D/2H/2S                      Either regular weak-2 opening with 6-10 points and a 6-card suit (Type 1)

Or

A 5-card suit and 10-11 high card points (Type 2)

## Restrictions on the Weak-2 openings of both types:

- No side 4-card major (you might easily miss a fit in that other major)
- No side 5-card minor (you don't know which suit is best to take a sacrifice with)
- No void (very, very difficult to evaluate the total potential if partner has a good hand)
- The suit quality can be as poor as KJxxxx for Type-1 but,
- The suit quality is Qxxxx at worst for Type 2.

Note that the type-2 weak 2 opening is actually *semi-constructive*. We are following Evan Bailey's suggestion that the suit quality be Qxxxx at worst so that partner can lead away from the King. Of course, one should use discretion and watch the vulnerability; pass is always an option rather than opening weak-2 with type-2 hands.

How would partner figure out what type of Weak-2 hand you have?

## Here is the response structure:

- Raise only non-forcing (RONF); all other bids are one round forcing (1RF).
- 2N = asking bid and you respond thusly:

3C = 10-11 count with a 5 card suit (Type -2 hands)

3D = 6 card suit; 6-7 count

3H = 6 card suit; 8-9 count

3S = 6 card suit; 10 count

3N = AKQxxx

- If partner bids a new suit; it is 1RF. Raise partner with 3 card or honor doubleton support; otherwise follow the above guidelines. For example,

2H	P	2S	P
?			

3S = raising partner with Type-1 hands and support for spades

4S = raising partner with Type-2 hands and support for spades

All other bids show no support for Spades:

3C = 10-11 count with a 5 card suit (Type -2 hands)

3D = 6 card suit; 6-7 count

3H = 6 card suit; 8-10 count

3N = AKQxxx

## Handling Interference after partner bids 2N and they double or overcall:

	For example		
2H	P	2N	3C
?			

### Use DOPI/ ROPI type answers:

X/XX	1 <sup>st</sup> step i.e. 10-11 count with 5 Card suit
P	2 <sup>nd</sup> step i.e. 6 card suit with 6-7 points.
Next suit	3 <sup>rd</sup> Step i.e. 6 card suit with 8-9 points. (that will be a 3D response in this specific example)
Next Next suit	4 <sup>th</sup> Step i.e. 6 card suit with 10 count (that will be a 3H response in this specific example)
3N	AKQxxx

The rest of the Weak-2 structure remains intact. I strongly suggest that you play 4C as a special Key-Card ask over weak-2 as suggested by Marty Bergen [**Reference 4**].

### References:

1. Terence Reese and David Bird, "The Hidden Side of Bridge" (p-87).
2. <http://www.lajollabridge.com/Bailey/topics/may11.htm>
3. Bill Jacobs, "Fantunes Revealed". This is a new book published in 2012.
4. Marty Bergen, "Better Bidding with Bergen", Vol. 1: Uncontested Auctions, page - 116.