

WEAK 2 or 3 PREEMPTS

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Bidding Weak Major Two Bids and 3 of a Minor should pre-empt your opponents and never your partner! Wouldn't it be wonderful if you knew exactly what your partner has when they bid ahead of you in first and second Seat. We will learn the difference between what constitutes a Constructive pre-empt and a Destructive pre-empt.

Discipline is the key in making constructive bids. Look at the following hands:

1. **QJ10xxx x Jxxx xx**
2. **KJ98xx xx Qxx Jx**
3. **AJxxxx Kxx xx xx**
4. **K98xxx Axx xx xx**

These hands should not be opened 2 in first or second seat because they do not follow discipline. The requirement is that you promise 2 of the top 3 honors and possibly an ace or king outside when non vulnerable but when vulnerable you do promise an Ace or King unless you have a solid suit. The exception is that you never open a weak 2 when holding 2 Aces or 3 Kings. Those would constitute an opening bid. Also, never pre-empt with voids in 1st or 2nd and never pre-empt a weak 2 with 7. Open 3 with 7 but you must follow the rules. Your partner will be happier if you do not make exceptions.

You use these same rules when opening at the 3 level (Minors or Majors). Remember to never pre-empt your partner with BAD HANDS. Partner will never know what to do when they hold very good hands. You can do whatever you want in 3rd seat since your partner has passed. Also, if your partner opens the bidding after you pass, you can still show the destructive weak 2 by bidding it then. Your partner will know immediately the type of hand you do not have because you did not pre-empt the hand in 1st or 2nd seat. More intelligent decisions can be made at a lower level.

2NT always asks for the feature and rebid of 3NT shows solid suit. Now that we have determined the guidelines, let us look at some examples when constructive pre-empts pay off.

Axx x AQJxxx Axx Your partner opens 2 spades. We know that a slam is a possibility so we ask if he has the king of diamond. If not, we stop in game. IT'S FREE!

Qxx Axx Axx Axxx Again partner must have **AK** of spades. What's our bid? Was there a reason to ask?

Kxx Axx Axxx QJx Partner is Vul Must have **AQ** of spades plus a king outside. What's our bid if he bids 3 hearts or 3 diamonds and what's our bid if he bids 3 clubs.

Axx J10xx KQx KJx Again partner is Vul. **KQ** of spades plus. What do we do if he bids 3 clubs or 3 diamonds and what do we do when he bids 3 hearts?

Q10x Ax AKxxxxx x Partner opens 2 spades What do we know? Do we ask? What's our bid?

Kxxx Qxx QJx AKx Partner opens vulnerable 2 spades. We ask. What do we do when partner bids 3 hearts and what do we do when partner bids 3 diamonds. Was it nice to ask?

Fitting hands work out very well but what happens when we have our own suit?

xx AKOJxxx KQJ10 VOID We ask. What do we do when partner bids 3 diamonds? What do we bid when partner bids 3nt? Remember it does not cost us to ask.

K KQJ10xxx AKx Ax. Partner opens VUL 2 spades. Do we ask? Or do we already know the answer? What's our bid?

xxxx Ax AKxxxxx x Nonvulnerable or vulnerable 2 spades. Do we ask? What do we bid?

Lets touch on 3 of a minor pre-empts. Same principle, but because we are now so disciplined the pre-empts must be 7 long if non-vulnerable. That extra trick may be important. However, if vulnerable you can open 3 of a minor with 6. The outside Ace or King is more useful in most cases.

xx AKxxxx Kx AKx. Partner opens 3 diamonds vulnerable. What's our bid? What does he have to have? What if he opens 3 diamonds non vulnerable? Do we make a different bid? We still can ask by bidding 3 hearts. He will show the king of spades by bidding 3 spades or go back to 4 diamonds and if we are really lucky he will raise hearts. Remember we do not have to guess to play either 3NT, 4 hearts or 5/6 diamonds.

AKxxxx Qx Kx QJx Partner opens 3 clubs vulnerable. Any problem? What's our bid?

Qxxxxxx Ax Kx Ax. Partner opens 3 diamonds non vulnerable Game is usually cold.

Great Offensive tools when they work but defensively you also have a huge advantage playing Constructive Pre-empts.

K QJ10x Jxxxx xxx Opponents Vulnerable. Partner opens 2 spades. 3 hearts on your right. You pass and then 4 hearts on your left. Your bid?

K J109 Jxxxxx xxx Opponents Vulnerable. Partner opens 2 spades 3 hearts on your right. You pass 3 spades on your left. 4NT by RHO. 5 hearts on your left and then 6 hearts on your right. Your bid?

Axx x AQxxx xxxx Partner opens 2 spades and the opponents get to 5 hearts after LHO showed lots of clubs. Do you see you can underlead your ace to partners Queen and then a shift to diamond might beat the hand? You are never guessing whether partner has the King or not.

x Axxx Axxx Axxx Partner opens vulnerable 2 spades and the opponents get to four hearts. Your bid?