

Weak 2's – the mini preempt – can be very effective. However, be careful not to preempt partner too!

Some pointers –

- 1) In second suit, ensure that your weak 2 is sound. This is because there is only one opponent left to preempt and there is partner. Maybe partner has a big hand!
- 2) In 4th seat your “weak 2” must be 11-14 points. No-one to preempt, so make sound 6-carder openings;
- 3) A change of suit is 100% forcing. If you open 2♥ and partner bids 3♦, he is asking for Hx support or xxx, and he might have AKQx, x, AKJxxx, Ax where partner has slam aspirations! (Hx = Honour small)
- 4) All raises are non-forcing! 2H-3H, 2H-4H, 2H-5H and 2H-6H are all preemptive bids upping the “ante” and always following the LAW. Raise 2H to 4H with as little as xx, Q9xxx, xxx, xx! Surely they have a slam on! Remember the mnemonic **RONF (Raise Only Non-Forcing)**.
- 5) When you have a borderline hand, ask with 2NT. There are various ways to play this –
 - SAYC Method : Sign off with a minimum 6-8 points, Bid game with a maximum or show an ace or king on the way
 - Precision: Sign off with no singleton or void. Bid the shortage otherwise. With a good maximum but no shortage stiff or void, jump to game.
 - OGUST: Remember the mnemonic 1-2-1-2-3. That stands for the 5 steps – 1 or 2 honours in a bad hand, 1 or 2 honours in a good hand, or AKQxxx.

Which method you adopt for the 2NT inquiry depends on you. You can always change if you find that your method does not appeal to you after a while! I played the Precision method with Elwynne but I now play OGUST with Ros, as that is what she was taught.

Use weak 2's with good effect – sow confusion! Here's a hand I played recently in a challenge.

	N Robot ♠ 64 ♥ 976 ♦ K862 ♣ A1087	W N E S 2♣ P 4♣ P P P		N Robot ♠ 64 ♥ 976 ♦ K862 ♣ A1087	W N E S 2♣ P 4♣ 5♥ P P P
	W Robot ♠ AQJ1052 ♥ 1082 ♦ 974 ♣ 3	E Robot ♠ K987 ♥ K ♦ A1053 ♣ QJ92		W Robot ♠ AQJ1052 ♥ 1082 ♦ 974 ♣ 3	E Robot ♠ K987 ♥ K ♦ A1053 ♣ QJ92
	S newmoon ♠ 3 ♥ AQJ543 ♦ QJ ♣ K654			S SHAF1 ♠ 3 ♥ AQJ543 ♦ QJ ♣ K654	
	4♣ W NS: 0 EW: 0			5♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0	

4S by them went -1, whilst my brother opted to try 5H and went -1 also (should be -2).

Gain = +100 points or 3 IMPs!

Now try the 20 PDF hands with your favourite partner. Remember, North always opens a weak 2. What does South do? Then compare your bidding with the makeables. If you get 14 out of 20 right, you're doing great. 10-14 is considered “an aspiring intermediate.”