MINI UNIT B6 2NT Feature Ask ♠♥♦♣

What should partner do after a weak two opening?

That depends on support and strength:

- With a weak or moderate hand and 0-2 cards in partner's suit – pass
- With 3-card support but not enough for game – raise to the "level of fit" i.e. to 3-level
- With a weak hand and 4-card support – again, raise to the "level of the fit" i.e. now to the 4-level, to cause maximum inconvenience to the opponents
- With a **strong hand**, say 16+ HCP – **bid 2NT, an *artificial* inquiry**.

In response to the 2NT inquiry, opener should:

- rebid her/his suit with a minimum hand
- with 8-10 HCP, a popular approach is to bid the suit in which opener holds an outside ace or king – this helps responder to decide whether the hands fit well for a game contract
- Rare but with 3 top honours bid 3NT - expecting to make 6 tricks in the weak 2 suit

Examples

1

West	**East**
♠ KT8652	♠ A3
♥ 4	♥ A975
♦ K96	♦ 8753
♣ 854	♣ AQ7

West	**East**
2S	2NT
3S	all pass

West is a **minimum** 6 HCP hand

2

West	**East**
♠ 2	♠ J863
♥ AJ9643	♥ 85
♦ Q83	♦ AKJ7
♣ K84	♣ AQ7

West	**East**
2H	2NT
3C	4H all pass

West is a **maximun** 10 HCP hand and shows the ♣K. East knows NT is not an option with poor spades so bids game in hearts

3

West	**East**
♠ 83	♠ K75
♥ 64	♥ A95
♦ AKQ975	♦ 863
♣ 875	♣ AK43

West	**East**
2D	2NT
3NT	all pass

West is a **maximun** 9 HCP hand and has top 3 honours in diamonds. East knows diamonds will run for likely 6 tricks, is balanced with stoppers, and has 3 sure winners so leaves in 3NT

4

West	East
♠ A3	♠ KQ65
♥ 864	♥ J2
♦ KQ8643	♦ A1092
♣ 86	♣ AQ3

West	East
2D	2NT
3S	5D all pass

West is a **maximun** 9 HCP hand and shows their feature ♠A. With no stopper in hearts East bids 5♦. (If West had shown a heart stopper East would try 3NT)

QUIZ

1) You are South. Nil Vulnerability. South's hand ♠ 54 ♥ K87543 ♦ K84 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
			2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

Answer: 3♥. Minimum 6 HCP hand

2) You are South. N/S are vulnerable, E/W not. South's hand ♠ 54 ♥ KJ9543 ♦ K84 ♣ 84

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

Answer: 3♥. Still a minimum (especially for second seat at unfavourable vulnerability)

3) You are South. N/S are not vul., E/W vulnerable. South's hand ♠ 54 ♥ AKJ1093 ♦ 987 ♣ 84

West	North	East	South
			2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

Answer: 3NT - Would prefer AKQ but a reasonably strong had for a first seat preempt

4) You are South. None Vul. South's hand ♠ 54 ♥ KQJ432 ♦ K82 ♣ 84

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

Answer: 3♦. We have an outside feature AND a good 9 HCP

Thanks to L Cohen

Board 9 **North Deals** **E-W Vul** ♠ 7 5 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ A Q 8 7 5 3 ♣ K 6 ♠ A J 8 4 2 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A 10 4 3 N W E S ♠ 10 9 6 ♥ Q 9 8 3 ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ J 9 5 ♠ K Q 3 ♥ A J 10 ♦ K J 4 ♣ Q 8 7 2 ***West*** ***North*** ***East*** ***South*** 2 ♦ Pass 2 NT **Pass** 3 ♣ **Pass** 3 NT **All pass** **Lead: ♠ 4**	**Theme**: Weak 2, 2NT inquiry **Bidding:** With 16 HCP, a good fit in ♦s & stoppers in the other 3 suits, South is looking to find out if can reach North hand if missing a ♦ honour. North's 3♣ bid shows an A or K in clubs (so an extra ♣ stopper & non-minimum hand) gives South the confidence to bid 3NT **Lead:** ♠4 - 4th highest **Play:** Winners 0♠ 1♥ 6♦ 0♣ = 7 sure tricks. Where can another 2 be found? 1 spade winner from the lead. 1 from clubs once ♣A is forced out. 1 extra from ♥s if double finesse works. Play diamonds first - honours from the short hand first to unblock. Then lead low towards the ♣K or ♣Q to ensure at least one ♣ trick.
Board 10 **East Deals** **Both Vul** ♠ A 9 5 4 ♥ J 8 4 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ Q 9 7 ♠ J 7 2 ♥ A 9 7 ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ A J 2 N W E S ♠ 6 3 ♥ K Q 10 6 5 2 ♦ K J 2 ♣ 6 5 ♠ K Q 10 8 ♥ — ♦ 10 8 6 3 ♣ K 10 8 4 3 ***West*** ***North*** ***East*** ***South*** 2 ♥ **Pass** **2 NT** **Pass** 3 ♦ **Pass** 4 ♥ **All pass** **Lead: ♠ K**	**Theme:** Weak 2, 2NT inquiry **Bidding:** East shows an A or K in ♦s with the 3♦ bid & non-minimum. West, with 16 HCP & fit in ♥s, is concerned about ♠s for NT & so bids 4♥ **Lead:** ♠K - top of honours sequence **Play:** Losers 2♠ 0♥ 0♦ 1♣ Look to discard a losing club on 4th ♦. **Strategy** - draw trumps - honours from the short hand first, then play ♦s - honours from the short hand first. When in Declarer should draw trumps. They split 4:0 break – ouch! Provided Declarer played the ♥A first he can 'catch' North's trumps by allowing the ♥9 to run or merely by covering whatever card North plays, returning to dummy with a ♦ to repeat the play if necessary. Then play ♦s, discarding a losing club on the 4th ♦ & then play ♣A to make 11 tricks