

A Masterclass with Andrew: *The interesting 2♣ bid*



Insight

A bid of 2♣ is normally natural, showing clubs. Famously, it is also used conventionally¹:
(a) Stayman (a 2♣ response to a 1NT opening) and **(b)** the 2♣ opening bid (23+ points).

¹ convention: a partnership agreement to play a bid with a special (clever) meaning

Stayman 1NT — 2♣

Normally² 11+ pts with a precisely four-card major.

² can be weaker with both majors 5/4+ (used as a rescue bid).

1NT replies:

- 2♦ = No four-card major
- 2♥ = Four+ hearts (maybe four ♠ too)
- 2♠ = Four+ spades

Opening 2♣ 23+ points

23+ points (or an upgrade, if happy to force the auction to Game).
 Partner will usually respond 2♦ (0-7 pts, unrelated to diamonds),
 and you can describe your hand further:

Examples:

♠AQJ73
 ♥A2
 ♦AKQ4
 ♣K3

2♣ — 2♦ — 2♠

♠AQ4
 ♥KJ63
 ♦AKQ
 ♣A103

2♣ — 2♦ — 2NT

nb this is the only sequence that might
 stop short of Game.

c o n v e n t i o n a l

Responding 2♣ to partner's One-of-a-Suit

Example: 1♥ — 2♣

♠42
 ♥J8
 ♦Q982
 ♣AQJ32

Four+ clubs satisfying the rule of 14, i.e.
rule of 14: number of clubs + total high-card points is 14 or more.

Overcalling 2♣ after an opposing opening bid

Example: (1♥) — 2♣

♠4
 ♥K863
 ♦J2
 ♣AQ9863

Five+ clubs satisfying the Suit Quality Overcall Test, i.e.
SQOT: number of cards in clubs, added to number of honours in clubs
 (including the 10) getting to at least eight (number of tricks bid for).
 Also have at least about eight high-card points in your hand.