

## TWO BID OR NOT TWO BID THAT IS THE QUESTION

♠ T  
 ♥ 987632  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ AQ852

You are sitting South. With both vulnerable East opens 1D. What do you bid?

### Thoughts:

You are vulnerable and hold only 6 HCPs (high card points) so passing is a possibility, but you are 6-5 in hearts and clubs so a pre-emptive bid could be justifiable.

Making a weak 2H overcall carries with it significant risk since you hold no honours in the suit. However, there are a number of overcalls used to describe weak two-suited hands.

If the opponent opens 1H or 1S an overcall of 2NT is used to indicate a hand with 6 to 10 points and at least 5-5 in the minors.

Similarly, a Michaels cue bid overcall of 2C over an opening 1C bid or a Michaels cue bid overcall of 2D over an opening 1D bid are used to indicate a hand with 6 to 10 points and at least 5-5 in the majors, while a Michaels cue bid overcall of 2H over an opening 1H bid or a Michaels cue bid overcall of 2S over an opening 1S bid are used to indicate a hand with 6 to 10 points and at least 5-5 in the other major and an unspecified minor.

This hand fits none of these more common situations but there is one further bid that does describe it, an overcall of 2NT over a minor opening. This indicates a hand with 6-10 points and at least 5-5 in the two lower unbid suits. Therefore, you bid 2NT over the 1D opening to show a 6-10 point hand and at least 5-5 in clubs and hearts.

### Board 10, Thursday September 12

<b>10</b>	♠ J863 ♥ QT5 ♦ 543 ♣ KJ7	<i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>																															
	♠ KQ7542 ♥ K ♦ KQJ6 ♣ 64	♠ A9 ♥ AJ4 ♦ AT872 ♣ T93																															
7 14    13 6	♠ T ♥ 987632 ♦ 9 ♣ AQ852	<table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	-	-	S	1	-	2	-	-	E	-	5	-	4	2	W	-	5	-	4	2	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	1	-	2	-	-																												
S	1	-	2	-	-																												
E	-	5	-	4	2																												
W	-	5	-	4	2																												

This is the whole hand. Over the 2NT interference, West with six spades and an opening bid now has a difficult task to make a forcing bid so that the partnership can reach a game. A bid of 3S might be passed and a bid of 4S is somewhat of a gamble. Perhaps a waiting bid of a double might be safer, with the intention of bidding spades later.

As it turns out, even though your partner has a weak balanced hand, 3H doubled goes down only one trick for -200 versus a vulnerable game in 4S

or 5D by E/W. This does emphasise the power of distribution and the value of bidding weak two-suited hands.