

Ekrens

The 2 Opening

The 2 opening shows at least 4-4 in the Majors and 5/6-10 high card points. In Norway this conventional method is called Ekrens, named after Mr. Bård Olav Ekren who originated the convention (although he used the 2 opening to show this distribution). In the HIGH version of the system, a hand with 5-5 distribution in the Majors would generally be opened with 2, and therefore the instances, where the distribution is 5-5 in the Majors, are rare, when the opening is 2 in the HIGH system.

The principles applied when responding to partner's 2 opening may be summarized as follows:

PASS, correct or pre-empt directly with weak hands

Bid 3/3 with invitational hands (inviting in / respectively)

Bid 2 NT as a game-forcing relay whereafter the opener shows his strength and distribution using standard principles (MaxFirst, LoHiNo, VoSS'N and 2103)

Responses to the 2 opening:

2	6-10 hcp	At least 4-4 in the Majors, but no 6-card+ Major	General RKCB principles
PASS/2	8-10 hcp	To play	
2 NT		Unconditional game-force, MaxFirst asking	
3	8-10 hcp	Max, any distribution	
3		Asks about distribution	
3	8-10 hcp	4-4-x-x	4/4 = RKCB- /
3		LoHiNo for length in the Minor suits	Cannot stop in 4 /4 against 4-card+
3 NT	8-10 hcp	No 4-card + Minor, i.e. 4-4-(3)-2	4/4 = RKCB- /
4	8-10 hcp	Long, i.e. 4-4-1-4 / 4-4-0-5	4 = Transfer, 4 /4 /4 NT = RKCB- / /
4	8-10 hcp	Long, i.e. 4-4-4-1 / 4-4-5-0	4 /4 /4 NT = RKCB- / /
3	8-10 hcp	4-5-x-x	4 /4 NT = RKCB- /
4		LoHiNo for short suit	
4	8-10 hcp	Short, i.e. 4-5-3-1 / 4-5-4-0	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /
4	8-10 hcp	No short suit, i.e. 4-5-2-2	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /
4	8-10 hcp	Short, i.e. 4-5-1-3 / 4-5-0-4	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /
3 NT	8-10 hcp	5-4-x-x	4 /4 NT = RKCB- /
4		LoHiNo for short suit	
4	8-10 hcp	Short, i.e. 5-4-1-3 / 5-4-0-4	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /
4	8-10 hcp	No short suit, i.e. 5-4-2-2	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /
4	8-10 hcp	5-5-2-1	4 /4 NT = RKCB- /
4	8-10 hcp	5-5-1-2 / 5-5-0-3	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /
4	8-10 hcp	5-5-3-0	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /
3		Suggests, shows 5-card+, 2103	
3	8-10 hcp	2 card, i.e. 4-4-3-2 / (5)-(4)-2-2	4 = RKCB-
3 NT	8-10 hcp	1/0 card	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	3 card, i.e. 4-4-2-3 / (5)-(4)-2-2	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	4 card, i.e. 4-4-1-4 / (5)-(4)-0-4	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	5 card, i.e. 4-4-0-5	4 = RKCB-
3		Suggests, shows 5 card+ 2103	
3 NT	8-10 hcp	2/1/0 card	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	3 card, 4-4-3-2 / (5)-(4)-3-1 / 5-5-3-0	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	4 card, i.e. 4-4-4-1 / (5)-(4)-4-0	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	5 card, i.e. 4-4-5-0	4 = RKCB-
3	6-8 hcp	4-4-x-x	4/4 = RKCB= /
3		LoHiNo for length in the Minor suits	
3	6-8 hcp	Long, i.e. 4-4-1-4 / 4-4-0-5	4 = Transfer, 4/4 /4 NT = RKCB- / /
3 NT	6-8 hcp	No 4-card+ Minor, i.e. 4-4-(3)-(2)	4/4 = RKCB- /
4	6-8 hcp	Long, i.e. 4-4-4-1 / 4-4-5-0	4 = Transfer, 4 /4 /4 NT = RKCB- / /
3	6-8 hcp	4-5-x-x	4/4 = RKCB- /
3		LoHiNo for short suit	Only / are possible trump suits
3 NT	6-8 hcp	No short suit, i.e. 4-5-2-2	4/4 = RKCB- /
4	6-8 hcp	Short, i.e. 4-5-3-1	4 /4 NT = RKCB- /
4	6-8 HCP	Short, i.e. 4-5-1-3 / 4-5-0-4	4 NT/5 = RKCB- /

4	6-8 HCP	Extra short \square , i.e. 4-5-4-0 (bonus bid)	4 NT/5 \square = RKCB- /
3	6-8 HCP	5-4-x-x	4 /4 NT = RKCB- /
4 \square		LoHiNo for short suit	
4	6-8 HCP	Short \square , i.e. 5-4-3-1 / 5-4-4-0	4 NT/5 \square = RKCB- /
4	6-8 HCP	No short suit, i.e. 5-4-2-2	4 NT/5 \square = RKCB- /
4	6-8 HCP	Short \square , i.e. 5-4-1-3 / 5-4-0-4	4 NT/5 \square = RKCB- /
3 NT	6-8 HCP	5-5-2-1	4 \square /4 = RKCB- /
4 \square	6-8 HCP	5-5-1-2	4 /4 NT = RKCB- /
4	6-8 HCP	5-5-3-0	4 NT/5 \square = RKCB- /
4	6-8 HCP	5-5-0-3	4 NT/5 \square = RKCB- /
3 \square		Invitational in \square , VoSS'N with 5 card and max	
3	6-10 hcp	5-4-x-x, any strength (pulls 3 /3 with max	
3	6-8 hcp	4-4-x-x / 4-5-x-x	
3	8-10 hcp	Only 4 card \square , i.e. 4-4-x-x / 5-4-x-x	
3 NT	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and a void (4 \square asks which)	
4 \square	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and a singleton \square , i.e. 4-5-3-1 / 5-5-2-1	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and a singleton \square , i.e. 4-5-1-3 / 5-5-1-2	4 = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and no short suits, i.e. 4-5-2-2	4 = RKCB-
3		Invitational in \square , VoSS'N with 5 card and max	
3	6-8 hcp	4-5-x-x	
3	6-8 hcp	4-4-x-x / 5-4-x-x / 5-5-x-x	
3 NT	8-10 hcp	Only 4 card \square , i.e. 4-4-x-x / 4-5-x-x	
4 \square	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and a void (4 \square asks which)	
4	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and singleton \square , i.e. 5-4-3-1 / 5-5-2-1	4 = RKCB=
4	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and singleton \square , i.e. 5-4-3-1 / 5-5-2-1	4 NT = RKCB-
4	8-10 hcp	5 card \square and no short suits, i.e. 5-4-2-2	4 NT = RKCB-
3 /3		Preempt	
3 NT		To play	
4 \square /4		Natural, forcing (rare)	