



Adventures in Bridge

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This Week in Bridge

(218) Advanced Ogust Options

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Level: 6

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General

Although Ogust is a nice tool for using an artificial structure to describe our preempts to partner, there are better and more sophisticated approaches to an artificial rebid structure than showing simple suit quality and hand quality as separate variables. Let's look at a few upgrades to Ogust based on different situations and your partnership's style. If your partnership has exotic tendencies like having outside 4-card Majors or commonly preempting on 5-card suits, then there are methods for showing this kind of hand to partner as well.

2NT Response after a 2♦ Preempt

A good system over a 2♦ preempt is to use 2NT to try for game as well as find out if the preemptor has a 4-card Major for preempting the bidding.

2♦ 2NT

___?

- 3♣* Good Preempt
- 3♦* Bad Preempt (may have a really bad hand with a 4-card Major)
- 3♥* 4-card ♠, decent to good Preempt
- 3♠* 4-card ♥, decent to good Preempt
- 3NT Solid Suit, AKQxxx+



Modified Ogust over 2-Major Preempt

If your tendencies are to preempt with many 5-card Major suits (not just a 6-card suit) then using Modified Ogust can help you decide between 3NT and 4M when you have done so, avoiding a 5-2 fit.

2M 2NT

___?

- 3♣* 5-card suit
 - 3♦* Asks – If ♥ preempt, Small-Large. If ♠ preempt Small-Medium-Large (♥/♠)
 - 3♥* Small/Small
 - 3♠* Large/Medium
 - 3NT* --/Large
- 3♦* 6-card suit, Small
- 3♥* 6-card suit, Medium
- 3♠* 6-card suit, Large

G-Ogust over 2M

If your tendencies are towards preempting 2M with a wide variety of strengths and 6-4 shape then another step-based system may be more suitable to helping your partnership sort out the hand when you catch Responder with a good hand.

Note: This G-Ogust method is for an old friend Garey Hayden, it was his favorite version of Ogust.

2M 2NT

___?

- 3♣* Large, GF, 3♦* relay asks for shortness (Natural or LMH, HML – system style)
- 3♦* Medium on power
- 3M* Small
- 3oM* Medium based on shape
- 3NT* 4-cards in other Major, not worst hand

Note: The difference between a 3♦ bid and 3-other Major* bid is that the 3♦* may still have some quality for slam, but 3-other Major is a stretch to try to bid and make game; often 6-4 with a 6-card minor.*

Conclusion

The types of tools you choose to use opposite partner's 2-level preempts should be tailored to your partnership's preempting style and tendencies. If you are always a sound preemptor, then using Feature is a good approach, but if you are more eclectic or more aggressive in different situations, then you need a better tool. Choose the type of Ogust that best fits your partnership's style!