

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NO TRUMP BIDS



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N.T. SEQUENCES

RESPONDING TO NTs

MODERN TRENDS

We were always taught that if you held a five card **major**, you should open it and rebid it to show five. With a five card **minor** and an otherwise balanced hand of 12 -14 pt's you should open 1NT. As time passed, it became normal to open a 12-14 hand with a **POOR five card major**, e.g. with **AQ7-J8632-K8 Q73** open 1NT.

Now, many **competitive** players will open 1NT on any of the following hands. The game moves on !

♠ AJ8
♥ KQ985
♦ Q74
♣ 108

Why not?

♠ AJ
♥ 84
♦ QJ5
♣ KQ10852

Semi balanced

♠ AJ
♥ K8
♦ KQ74
♣ 108762

No rebid

and some will bid 1NT with

♠ 9
♥ K85
♦ Q74
♣ AKJ1085

six club tricks? and if doubled there is an easy escape to 2C

Please DO NOT try these out at the golf club or with new partners. They will NOT BE AMUSED!

Using more traditional/acceptable methods, do you understand what your partner's bids are telling you?

(Red text indicates bidding that requires special partnership agreement.)

Cover everything except the BIDDING sequences and decide what kind of hand east is describing.

OR cover everything except the EXAMPLES and decide how to bid the hands. Your analysis should include **all** of the points shown.

BIDDING		ANALYSIS	EXAMPLE	
W	E		W	E
1NT	3NT	A shot for game! Do not wait for a balanced hand of 13 pts. It may have a good six card minor with an outside ace or king.	1NT	? ♠ 84 ♥ K109 ♦ 975 ♣ AQJ1085
1NT	3NT	A shot for game! You locate a 4/4 major fit and make 10 tricks. Great until you find that the rest of the room are in 3NT making 10. If you are 4-3-3-3 with 14 -16 HCPS forget Stayman and bid 3NT	1NT	♠ KQ106 ♥ AK10 ♦ 975 ♣ QJ10
1NT	4C	Hopefully the only time you would use 'Gerber' The bid is asking for aces. 4D = 0, 4H = 1, 4S = 2 etc	1NT	♠ A4 ♥ KQ9 ♦ K7 ♣ AKJ1085
1NT	3H	This is a mild slam try in hearts and shows 18 ish pts. It is usually a shapely distribution.	1NT	♠ 4 ♥ AQ10863 ♦ K7 ♣ AKJ5
1NT	4NT	Not 'Blackwood' but quantitative showing about 20 HCPs. Pass with minimum or bid 6NT with maximum	1NT	♠ A94 ♥ AQ108 ♦ K7 ♣ AK105
1NT	5NT	Again quantitative showing about 23 HCPs. Opener bids 6NT with minimum or 7NT with maximum. No long suit but if partner is maximum (14) there is no ace missing.	1NT	♠ AQ8 ♥ AQ10 ♦ K73 ♣ AKJ5
3NT	4C	West has opened the gambling 3NT. A solid 7 card minor with not more than a king outside. Obviously diamonds but you have no stops in the other suits.	3NT	♠ QJ985 ♥ 786 ♦ 73 ♣ Q76

N.T. SEQUENCES

USING STAYMAN

DO you understand what your partner's bids are telling you? (Red text indicates bidding that requires special partnership agreement.)
Cover everything except the BIDDING sequences and decide what kind of hand east is describing.

OR cover everything except the EXAMPLES and decide how to bid the hands. Your analysis should include *all* of the points shown.

BIDDING		ANALYSIS	W	E	EXAMPLE
W	E	13 pts. with 4 spades	1NT	?	♠ AKQ8
1NT	2C	<i>DO NOT bid 2♠ after 2♥. Opener knows that you have 4 spades</i>			♥ K85
2H	3NT	NOTE Use HCPs not LTC when no fit is found.			♦ Q4
					♣ 10832
W	E	Balanced hand with four hearts 11/12 pts.	1NT		♠ K3
1NT	2C	7 or 7.5 loser hand.			♥ AQ85
2H	3H	<i>It is invitational! NOT forcing Only bid on with a 7 loser hand.</i>			♦ Q43
		NOTE - Use LTC not HCPs when the fit is found.			♣ 10832
W	E	0-9 pts. with 5/4 in the majors.	1NT		♠ K10853
1NT	2C	East cannot show this weak shapely hand with transfers			♥ QJ85
2H	P	because after the completion of the transfer any new suit bid would be forcing. <i>East is obviously too weak to force.</i>			♦ 643
					♣ 10
W	E	0-9 pts. with 5/4 in the majors.	1NT		♠ K10853
1NT	2C	East could simply transfer into spades but this method			♥ QJ85
2D	2S	ensures that you do not miss a 4/4 fit in hearts.			♦ 643
		2♠ is an absolute full stop. <i>West must NOT bid again!</i>			♣ 10
W	E	0-6 ish pts. Three suited with a singleton or void in clubs.	1NT		♠ J762
1NT	2C	<i>With 7-10, pass is likely to be a better alternative.</i>			♥ 10985
2D	P				♦ K643
					♣ 10
W	E	* 'Stayman' = 4 - 9 ish pts. with a four card major.	2NT		♠ J76
2NT	3C*	* 'Puppet Stayman' = 4+ pts. with no five card major and			♥ 10982
2D	3NT	not two four card majors.			♦ K643
					♣ 102
W	E	Negative = 0-7 pts. - saying that slam is unlikely.	2C		♠ K76
2C*	2D	*In Benji Acol, 2♦ is a relay bid, allowing opener to show their			♥ 10985
2NT	3C	hand. After the 2NT rebid, 3♣ is Stayman or Puppet Stayman.			♦ K643
					♣ 102
S	W	*Stayman = 7 ish pts. and a four card major.	1H	1NT	♠ AJ76
1H	1NT	West's 1NT overcall shows 16 -18 <i>with</i> a heart stop.		overall	♥ 985
P	2S	IF west responds 2♦/2♥ east would bid 3NT. (16 + 9 = 25)			♦ A1082
					♣ 107
W	E	19 ish pts. with a four hearts. (Our EXAMPLE has good shape.)	1NT		♠ QJ7
1NT	2C	*4♦ is a splinter bid, agreeing hearts and showing singleton or			♥ AK85
2H	4D*	void in diamonds.			♦ 2
		If opener now bids 4NT, it is Blackwood or RKCB.			♣ AQJ107
W	E	19 ish pts. with a four hearts.	1NT		♠ Q109
1NT	2C	*4NT agrees hearts as trumps and west's responses would be			♥ AK85
2H	4NT*	either 'Blackwood' or Roman Key Card Blackwood.			♦ K2
					♣ AQJ7

Remember, 1NT-3C is not Stayman - and if opponents overcall partner's 1NT, you cannot use Stayman.

N.T. SEQUENCES

USING TRANSFERS

We assume that you play transfer bids over 1NT and 2NT opening bids and 1NT overcalls by partner.

DO you understand what your partner's bids are telling you? (Red text indicates bidding that requires special partnership agreement.)
Cover everything except the BIDDING sequences and decide what kind of hand east is describing.

OR cover everything except the EXAMPLES and decide how to bid the hands. **Your** analysis should include **all** of the points shown.

BIDDING		ANALYSIS	EXAMPLE
W 1NT 2H	E 2D 2NT	2NT = INVITATIONAL - Shows 11/12 pts. and 5 hearts DO NOT bid hearts again. Opener knows that you have five. 2NT shows a balanced or semi balanced hand. e.g. 2-5-4-2. Opener can : pass with 12 pts. and only two hearts. bid 3♥ with 12 pts. and a fit. <i>East should then pass!</i> bid 3NT with 14 pts. and only two hearts. bid 4♥ with 14 pts. (or 7 loser) and a fit.	W 1NT E ? ♠ A9 ♥ KQ853 ♦ Q4 ♣ 10832
W 1NT 2H	E 2D 3H	3♥ = INVITATIONAL Shows 11/12 pts. and six hearts 7 or 7.5 loser hand. <i>It is invitational - ONLY to 4♥!</i> <i>Opener only bids on with a 7 loser hand and three+ hearts.</i>	W 1NT E ♠ A ♥ KJ10852 ♦ Q4 ♣ J832
W 1NT 2H	E 2D 3C	3♣ = FORCING TO GAME Shows 13ish pts. and five hearts and five clubs. With only four clubs, treat it as semi-balanced and rebid in NTs	W 1NT E ♠ A3 ♥ KJ1085 ♦ 3 ♣ AJ1083
W 1NT 2H	E 2D 2S	2♠ = FORCING FOR 1 ROUND Shows at least 11ish pts., five hearts and four spades. Opener can Bid 2NT with 12 pts., and no fit or 3♥ or 3♠ with 12 pts and a fit	W 1NT E ♠ AJ84 ♥ KQ1085 ♦ Q4 ♣ 108
W 1NT 2S	E 2H 3H	3♥ = FORCING TO GAME Shows at least 13 pts., five spades and four hearts. Opener can bid 3NT with no fit or 4♥ or 4♠ with 12 pts and a fit.	W 1NT E ♠ AQ842 ♥ KQ108 ♦ Q4 ♣ 108
W 2NT 3NT	E 2S P	FORCING TO GAME Shows 4 pts., five spades and four hearts. Opener can bid 3NT with no fit or 4♥ or 4♠ with a fit.	W 2NT E ♠ Q10842 ♥ K1086 ♦ 104 ♣ 98
W 1NT 2NT	E 2S 3C	2♠ shows either a balanced 11 pts. without a four card major OR a very weak 6+card minor. Agree, either to play it as a simple transfer to 2NT after which east's bid of 3♣ or 3♦ must be passed, OR as an enquiry about opener's 12-14. Bid 3♣ if 14, and 2NT if not.	W 1NT E ♠ 842 ♥ 9 ♦ 1043 ♣ A98754
W 1NT 3C	E 2S 3NT	After 3♣ east can bid 3NT with 11, pass 3♣ or bid 3♦. <i>A sequence INT - 3 NT would be 12 pts. precisely (No 4 card major)</i>	W 1NT E ♠ K72 ♥ Q85 ♦ Q93 ♣ A9875
S 1D P	W 1NT 2S P	West's 1NT overcall shows 16 -18 with a diamond stop. 2H is a transfer (<i>Must be alerted</i>) 3NT shows 9+ pts. with five spades. West will pass 3NT with only two spades or bid 4♠ with three	S 1D W 1NT N P E ? ♠ AQ1095 ♥ Q85 ♦ 102 ♣ Q76

N.T. SEQUENCES COMPETITIVE AUCTION

DO you understand what your partner's bids are telling you? (Red text indicates bidding that requires special partnership agreement.)
 Cover everything except the BIDDING sequences and decide what the blue bid is showing.
 Your analysis should include **all** of the points shown.

COMPETING AGAINST 1NT

BIDDING	ANALYSIS	EXAMPLE
N E S W 1NT X P	X = 16-18 pts. Penalty! West is expected to pass with 6+ pts. If E/W are V. against NV, west with 9 pts may opt to bid game. NOTE If east makes a subsequent bid of 2NT it shows 19+ (Too strong to overcall 1NT which shows 16-18)	N E 1NT ♠ KJ6 ♥ K109 ♦ A75 ♣ AQ86
S W E N 1NT x xx* 2H	* XX is described by opponents as "rescue please". (If east bids, north's X = 6+, a bid would be competitive). North's bid is competitive with no interest in game. Obviously the bid is a 5+ card suit.	North ♠ 84 ♥ KQ1095 ♦ 953 ♣ 742
S W E N 1NT x xx* pass 2D pass pass 2H	* XX described by opponents as "rescue please" North's pass may be weak OR co-operating with west's double. After south's rescue bid, the 2H bid shows game interest	North ♠ K4 ♥ KQ1095 ♦ J53 ♣ 742
N E 1NT 2C	A simple overcall at the 2 level with normal values (10+) ish.	N E 1NT ♠ K54 ♥ 73 ♦ 975 ♣ AQJ105
N E 1NT 2C	('Landy') Competitive with at least 5/5 in the majors. Either weak = 5-10 or strong = 16+	N E 1NT ♠ K10643 ♥ AQ1086 ♦ 43 ♣ 8
N E 1NT 2NT	Competitive with at least 5/5 in the minors. ('Unusual 2NT') Either weak = 5-10 or strong = 16+	N E 1NT ♠ 84 ♥ 9 ♦ K10643 ♣ AJ1085

There are many conventions available that show two suited hands. (e.g. Astro, Aspro.)
 We do not recommend them. Remember that every conventional bid removes it's natural meaning.

OPPONENTS OVERCALL YOUR 1NT

S W E N 1NT 2H ?	♠ A965 ♥ 43 ♦ K109875 ♣ 6	Similarly, there is a good defence if opponent's overcall partner's opening 1NT. It is called 'Lebensohl', but it is too complex for most club players. How would you bid each of these hands after west's 2H overcall?	♠ AQ65 ♥ K3 ♦ KJ987 ♣ 64
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BIDS OF 1NT after opponents have overcalled

S W N E 1D 1S P P 1NT	After north's pass, south should have 17 pts. to rebid 1NT (Not 15/16) AND a good stop in the enemy suit. If short in spades, 12-16, make a reopening double.	South ♠ AJ9 ♥ J86 ♦ AKQ73 ♣ Q7
S W N E 1H 1S 1NT	Not only does north have a stop in spades, he has 9/10 pts. Otherwise, support, pass - or double to show other two suits. The 1NT is showing game interest not just looking for part score	North ♠ AJ9 ♥ J86 ♦ K73 ♣ 10975
S W N E 1D 1H 1S P 2NT	North shows 6+ pts and FIVE spades! (Neg. double with 4) South's jump to 2NT shows 17+ pts. a good stop in hearts and only two spades.	South ♠ K6 ♥ AQ9 ♦ KJ1073 ♣ A95

N.T. SEQUENCES

4NT - AS TAKEOUT

It was never my intention to include a sheet on the use of 4NT in a competitive auction but because the bid cropped up three times on one night at Cramlington I have added this sheet to the term's handouts.

On each of the three occasions, the bid would have worked for different reasons.

(1. Profitable sacrifice - 2. Bidding to game - 3. Pushing opponents beyond their comfort zone.)

After opponents bid to 4S, use X for penalties and 4NT for takeout.

♠ KJ97		♠ Q
♥ J9		♥ AK86
♦ K874		♦ 10965
♣ A74		♣ J983
♠ 103		
♥ 10742		
♦ A2		
♣ K10652		
♠ A86542		
♥ Q53		
♦ QJ3		
♣ Q		

S	W	N	E
2S	P	4S	4NT
P	P	X	P
P	5C	X	

PROFITABLE SACRIFICE

The first example was played against Hilary and Monica who bid confidently to an excellent contract of 4♠. For +620 [22/32](#)

Sitting east at favourable vulnerability, I **failed** to use the bid and we scored poorly. [10/32](#). If I had bid 4NT, west would bid 5♣.

Then, if the opponents get it wrong by bidding 5♠ we score +100. [32/32](#)
If they get it right by doubling, we go 3 down for only 500. [22/32](#)

One pair bid to 5♣ UNDOUBLED. Passing 5♣ is NOT an option for N/S.

One pair pushed N/S to 5♠ -1 [32/32](#)

♠ J8		♠ K76542
♥ 2		♥ K53
♦ Q10875		♦ AJ9
♣ KQJ102		♣ 7
♠ AQ3		
♥ J1084		
♦ K6432		
♣ 9		
♠ 109		
♥ AQ976		
♦ -		
♣ A86543		

S	W	N	E
1H*	P	1NT	2S
P	4S	4NT	P
5C	P	P	P

FINDING A MAKEABLE GAME

South elected to open 1♥ because after a 1♣ open it is likely that she would have to reverse to show hearts. Well I would argue that a reverse by opener shows 17+ OR a five loser. However the auction became impossible for south. North, in protective position, despite holding a singleton in partner's suit, reasoned that if N/S have a fit, E/W have a fit.

4NT is the take out bid, south duly bid 5♣ and was surprised when it wasn't doubled. As you can see, 5♣ makes losing only two spades.

BUT - it only scored [10/32](#) because a spade is led. After a 1♣ open, east never gets in to mention spades and a heart lead gives N/S 13 tricks.

S	W	N	E
1C	P/X	5C	

Some found 6C!

♠ -		♠ KJ7632
♥ AKQ63		♥ J94
♦ QJ8542		♦ A9
♣ 74		♣ J3
♠ AQ5		
♥ 852		
♦ 107		
♣ AKQ86		
♠ 10984		
♥ 107		
♦ K63		
♣ 10952		

E	S	W	N
1S	P	4S	4NT
5S	P	P	P

PUSHING OPPONENTS TO AN UNMAKEABLE LEVEL

Finally an easy decision. With a void in spades and 6/5 in the red suits, 4NT is clear cut. (If south bids clubs, north bids bid diamonds, which would unfortunately result in the wrong lead). At the table, east bid on to 5♠ and west found the only lead to set the contract.

N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	21	5♦*	N	10	100	21	11	11
2	23	3♣	E	10	170	16	16	16
3	25	4♣	E	12	680	2	30	30
4	27	5♣	N	10	50	26	6	6
5	24	4♣	E	10	620	9	23	23
6	29	5♣	E	11	650	6	26	26
7	31	5♣	E	10	100	28	4	4
8	26	5♦*	N	10		100	21	11
9	18	5♦*	N	9		300	13	19
10	32	4♦	S	10	130	30	2	2
11	28	5♣	N	11	400	32		
12	20	5♦*	S	10		100	21	11
13	33	6♦*	N	10		300	13	19
15	22	5♦*	N	10		100	21	11
16	34	4♣	E	12		680	2	30
19	17	5♣	E	12		680	2	30
30	14	4♣	E	10		620	9	23

N.T. SEQUENCES

1NT DOUBLE

What happened.

W	N	E	S
1NT	X	2D*	P
2H	2S	P	P

*Transfer to hearts

♠ AQJ92			
♥ AK			
♦ K764			
♣ 74			
♠ K43		♠ 1065	
♥ Q1076		♥ J853	
♦ AJ		♦ 1093	
♣ Q652		♣ J103	
	♠ 87		
	♥ 942		
	♦ Q852		
	♣ AK98		

What should have happened.

W	N	E	S
1NT	X	2D*	P
2H	P	P	X
P	3S/3NT/or pass		

After Partner's Double of 1NT

* When you are faced with a very weak 4-3-3-3 hand after your partner's 1NT has been doubled, you have two options. Pass or Lie. Pass with 4+.

The lie is your best option if you are looking at 0-3 pts.

Remember, if you play a wriggle and pass and, partner will redouble. The transfer disguises your very weak hand and the worst shape possible. A transfer gives you the best chance of escaping.

At the table E/W get 80% because most other N/Ss bid on to game.

South should add the 9 HCPs to partner's 15-18 HCPs and realise that game should be bid, or the opponents contract should be doubled!

PLAY IN 3NT - ♥3 LEAD

1. Two stops in hearts.
2. East has 0-2 points so spade finesse is working.
3. ♣A & ♣K provide entries to dummy for this finesse.
4. ♦Q & ♦K will provide a 10th trick for declarer.

Play in 4♠ is virtually the same.

WEST DENTON

	♠ J2		
	♥ Q6432		
	♦ A2		
	♣ Q765		
♠ 7643		♠ 1095	
♥ 85		♥ AK9	
♦ J43		♦ Q8765	
♣ 10832		♣ A4	
	♠ AKQ8		
	♥ J107		
	♦ K108		
	♣ KJ9		

E	S	W	N
1NT	X	XX*	P
2D	P	P	2H

After Partner's Double of 1NT

*This bid was explained as being SOS. ("Please bid something partner,") North passes and east rebids 2♦. (Not necessarily five.) South had shown her hand (16-18) and passed. West passed. North now bid 2♥! and the question was - "Is 2♥ forcing?" South passed stating that she had shown her hand. North's original pass of the redouble was either points or nothing. **We suggest that the subsequent bid confirms some strength and therefore could be taken as 'game going.'**

North

♠ 92
♥ Q6432
♦ A2
♣ 10765

With only 6 pts. - north could bid immediately after the redouble to compete, or choose to remain silent throughout.

WEST DENTON

	♠ K8		
	♥ KQ94		
	♦ AKQJ		
	♣ A105		
♠ Q2		♠ J107	
♥ AJ2		♥ 10765	
♦ 1097		♦ 432	
♣ KQJ62		♣ 873	
	♠ A96543		
	♥ 83		
	♦ 865		
	♣ 94		

W	N	E	S
1NT	X	XX*	2S
P	3NT	P	4S

After Partner's Double of 1NT

Lead ♣K

*This bid was explained as being SOS. ("Please bid something partner,") When south bids immediately after the XX, it is competitive with no interest in game. North however is so strong that he punts 3NT. South with a SIX card suit corrects to 4♠.

There is an easy 11 tricks on the hand but played in a duplicate session only 2 pairs out of 14 pairs made + 450. What went wrong? Declarer drew 3 rounds of trumps letting the defenders in to take the established ♣Q the ♥A and a trump. Only 10 tricks for declarer.

Simply draw two rounds of trumps and leave the boss trump out.

Declarer can then play top diamonds and throw away the ♣4 on the ♦J.

North has to ruff with the winning trump!

Alternatively lead towards ♥K ♥Q hearts twice.

THE WRIGGLE 1. (only for regular partnerships)

INT is a very good descriptive and pre-emptive bid, but it has its dangers.

Although every first round double of a *suit* bid is for 'take out', a double of INT is for penalties,

If responder is weak, you need some form of wriggle to escape into a suit contract which is likely to play better.

Obviously you need to agree any form of the 'Wriggle' with your regular partner. (Many variations are played).

The Easy Bit. Transfer into any five card suit if INT is doubled

After INT has been doubled, responder can use the opponent's double as an opportunity to *transfer* into *any* five card suit that they hold. (Minors as well as majors). Do so with 0-5 points.

With 6+ HCPs we suggest that you simply pass!

N	E	S	
INT	- Double	-	Re-double tells opener to transfer to clubs.
INT	- Double	-	2♣ tells opener to transfer to diamonds.
INT	- Double	-	2♦ tells opener to transfer to hearts.
INT	- Double	-	2♥ tells opener to transfer to spades.

The transfer ensures that the contract is being played by the stronger hand.

The lead is coming *around* to the probable tenaces, rather than *through* them.

All transfer bids after a double of INT must be alerted. (Not announced).

What to do when you do not have a five card suit

If you are very weak and *do not* have a *five* card suit, you could choose one of these options:

- a. With any 4-4-3-2 shape - **Pass*, but *that pass must be alerted by opener because it is forcing!*

INT - Double - **Pass* This pass *requests#* opener to re-double for one of two reasons.

- With 6+ pts. responder can pass partner's redouble to play in INT XX hopefully into a game score. Although the number of times that partner has the points to allow INT xx to make are rare, it does put extra pressure on the defenders who will often take out the double by bidding.
- With 0-5 pts. responder can now bid the lowest of his *two* four card suits.
Of course the INT opener can bid a five card suit if he has one, (rather than re-doubling!)

North opens INT

<p>♠ A1074 ♥ 92 ♦ KQ3 ♣ K1092</p> <p>■</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ J873 ♦ J542 ♣ J74</p> <p>INT X P P XX P 2D P P</p> <p>North should be content to have found a 4-3 fit!</p>	<p>♠ A107 ♥ 92 ♦ KQ3 ♣ K10982</p> <p>■</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ J873 ♦ J542 ♣ J74</p> <p>INT X P P 2C</p> <p>Here, opener rebids his 5 card suit!</p>	<p>♠ A1097 ♥ 92 ♦ KQ3 ♣ K1092</p> <p>■</p> <p>♠ J642 ♥ J873 ♦ J5 ♣ J74</p> <p>INT X P P XX P 2H P 2S</p> <p>South's 2H shows two 4 card majors</p>	<p>♠ A1074 ♥ Q1092 ♦ K5 ♣ K1092</p> <p>■</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ J873 ♦ Q842 ♣ Q74</p> <p>INT X P P XX P P</p> <p>South passes the redouble with every chance of making!</p>
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With any 4-3-3-3 be prepared for TROUBLE

- b. With a 4-3-3-3 shape, and 4/5 HCPs, pass. Look confident. *Partner will alert and re-double! Still looking confident, pass the re-double & hope your LHO panics and bids. They often do.*
- c. With a 4-3-3-3 shape, and 0-2/3 HCPs, you are in real trouble! Pretend that you have a five card suit and transfer into your only four card suit! Do this even if not doubled. *You will be!*

THE WRIGGLE 2. (only for regular partnerships)

When 1NT is doubled in Protective Position.

S	W	N	E	
1NT	pass	pass	X	(More difficult to deal with.)
pass	pass	? *		*? In this auction north can choose between :

- Pass** shows a willingness to play in 1NT x. (or a 4-3-3-3 hand where there is no sensible alternative).
- XX*** shows a *five card minor*. 0-5 pts. Opener bids 2♣ and responder either passes or bids 2♦. This allows you to play in 2♣ or 2♦ with a weak 5 or 6 card suit.
- 2♣** shows four clubs and four of a higher ranking suit.
- 2♦** shows four diamonds and four of a major.
- 2♥** shows 4/4 in the majors.

Think ahead!

Partner has opened 1NT and you find yourself with this hand

♠ J74	
♥ 8643	RHO opponent passes
♦ 532	
♣ 1087	

Don't think that you might have a lucky escape and pass.

Pre-empt the situation by making an immediate transfer into hearts. A small lie but now LHO who must have 12+ pts. may double your 2♦ either to show diamonds or as a takeout. *You know* that you have only 1 pt. The opponents don't.

Your 2♦ bid gives nothing away about the strength of your hand.

Wriggle after a direct double.

<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 532 ♦ QJ72 ♣ KQ6 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ83 ♦ K86 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ Q85 ♥ 53 ♦ Q9753 ♣ 963 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ Q532 ♦ Q972 ♣ 63 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 9532 ♦ Q9 ♣ Q1063 </div>																																																								
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Good chance to make it redoubled into game	2C is transfer to diamonds	2D = four diamonds & four of higher ranking suit. Bingo. If opps. bid, you pass	Opener has only two clubs and bids your two card suit. So bid your 2nd suit hearts.																																																								

Wriggle after a protective double.

<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ K106 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K8643 ♣ J7 </div>	<p>east</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 9532 ♦ Q97 ♣ Q85 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div>	<p>east</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ Q954 ♥ J732 ♦ Q9 ♣ 976 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div>	<p>east</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 532 ♦ Q10972 ♣ Q6 </div>																																												
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p	p	xx	P																																														
2C	P	2D	?																																														
Opener can bid a 5 card		Another lucky 4/4 find		Responder shows 5 card																																													

INT X REMINDERS

The WRIGGLE in protective position, requires a slightly different approach to that after a 'direct' double of 1NT.

W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S	S	W	N	E	E
1NT	P	P	X	1NT	P	P	X	1NT	P	P	X	X
P	P	?		?				P	P	2D	?	

West can bid any five card suit

East does not have a 5 card major.

If east has a 5 card minor **east redoubles.** West bids 2♣. East leaves or corrects to 2♦

If east has two 4 card suits **east bids lowest.** West passes or bids if it is west's doubleton.

If east is 4-3-3-3, **east passes.** IF east had 0-2 pts. they should have already transferred into the 4 card suit

♠ Q542
♥ 85
♦ 10832
♣ J74

♠ A109
♥ K63
♦ Q74
♣ 10865

♠ J876
♥ AJ1072
♦ AK
♣ K9

♠ K3
♥ Q94
♦ J965
♣ AQ32

♠ Q542
♥ 85
♦ 10832
♣ J74

♠ J876
♥ AJ1072
♦ AK
♣ K9

♠ K3
♥ Q94
♦ J965
♣ AQ32

On this hand,
if the 1NT opening side do not wriggle your bidding should follow these principles.
After south opens 1NT west should NOT overcall HEARTS.
The range for simple overcalls is 8 -15.
Even if south had opened a suit, west should still not overcall.
(Too strong and holding BOTH majors. The bid should be X. (double).)

If N/S were vulnerable, east has an easy PASS	S	W	N	E
	1NT	X	P	P
	P			

If E/W were vulnerable east should try 3NT.

	S	W	N	E
	1NT	X	P	3NT
	P			

IF N/S 'wriggle' the sequence would be like this -

	S	W	N	E
	1NT	X	P!	P
	XX	P	2D	?

♠ 92
♥ KQJ8
♦ A107
♣ AQJ5

♠ K76
♥ A102
♦ Q95
♣ K864

♠ A5
♥ 63
♦ 86432
♣ 10973

♠ QJ10843
♥ 9754
♦ KJ
♣ 2

Board 14 from Monday did not result in as many game scores as it should.
Best is 1NT X -3 but the spade game is easy unless east gets a heart ruff.
Sad about the ruff against 4♥ with a 4/4 fit.
After north's X, south, with 6 spades & 7 pts. should either pass or shoot 4♠.
(Landy doesn't operate after partner's double)

Pairs	Contract		Scores		NS	EW	NS	EW
	EW	Bid	By					
NS	EW	Bid	By					
3A	12A	3S-1	S			50	6	32
4A	14A	4S	S	420			30	8
5A	16A	2S+1	S	140			14	24
6A	19A	1Nx-2	W	300			26	12
7A	11A	2N+1	N	150			16	22
8A	13A	2H+2	N	170			20	18
9A	15A	4H-1	N		50		6	32
10A	17A	4S	S	420			30	8
3B	12B	4H-1	N		50		6	32
4B	14B	3H+1	N	170			20	18
5B	16B	2N	N	120			12	26
6B	19B	1N-2	W	100			10	28
7B	11B	2S+2	S	170			20	18
8B	13B	3S+2	S	200			24	14
9B	15B	1Nx-3	W	500			34	4
10B	17B	4S	S	420			30	8

WRIGGLERS W N E S
 1NT X 2C* ? *2C = transfer to diamonds

LEBENSOHL OVER PARTNER'S 1NT

This is only appropriate to regular partnerships who have aspirations to play competitively. The memory required is great and the reward is infrequent. It is **not** recommended for occasional players. It is a convention designed to combat opponent's who overcall partner's 1NT (and weak 2 openings.)

After a natural diamond overcall (Similar for clubs)

Club or diamond overcall

N	E	S	
1NT	2♦	X	= PENALTY
1NT	2♦	2♥/♠	= five card suit, to play. (NON-FORCING)
1NT	2♦	2NT	= RELAY, forces opener to bid 3♣ (Responder could then pass with weak club suit).
Opener rebids 3♣			
3♣	pass	3♦	= Game force, Stayman, WITH a diamond stop.
		3♥/♠	= Five cards WITH a diamond stop. (Can be treated as invitational or forcing)
		3NT	= Game bid, WITH a diamond stop. No major.

N	E	S	
1NT	2♦	3♣	= Game force, showing a good club suit, no major, no diamond stop.
1NT	2♦	3♦	= Game force, Stayman, no diamond stop.
1NT	2♦	3♥/♠	= Game force, five cards, no diamond stop
1NT	2♦	3NT	= Game bid, no four card major, no diamond stop.

After a natural heart overcall. (Similar for spades)

Heart or spade overcall

1NT	2♥	X	= PENALTY
1NT	2♥	2♠	= five card suit, to play.
1NT	2♥	2NT	RELAY, forces opener to bid 3♣ (Responder can pass with weak club suit).
Opener rebids 3♣			
3♣	pass	3♦	= Non-forcing, to play. (NON-FORCING)
		3♥	= Game force, Stayman, WITH a heart stop.
		3♠	= Five spades WITH a heart stop. (Can be treated as invitational or forcing)
		3NT	= game bid, fewer than four spades, WITH a heart stop.

N	E	S	
1NT	2♥	3♣	= Game force, suit, no major, no heart stop.
		3♦	= Game force, suit, no major, no heart stop.
		3♥	= Game force, Stayman, no heart stop.
		3♠	= Game force, 5+ card spades, no heart stop.
		3NT	= Game force, less than 4 card spades, no heart stop.

If opponents use a conventional overcall, assume the anchor suit for your bids.

THE VAGARIES OF ANY SYSTEM

WEST DENTON

♠ 852		♠ AK10
♥ 2		♥ J43
♦ AQ8763		♦ J54
♣ Q106		♣ A972
♠ J764		
♥ KQ109		
♦ 109		
♣ J53		
	♠ Q93	
	♥ A8765	
	♦ K2	
	♣ K84	

S 1H*
2H

N 2D
P

S 1NT**

N P

S 1NT
2NT
P

N 2S
3D

Bid	By	NS	EW	Matchpoints	
1N-2	S		200	1	23
3D+1	N	130		16	8
1N	S	90		11	13
2H-1	S		100	6	18
1N+2	S	150		22	2
1N+2	S	150		22	2
2H-1	S		100	6	18
1N+2	N	150		22	2
2H-2	S		200	1	23
3D+1	N	130		16	8
1N	S	90		11	13
2D+2	N	130		16	8
2H-1	S		100	6	18

5 Card Majors in a Balanced Hand? (Nothing works ALL of the time).

South has two choices for the opening bid, 1♥ (a 5 card suit) or 1NT (12-14 balanced).

*After 1♥, south's only rebid is 2♥.

Is the heart suit re-biddable? Hmm!

**After 1NT what should north do?

Pass? (with a singleton heart and 6 diamonds).

OR if you are a pessimist choose to play in 3♦.

Get there by bidding 2♠. You can play this as simply a transfer to 2NT after which 3♦ is weak and to play. OR a more sophisticated use of 2♠ is asking opener to bid 2NT on 12/13 and to bid 3♣ on 14 HCPs.

A brief play technique is worth mentioning.

The club suit requires you to lead towards the ♣K or if you cannot get into the north hand, lead ♣K. This protects your ♣Q10 tenace and allows you to catch east's ♣J.

BRUNTON

♠ Q1075		♠ K832
♥ -		♥ K1085
♦ Q1063		♦ J952
♣ AJ952		♣ 10
♠ J96		
♥ Q973		
♦ A7		
♣ KQ83		
	♠ A4	
	♥ AJ642	
	♦ K84	
	♣ 764	

S 1H
2H

N 1S
P

Hilarity

Having just explained how more and more players will open 1NT with five card majors, this was hand 1 at Brunton. Our experienced opponents were 3 down for a dreadful score. *IF you agree to open 1NT on hands like this, a rebid of 2♥ would guarantee a six card suit.*

GRAM.

♠ 9543		♠ Q10862
♥ K982		♥ 104
♦ AQ85		♦ KJ42
♣ 8		♣ Q9
♠ J		
♥ AJ765		
♦ 1097		
♣ K762		
	♠ AK7	
	♥ Q3	
	♦ 63	
	♣ AJ10543	

S 1NT
2D

N 2C
P

Hilarity

Having just explained how to use Stayman without 11 HCPs, here is a perfect example. Except of course when partner is using non-balanced 1NT openings!! 2♦ -1 was not a disaster (10/24) as 2♣ & 3♣ were also going off. *Be philosophical, it works most of the time.*

WHITLEY BAY

♠ 974		♠ KQ8
♥ 98		♥ A107632
♦ K107642		♦ A
♣ 76		♣ 832
♠ J102		
♥ K		
♦ J5		
♣ AKQJ1094		
	♠ A653	
	♥ QJ54	
	♦ Q983	
	♣ 5	

W 3NT

E Pass

W 3NT

E 6C

Gambling 3NT

(Promises a SOLID 7 card minor with no more than a king outside the long suit).

Having been taught that you need stops in the other suits, to pass partner's gambling 3NT, east thought that this hand was certainly good enough to pass.

East was right, but with a little more optimism he might have thought that he could cover at least three of west's six cards outside clubs, and hopefully, offer two diamond ruffs. 5+7=12!

End of Term Reminders on Using No Trump Bids

♠ AJ1052
♥ K954
♦ K42
♣ A

♠ Q74
♥ 8732
♦ AJ5
♣ QJ5

1

♠ K983
♥ AQ10
♦ 10986
♣ 84

♠ 6
♥ J6
♦ Q73
♣ K1097632

N	E	S	W
1S	P	1NT	P
2H	P	3C	P

Played by SOUTH

South's **1NT** is a **LIMIT** bid. (Not necessarily balanced.)

So, when south rejects both of opener's suits, the 3C bid must be passed.

Played by EAST

After 1C, east's response of **1NT** shows 9 pts. and 3-3-3-4 shape.

With 6-8 pts. simply respond 2C.

West bids game on a balanced 16.

♠ Q765
♥ Q543
♦ A98
♣ 53

♠ K109
♥ J62
♦ K104
♣ Q1072

2

♠ 8432
♥ A98
♦ 7653
♣ K9

E	S	W	N
P	P	1C	P
1NT	P	3NT	P

♠ J87
♥ 862
♦ 106
♣ AK1096

♠ AKQ5
♥ KQJ74
♦ Q97
♣ Q

3

♠ 102
♥ A1093
♦ AKJ32
♣ 75

♠ 9643
♥ 5
♦ 854
♣ J8432

S	W	N	E
P	1H	P	2NT
P	3C	P	3D
P	4NT	P	5H
6H			

Played by WEST

2NT is **Jacoby**. (12+ with a heart fit).

3C shows a singleton or void in clubs.

3D is a cue bid and **4NT** is **RKCB** or **Blackwood**.

Played by NORTH

North's rebid of **1NT** shows a balanced hand with 15/16 pts.

So the combined count is short of game.

So south passes.

♠ Q64
♥ 98
♦ AK874
♣ AK4

♠ 975
♥ A5
♦ Q102
♣ Q9832

4

♠ A32
♥ QJ1072
♦ 965
♣ J10

W	N	E	S
P	1D	P	1H
P	1NT	P	P

♠ K75
♥ A63
♦ AQJ2
♣ K65

♠ A3
♥ QJ952
♦ 1065
♣ 432

5

♠ J9864
♥ 1074
♦ 974
♣ AJ

♠ Q102
♥ K8
♦ K83
♣ Q10987

N	E	S	W
1D	P	2C	P
3NT			

Played by NORTH

South's 2C rebid shows 10+. Therefore 2NT by north would be forcing to game.

Bidding **3NT** shows 17-18 with only a **FOUR** card heart suit.

South still has no slam interest.

Played by EAST

*Not 2S!

West has 8 HCPs (10 pts. with distribution) and an 8 loser.

With a big fit and a 3 loser, east bids **4NT**. (**RKCB** or **Blackwood**).

♠ 7
♥ 7632
♦ KJ65
♣ QJ82

♠ AQ1064
♥ AK1054
♦ -
♣ A54

6

♠ 85
♥ Q8
♦ AQ1097
♣ 10763

E	S	W	N
1S	P	3S*	P
4NT	P	etc.	

♠ 643
♥ 842
♦ 7653
♣ 632

♠ A1092
♥ QJ97
♦ AK
♣ K97

7

♠ KJ87
♥ 6
♦ QJ1092
♣ QJ8

♠ Q5
♥ AK1053
♦ 84
♣ A1054

S	W	N	E
1H	1NT	P	2C
P	2S	P	4S

Played by WEST

West's **1NT** overcall shows 16 - 18/19 pts.

East's 10 pts. guarantees a game contract.

(You can use Stayman and transfers after partner's 1NT overcall).

Played by SOUTH

*North's overcall is the **UNUSUAL 2NT**

It shows 5/5 in the 2 lowest unbid suits. BUT have you agreed a point range?

(E/W have a good save in 4S x -2 if they could find it).

♠ J
♥ A8764
♦ K7
♣ KQ1076

♠ Q10943
♥ 1032
♦ J8
♣ 542

8

♠ 872
♥ KQ5
♦ 5432
♣ A93

W	N	E	S
1D	2NT*	P	3H
P	4H		