

## BRIDGE – INTERMEDIATE LESSON II – 15c

### The Meaning of Various No-Trump Bids and Re-Bids by an Overcaller and his/her Responding Partner

The understanding as to strength, distribution and meaning of No-Trump bids and re-bids voiced by an Overcaller and his/her Partner holds just as much import for their Partnership as does that for the Opening Bidder and his/her Responder.

#### The Following Represent Examples of Many of These Important No-Trump Bids

### (C) No-Trump Bids by an Overcaller

1. A “Direct” (2<sup>ns</sup>) Seat Overcall of 1-NT, Subsequent To a One-of-a-Suit Opening Bid by the Overcaller’s Right-Hand Opponent, shows 15-18 HCP’s, no 5-card Major suit of his/her own, and an evenly-balanced hand, with one or more “stoppers” in the Opponent’s bid suit. This overcall is equivalent to a strong, opening 1-NT call. 1H – 1-NT

Kx KJxx AJxx Axx (Overcall 1-NT)

2. A “Balancing” (4<sup>th</sup>) Seat Overcall of 1-NT, Subsequent To a One-of-a-Suit Opening Bid by the Overcaller’s Left-Hand Opponent, shows 10-14 HCP’s, no 5-card suit of his/her own, and an evenly-balanced hand, with or without one or more stoppers in the Opponent’s bid suit. 1H – P – P – 1-NT

Kx KJxx Jxxx Axx (Overcall 1-NT)

3. A “Direct” (2<sup>nd</sup>) Seat Overcall of “2-NT,” Subsequent To a One-of-a-Suit Opening Bid by the Overcaller’s Right-Hand Opponent is a conventional, “Unusual-2-No-Trump,” two-suited overcall, usually 5-5 or better in the two, as-yet, *lower*, un-bid suits, usually (a) very weak (5-10 HCP’s), or (b) very strong (16 {+} HCP’s). “Unusual” 2-No-Trump overcalls obviously say nothing about stoppers in any un-bid suits, nor do they indicate anything about a No-Trump, balanced distribution.

1H/1S – “2-NT”

(a) xx x Axxxx KQxxx (Overcall “2-NT”) (b) ax A AKxxx KQJxx (Overcall “2-NT”)

4. A “Balancing” (4<sup>th</sup>) Seat Overcall of 2-NT, Subsequent To a One-of-a-Suit Opening Bid by the Overcaller’s Left-Hand Opponent is *not* the “Unusual-2-NT,” rather it represents a *very strong, natural* No-Trump overcall, 18-19 HCP’s, balanced with at least one stopper in the Opener’s bid suit.

1D – P – P – 2-NT

Kx AQx AQxx KJxx (Overcall 2-NT)

5. A “Direct” (2<sup>nd</sup>) Seat Overcall of 2-NT, Subsequent to a Two-of-a-Suit Pre-emptive Opening by the Overcaller’s Right-Hand Opponent shows the same requirements of an opening bid of 1-NT; namely, an evenly-balanced hand, 15-17 HCP’s, but, additionally and unequivocally, at least one stopper in the Opening Bidder’s suit.

2H – 2-NT

Kx AQx Axxx Kxxx (Overcall 2-NT)

6. A “Balancing” (4<sup>th</sup>) Seat Overcall of “1-NT”, Subsequent to Both Opponents Having Opened and Responded With Two Different Suits, is a conventional “Sandwich No-Trump,” overcall, showing 5-5 or better in the two, as-yet, un-bid suits, with fewer HCP’s than opening count. It is, essentially, a distributional “Take-Out Double,” “sandwiched” between the two Opponents. It does not evidence or require a stopper in either of the Opponent’s bid suits.

1C – P – 1H – “1-NT”

KJxxx x AQxxx xx (Overcall “1-NT”)

## (D) No-Trump Re-Bids by an Overcaller

1. A 1-NT (“Direct”) 2<sup>nd</sup> Seat Re-Bid by an Overcaller, Following His/Her Partner’s One-of-a-Suit Response to the Overcaller’s Initial “Take-Out” Double, shows 18 (+) HCP’s, with a balanced hand having at least one “*stopper*” in the Opener’s bid suit; i.e., a hand stronger than a 1-NT overcall, and a lack of support for Partner’s bid suit.

1D - “Double” - P - 1H  
P --- 1-NT

Kxx KQx AQxx Axx (“Double” and then Re-Bid 1-NT)

2. A 1-NT (“Balancing”) 4<sup>th</sup> Seat Re-Bid by an Overcaller, After First Making an Initial “Take-Out” Double and Having a One-of-a-Suit Response from his/her Partner, shows 15-17 HCP’s with a balanced distribution and at least one stopper in the Opener’s bid suit; i.e., a strong 1-NT. This sequence distinguishes the Overcaller’s holdings from a 10-14 HCP, “Balancing” 1-NT,” had the Overcaller initially bid 1-NT without having first “Doubled.”

1D - P - P - “Double”  
P - 1H - P -- 1-NT

Axx KQx AJxx Kxx (“Double” and then Re-Bid 1-NT)

## (E) No-Trump Bids by a Responder to an Overcaller

1. A 1-NT Bid by a Responder to an Overcaller shows 7-10 HCP’s, a lack of support for the Partner’s bid suit, especially if it is a Major, no 5-card suit of one’s own capable of being bid at the 1-level, and at least one stopper in the Opener’s bid suit.

1C - 1H - P - 1-NT

Qxx xx Jxxx AQxx (Respond 1-NT)

2. A 2-NT Bid by a Responder to an Overcaller shows 11-16 HCP’s, lack of support for Partner’s bid suit, especially if it is a Major, no 5-card suit of Responder’s own capable of being bid, and at least one stopper in the Opener’s bid suit. This bid is invitational to game.

1C - 1H - P - 2-NT

xxxx xx AQx AQxx (Respond 2-NT)

3. A 3-NT Bid by a Responder to an Overcaller shows 17 (+) HCP’s, a lack of support for Partner’s bid suit, no 5-card suit of one’s, and at least one stopper in the Opener’s bid suit.

1D - 1S - P - 3-NT

Qx AJxx AQxx Axx (Respond 3-NT)

4. A 1-NT Response to Partner’s “Take-Out” Double shows 8-10 HCP’s, no 4-card or 5-card Major suit holding, and at least one stopper in the Opponent’s bid suit.

1S - “Double” - P - 1-NT

AQx Jxx Qxxx xxx (Respond 1-NT)

5. A 2-NT Response to Partner’s “Take-Out” Double shows 11-12 HCP’s, no 4-card or 5-card Major suit holding, and at least one stopper in the Opponent’s bid suit. This bid is invitational to Game.

1D - “Double” - P - 2-NT

Ax Jxx KQxx Qxxx

6. A 3-NT Response to Partner’s “Take-Out” Double shows game values, 13 (+) HCP’s, no 4-card or 5-card Major suit holding, and at least one stopper in the Opponent’s bid suit.

1H - “Double” - P - 3-NT

Ax KQx Kxxx Qxxx