

## “Sandwich No-Trump” VS. The “Unusual No-Trump”

A “Sandwich No-Trump” is a conventional “1-NT” bid showing a two-suited hand, usually at least 5-5 or better, made between two bidding opponents. The “Sandwich No-Trump” is so-called because it is a bid made in the “sandwich seat” between two bidding Opponents. *It evidences both as-yet unbid suits* and is, usually, of weaker strength and a shapelier holding (Example 1) than is a Take-out Double, in the same position (Example 2). A “Sandwich” No-Trump call is analogous to a weak Take-out Double. It is both artificial and alertable. It is not restricted to the Major suits; rather it simply shows the two as-yet un-bid suits, whichever they are.

**Note:** One could still utilize the “Unusual 2-NT” showing the two as-yet un-bid lower suits, but this Convention forces a competitive bid at the 3-Level, one level higher than the “Sandwich” No-Trump which elicits a competitive bid at the 2-Level (See Below).

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1S	????

### You (West) Hold the Following:

1. XX      **(Make a Take-out Double!**    You have both shape; i.e., both  
KQJX      unbid suits, and good opening count.)  
XX  
AQJXX
  
2. X        **(Make a “Sandwich No Trump” Take-out call!** – You have the  
QJXXX      shape for a Take-out, but your hand is too weak.)  
XX  
KQXXX

The “Unusual No-Trump” is a “2NT” conventional bid used to show two-suited hands in competitive situations. It exhibits *the two lower un-bid suits*, usually 5-5 or better in distribution. The strength of the hand presenting a “2-NT” (“Unusual”) overcall is either very weak (suggesting a sacrifice) (See Example 3), else extremely strong (intending to take further action) (See Example 4).

3. X        **(A very weak hand suggestive of a sacrifice.)**  
X            (Over a 1H or a 1S opening by the Opponents,  
KQXXX      a “2-NT” bid would show 5-5 or better in the Minors)  
QJXXXX
  
4. AQ      **(A Very strong hand intent on further action.)**  
X            (Over a 1H or a 1S opening bid by the Opponents,  
AQXXX      one would bid “2-NT” looking for either Club or  
AKJXXX      Diamond support from Partner on the way to  
Game or Slam in one of the Minor suits.)