

“Sandwich No-Trump”
vs.
“Unusual 2-No-Trump”

A “*Sandwich No-Trump*” is a conventional “1-NT” bid showing a two-suited hand, usually at least 5-5 or better, bid between two bidding Opponents. The “*Sandwich No-Trump*” is so-called because it is a bid made in the “*sandwich seat*,” i.e., between two bidding Opponents. It evidences both of the as-yet, un-bid suits and is, usually, of weaker strength and a shapelier holding (Example 2) than is a “Take-Out Double,” in the same position (Example 1). A “*Sandwich No-Trump*” call is, therefore, analogous to a weak, distributional, “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 ones they are.

Note: One could utilize the “*Unusual 2-No-Trump*” 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*” convention, the latter of 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** “Double” (Make a “Take-out Double!” - You have both shape; i.e., both, KQJX as-yet, un-bid suits, and a good opening count.)
XX
AQJXX

2. **X** “1-NT” (Make a “Sandwich No-Trump” call! - You have the QJXXX shape for a Take-Out, but your hand is too weak.)
XX
KQXXX

The “Unusual 2-No-Trump” is a “2-NT” conventional bid used to show two-suited hands in competitive situations. It exhibits the two, lower, as-yet, 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 (5-10 HCP’s) (suggesting a sacrifice) (See Example 3), else extremely strong, 16 (+) HCP’s. (See Example 4) The “Unusual 2-No-Trump” exists only in the direct (2nd) seat, as a 2-NT bid in the Balancing (4th) seat is a strong, balanced 18-19 High-card point hand.

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
AKJXX Diamond support from Partner on the way to
Game or Slam in one of the Minor suits.)