



- You're sort of bidding in the dark. You don't know if partner has any strength or any fit with your suit(s).
- Your hand may be more effective on defense than on offense.

#### 4. The Double:

- a.) At a minimum, you ought to have 15 High Card Points.
- b.) You should be looking at a source of tricks.
- c.) You should know what to lead.
- Don't be seduced by their opening a weak No Trump, such as 12 to 14 points. You still should meet the requirements above.
- There is no requirement that you bid when you have a strong hand. There is nothing wrong with passing, then defeating the contract.
- Examples (RHO opens the bidding 1 No Trump):
  - Hand A: ♠: KJ8                      Hand B: ♠: 85  
           ♥: AQ                                ♥: AKJ864  
           ♦: K965                             ♦: K652  
           ♣: K842                             ♣: 7
- Hand A: Pass. You may have 16 points, but don't feel obliged to double. Are you confident that you can take 7 defensive tricks? Just pass and hope to achieve a plus score.
- Hand B: You want to compete by bidding 2 Hearts. Even though you have far fewer points than your opponent, you have good shape and a good suit.

#### 5. Bidding to Show a Suit:

- Natural overcalls are very effective.
- You bid because you expect to make it or close to it.
- You'd rather your suit be used on offense than defense.
- Suit quality must be good.
- Generally a 6-card suit, or else a very good 5-card suit.
- Good shape is more important than High Card Points.
- Partner usually passes your bid, but may raise with a fit.

- **Examples (RHO opens the bidding 1 No Trump):**

• Hand C:	♠: KJ3	D: ♠: KQJ987
	♥: KJ742	♥: 5
	♦: Q62	♦: J1074
	♣: KJ	♣: 85

- Hand C: Your heart suit is just too weak to be jumping into the auction. Pass and hope to take your tricks on defense.
- Hand D: This weak hand will actually produce a lot of tricks even if partner is almost broke. And if he is broke, the opponents can surely make game in hearts or somewhere, maybe even a slam.

#### 6. Pre-emptive Bids:

- After 1 No Trump, a 3-level overcall by you is like a preemptive opening bid, based on a 7-card suit and little defense.

#### 7. Bidding to Show 2 Suits:

- Shape is the most important element.
- Your shape should be at least 5-4 in your suits, with a singleton or void.
- With 5-5 shape, you will automatically have a singleton or void.
- Suit quality is important, but not as strict as when you make a 1-suited overcall.
- There are many systems designed to let you compete with a 2-suited hand:
  - Landy
  - Brozel
  - Pinpoint Astro
  - Hamilton or Cappelletti
  - DONT (Disturb Opponent's No Trump)
  - "Meckwell," Woolsey, Mohan, etc.

## **8. Hamilton:**

- **Called Cappelletti on the East Coast.**
- **Recommended if you want the ability to make a natural penalty double of 1 NT.**
- **Double = Penalty, showing a strong defensive hand.**
- **2 C = A 1-suited hand. Partner is expected to bid 2 D, then you show your suit.**
- **2 D = Both major suits.**
- **2 H = Hearts and an unspecified minor.**
- **2 S = Spades and an unspecified minor.**
- **After both 2H and 2S, partner may bid 2 NT to ask which minor.**
- **2 NT = Both minor suits.**

## **9. DONT = Disturb Opponents' No Trump:**

- **Gives up on penalty double.**
- **Double = A 1-suited hand. Partner bids 2 C, then you show your suit.**
- **2 C = Clubs and one higher suit**
- **2 D = Diamonds and one higher suit**
- **2 H = Hearts and Spades**
- **2 S = Spades only. This is weaker than Double, then 2 S.**
- **2 NT = Both minor suits.**

## **10. Variable depending on opponents' No Trump range:**

- **Hamilton over weak NT (12 – 14 points).**
- **DONT over strong NT (15-17 points).**
- **If they use an odd NT range, for example, 13 – 15 points, define strong as anything including 15 points.**

## **11. Actions in balancing seat:**

- **Bidding in the balancing seat entails much more risk than bidding in direct seat. Your high cards are located in front of the No Trump bidder and are more subject to being captured.**
- **At the same time, the opponents are limited to 24 High Card Points at most, so you know that you and partner have some values.**
- **Use natural bids with a 1-suited hand.**
- **Double is an “action” double. You want partner to bid , but he may Pass with a strong hand.**