

# The Problems with Cappelletti

Last Revised April 30, 2021

By Warren Watson

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Co.

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/Cappelletti.pdf>

Excerpt from Two Over One Fifth Edition. <http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/BridgeStore.htm>

## 27.6 Cappelletti

This system is used over weak Notrump openings in all seats. Weak Notrump is considered to be any range lower than 15 with 15 not being in the range. This must be decided by the partnership. Some good players consider the (Precision) range of 13 to 15 to be weak.

dbl	15+
2♣	Single-suited hand, asking partner to bid 2♦.
2♦	The majors.
2♥	♥s and a minor, 2NT asks for the minor.
2♠	♠s and a minor, 2NT asks for the minor.
2NT	The minors five-five or better. Six-five if vulnerable. Playable suits.
3-level	Good seven-card suit.

Some play the double is an equivalent hand, but this was never intended with weak Notrump in mind. Acting with 10 to 12 over a 10 to 12 Notrump could be disastrous.

When partner doubles, some play systems are on as if partner opened 1NT himself. However, systems off is better because an opponent may run, or partner may run with four or less points. Since partner bids only when he is weak, he needs to be able to play in two of a minor with systems off.

# The Problems with Cappelletti

The major problem with Cappelletti is that a player rarely has a hand that can go to the three level, so it is a fairly ineffective system except against weak Notrump. To choose a M/m or clubs or both minors, the partner may need to play at the three level.

DONT allows all two suiters and all single suiters to be played at the two-level.

I like playing against people using Cappelletti. When they land in three of a minor, I can usually double them even with five points.

The penalty double of Cappelletti against a 15-17 Notrump is a waste of a bid. Most of the time the opponents can run to a suit and the other time partner panics because he is weak and pulls the double. When my RHO opens 1NT and I have 15-17, I rather just pass unless I have shape and need few dummy entries from a partner who probably has none.

The 2D bid showing the majors allows the opponents to use a prepenalty double.

For simplicity, DONT is best in all seats against all Notrumps. Once DONT is learned, a player will eventually play modified DONT or Meckwell because the majors are natural, and the double is either both majors or a long minor. The 2♠ bid of DONT can be weak with spades or a hand with six spades and a four-card suit. 2NT asks for the second suit and guarantees spade support.