

DONT

(Disturb Opponents' Notrump)

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

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DONT in a Nutshell:

To show a two-suited hand, the lower ranking suit is bid over opponent's 1NT or 1NT P P. Partner bids the next suit up (the relay) if he has two or fewer cards in the first suit. This relay asks for the second suit.

To show a single-suited hand, a player doubles over opponent's 1NT or 1NT P P. This asks his partner to bid 2♣ (the relay) which will be passed (if clubs) or corrected to the long suit.

If the partner skips the relay, he is going on his own and does not care if partner is void. Shortness in partner's suit does not make the bid forcing.

The opponents open 1NT as much as they can because it simplifies the bidding whenever one player has 15 to 17 with no singletons or voids. Therefore, it is incumbent on an opponent to interfere as much as it is safe to do so. When the players compete over 1NT, the following good things happen for the opponents of the 1NT opener.

- The strong hand becomes the dummy.
- Some of the system over Notrump is lost.
- There may be uncertainty about sufficient stoppers.
- Lead direction may be given.
- The opponents may be pushed out of Notrump.
- The players interfering may declare the contract to get a better score.

A two-suited system, such as DONT, is needed because a player is more prone to compete when two suited. A player uses DONT in all seats. He is five-four not vulnerable and five-five vulnerable.

The rule of eight and the rule of two help determine when to compete.

The Rule of Eight

Subtract the number of losers of the hand from the number of cards in the two long suits. If this is two and the hand has 6 HCP's, the player should compete in the direct seat at any vulnerability.

The Rule of Two

In the balancing seat, two points in distribution are needed to compete. The weakness is not so important because the points are better placed behind the 1NT opener if the player is weak. Partner is likely not leading the suit of the person in the balancing seat against 1NT and any other suit may be bad if the balancer is weak.

Here is the DONT system.

1NT Dbl single-suited, asks partner to bid 2♣ if his RHO passes.
2♣ ♣s + a higher suit
2♦ ♦s + a higher suit
2♥ ♥s + a higher suit (the Majors)
2♠ ♠s but weaker than going through the double (I prefer this).
3level Natural (3♣ is clubs, 3♦ is diamonds, 3♥ is hearts, 3♠ is spades)
You can stand being one trick higher.

Some play 2♠ as six ♠s and a four-card suit, 2NT asks with a ♠ fit, but we do not.

Examples

W	N	E	S	
1NT	2♣	P	2♦	2♦ shows two ♣s or fewer and wants to hear the 2 nd suit
P	2♠			North has ♣s and ♠s

W	N	E	S	
1NT	2♣	P	2♥	South has a quality ♥ suit of his own (6 bagger)

If South goes on his own by skipping the asking relay, he does not want to play at the three-level if partner has shortness. Shortness does not make a bid forcing.

If East bids, South will only enter the auction with a good fit. South will not introduce a suit of his own especially at the three level. North's DONT bid says "I want to interfere but not if there is no fit. Hopefully if I introduce two suits we can find a fit."

W	N	E	S
1NT	2♣	Dbl	2♦

The Dbl does not take South off the hook. South only passes when he chooses ♣s. 2♦ asks for partner's second suit. Some play that a redouble asks for the second suit and 2♦ is natural. I prefer 2♦ as asking for the second suit for consistency. However, a redouble asks for the second suit, even if 2♦ does as well.

W N E S

1NT 2♦ P 2NT

2NT shows an interest in game and asks for the second suit. The relay 2♥ can be passed, but 2NT is forcing. What is needed for game? Cover cards for partner's short suits and any honour for his suits.