



One No Trump
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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/1NT.pdf>

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1NT is a balanced 15-17 points

A. What is balanced?

Balanced is no singletons or voids.

Hands with two strong doubletons that are not 5-4 in the majors are effectively balanced and may be opened notrump.

If there is one doubleton, it does not need to be stopped, two doubletons do.

B. Summary of Balanced Hands

12 - 14	Open 1 of a suit and rebid 1NT
15 - 17	Open 1NT
18 - 19	Open 1 of a suit and jump in No Trump
20 - 21	Open 2NT (all suits need not be stopped)
22 - 24	Open 2♣ and rebid 2NT
25 - 27	Open 2♣ and rebid 3NT
28+	Open 2♣ and rebid 4NT

C. Basic System Over No Trump

1NT	2♣	Stayman Promises a 4-card major, (could be 5-4 in the majors also)
		Jacoby Transfers
	2♦	Transfer to ♥'s. Partner bids 2♥ or superaccepts bidding 3♥.
	2♥	Transfer to ♠'s. Partner bids 2♠ or superaccepts bidding 3♠.
		Minor Suit Transfer
	2♠	Weak hand (0-4 usually) and a six-card minor Transfer to 3♣ which will be passed or corrected to 3♦ to be passed.
	2NT	8-9 invitational no four-card or longer major
		Invitational Minor Bid
	3♣	6 ♣'s, 6-8 HCP's 2 of top 3 honours, no outside Ace or King
	3♦	6 ♦'s, 6-8 HCP's 2 of top 3 honours, no outside Ace or King
	3NT	10-15 no four-card or longer major
	4♣	Gerber, Ace Ask
		Texas Transfers
	4♦	Transfer to 4♥
	4♥	Transfer to 4♠
	4NT	16-17 Quantitative asking partner to pass with a minimum (15 to a bad 16) bid 6NT with a maximum (good 16 to 17)
	6NT	18-19 Small Slam
	5NT	20-21 Grand Slam Force asking partner to bid 6NT with a minimum (15 to a bad 16) bid 7NT with a maximum (good 16 to 17)
	7NT	22+ Grand Slam

D. What is a Good 16?

- 16 with a five-card suit
- 16 with ten's and nine's
- Not 4 triple 3 (a Flat Hand)

E. Points for Game and Slam:

What is the Easiest Way to Remember the Above Chart?

Game	25	Slam	33	Grand Slam	37
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Invite when you need partner to have a maximum and put him there if he has enough with a minimum and not enough for a higher milestone if a maximum.

F. Pigeon Holes

When Partner Opens 1NT, Place your hand in the following slots:

0-7	Find the safest part-score
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8-9	Invitational
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10-15	Game Going
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16+	Slamish
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G. Golden Fit

A golden fit is defined as any suit in which you and your partner have a combined 8 cards or longer. When a golden fit exists, distribution is counted.

Points = HCP's + Distribution Points

H. Distribution Points

	Long Trump Hand Points	Dummy Points
	Or 3 trump in dummy	4 trump in dummy
Doubleton	1	1
Singleton	2	3
Voids	3	5

When a golden fit exists in a major, one tends to play in the major.

When no Golden Fit exists, one tends to play in No Trump.

Furthermore, when game is sought, one often plays 3NT when a Golden Fit exists in a minor because nine tricks in No Trump are usually easier than 11 tricks in a minor which needs around 29 points.

I. Jacoby Transfer Rebids

One makes a transfer into a five card major and explains one's hand on the rebid.

A. Transferring shows five in the major.

	8-9	10-15
Rebidding No Trump shows five	2NT	3NT
Rebidding the major shows six	3M	4M

B. Another way to look at it

If the rebid is No Trump, you are asking partner to correct to the Major with 3 or 4 cards in that major because the Golden Fit needs 3. With a minimum, he corrects to 3M and with a maximum, he corrects to 4M.

If the rebid is the Major, the contract is set to the Major because the Golden Fit needs 2 cards from partner which is guaranteed from partner's No Trump Opening.

For Example:

1N	2♦		
2♥	??		
	P	5♥'s	0-7 HCP's (Just HCP's not distribution)
	2NT	5♥'s	8-9 HCP's
	New Suit		at the three-level
			10+
			2-suited with 5♥'s "choose game P"
			Or looking for a slam
	3♥	6♥'s	8-9 Points (HCP's + distribution)
	3NT	5♥'s	10-15 HCP's
	4♥	6♥'s	10-15 Points (HCP's + distribution)

J. Gerber

1. ONTO Over No Trump Openings or
2. DONT Directly over No Trump (first or last bid is no trump then 4♣ is Gerber)

I prefer 1. But either works. One must just agree with partner which one.

1NT	4♣	
4♦		0 or 4 aces
4♥		1 ace
4♠		2 aces
4NT		3 aces

After you ask for aces, 5♣ asks for Kings but you always must ask for aces first.

Asking for kings does not promise that the partnership has all the aces because one can still sign off in 5NT.

1NT	4♣	
4?	5♣	
5♦		0 or 4 kings
5♥		1 king
5♠		2 kings
5NT		3 kings

K. Higher Notrumps

Stayman:

2NT 3♣

2♣ 2♦
2NT 3♣

2♣ 2♦
3NT 4♣

Transfer to ♥'s:

2NT 3♦

2♣ 2♦
2NT 3♦

2♣ 2♦
3NT 4♦

2NT 4♦

2♣ 2♦
2NT 4♦

Transfer to ♠'s:

2NT 3♥

2♣ 2♦
2NT 3♥

2♣ 2♦
3NT 4♥

2NT 4♥

2♣ 2♦
2NT 4♥

Gerber:

2NT 4♣

2♣ 2♦
2NT 4♣

2♣ 2♦
3NT 5♣

2♣ 2♦
4NT 5♣

L. Major Superacceptance

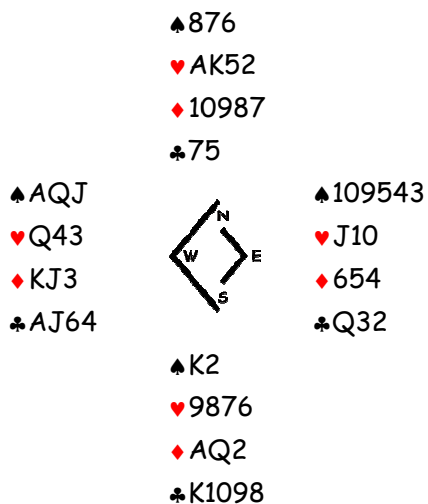
- When partner uses a Jacoby Transfer
- Bid the transfer suit at the three-level
- Showing: 17 HCP's
4 trump
Not 4triple3

1NT 2♦
3♥

1NT 2♥
3♠

- Superacceptance tells partner to count distribution

Example 1: Flat 18-Count and a Weak Hand (0-7) With a Five-Card Major
 North Dealer None Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
P	P	P	1NT
P	2♥	P	2♠
All Pass			

Opening Lead: A♥

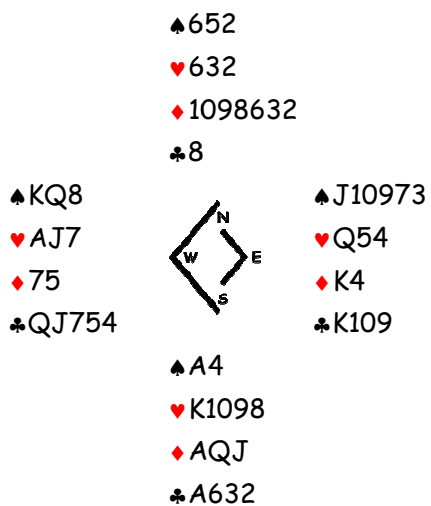
Result: 2♠= +110
 1NW-2 -100

Notes:

- Typically one tries to avoid opening one No Trump with 18 points but one exception occurs with a flat (4triple3) hand and no intermediates.
- Nevertheless, 1NT will still not go so well.
- When weak 0-7HCP, transfer to a five-card major and pass

Example 6: Weak Hand (0-7) with a Six-card Minor

North Dealer North South Vulnerable



E	S	W	N
P	1NT	P	2♠
P	3♣	P	3♦
All Pass			

Opening Lead:

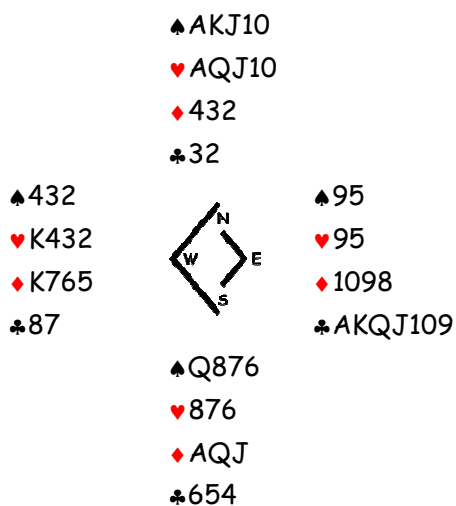
Result:	1NS-3	-300
	3♦N+1	+130

Notes:

- In 1NT, declarer has no entries to dummy, but in ♦'s, declarer can ruff ♣'s to take the ♦ and ♥ finesses.
- Finesse to the ten ♥ and then the 9 ♥

Example 19: Invitational Stayman

North Dealer None Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	2NT
P	3♠	All Pass	
All Pass			

Opening Lead: A♣

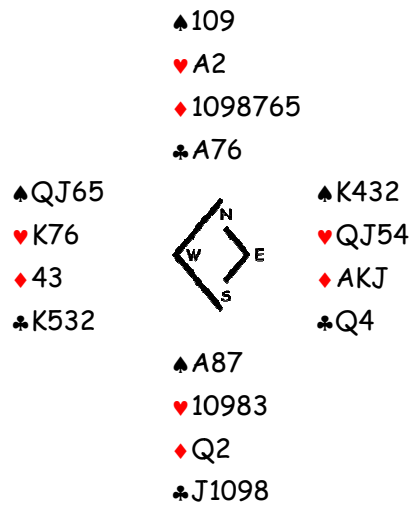
Result: 3♠+1 +170

Notes:

- 1NT only promises that two doubletons are both stopped unless you do not have a rebid
- Some say do not use Stayman when 4triple3.
 - That is incorrect. Look at what happens in ♣'s in 2NT or 3NT.
 - One passes with a 4triple3 8-count but this is 9.
- On declarer play, use entries wisely.

Example 20: Invitational Stayman

East Dealer North South Vulnerable



E	S	W	N
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	2NT	P
3♠	P	4♠	All Pass

Opening Lead: J♣

Result: 4♠= +420

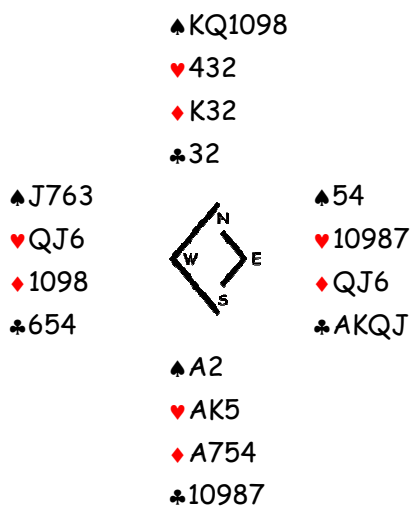
Notes:

- East has a bad 16 because of the small cards and the doubleton Q of clubs (wasted honour)
- Q♣ is wasted because East will ruff the third round and the Queen is usually a third-round card.
- West is originally 8-9 HCP's but once ♠'s are trump, he can count distribution and has 10 points.
- North will keep the Ace♣ to cover the king so declarer will win the opening lead with the Queen and start drawing trump.
- Play 6♥ to the Queen♥ and cross to dummy and play the 7♥ to the Jack♥

Example 21: Invitational With a Five Card Major

South Dealer

East West Vulnerable



S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	2NT	All Pass

Opening Lead: Queen♥ then Jack♥ next time ♥'s are played

Result: 2NS+1 +150

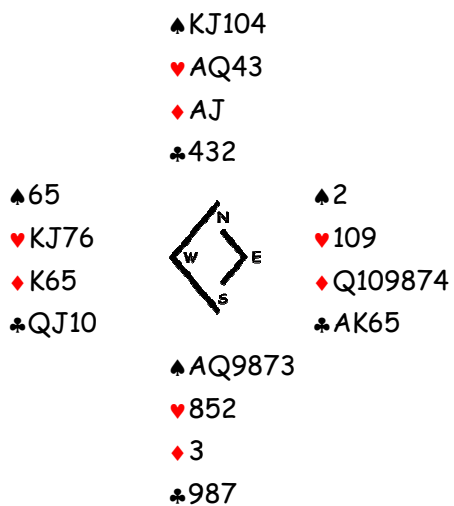
Notes:

- West has no entries, ♥'s is best lead
- The ♠'s must be finessed. Cash Ace then play to the ten.

Example 23: Invitational with a Six-Card Major

North Dealer

North South Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	3♠	All Pass

Opening Lead: A♣

Result: 3♠ N= +140


Notes:

- There is a *Golden Fit* in ♠'s so South can count 2 points for the singleton
- West will play the top of the sequence under partner's Ace♣

Example 26: Game Forcing Stayman

West Dealer

None Vulnerable

	♠ A65	
	♥ 7654	
	♦ 872	
	♣ 987	
♠ QJ10		♠ K987
♥ AKJ8		♥ Q109
♦ AQ43		♦ KJ65
♣ 32		♣ Q4
	♠ 432	
	♥ 32	
	♦ 109	
	♣ AKJ1065	

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♣	DbI
2♥	P	4♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: 9♣

Result: 4♥ W=+420 or 3NT-3 -150

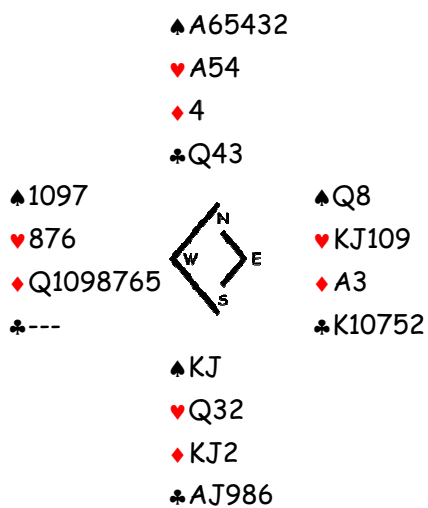
Notes:

- South doubles for a ♣ lead.
 - Any double of an artificial bid asks for that suit to be led either on opening lead or at partner's first chance on lead.
 - Lead top of nothing in partner's suit (♣'s) or low from honour third or longer.
- If West had a club stopper, he passes asking East to Redouble to repeat Stayman. West would then bid 2♥ showing four ♥'s and a ♣ stopper. However West does not have a stopper so he uses FADS.
- Fast Action Denies Stopper. West directly bids 2♥ showing no ♣ stopper and four ♥'s.
- Moysian Play
 - Alphonse Moyse suggested a 4-3 fit as an alternative to 3NT without a suit stopped or 5 of a minor when 4 only makes.
 - Never Ruff in the long trump hand
 - Kick out the spade ace before touching trump so the short hand can take care of ♣ forces.

Example 30: Game Forcing with a Six-Card Major

South Dealer

None Vulnerable



S	W	N	E
1NT	P	4♥	P
4♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead: 10♦

Result: 4♠+1 +450

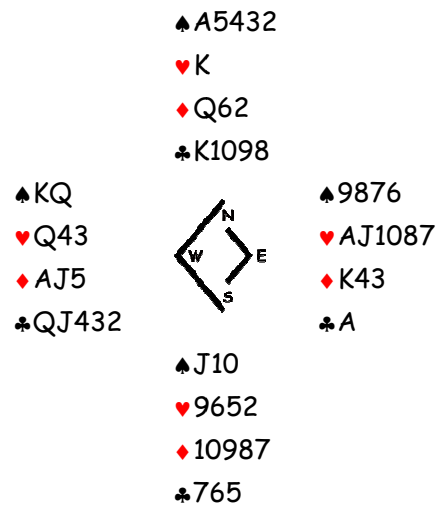
Notes:

- Top of an interior sequence is a rare lead at a trump contract
- West is too weak to pre-empt. Need at least 5 points and with only 5 points, they will all be in ♦'s.
- Finesse J♠ in the only direction it can be finessed: 2♠ to the Jack♠
- Finesse with the Q♣ first to pick up King fifth

Example 31: Game Forcing with 5-4 in the Majors

West Dealer

North South Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	3♥	P
4♥	All Pass		

Opening Lead: 10♦

Result: 4♥+2 +480

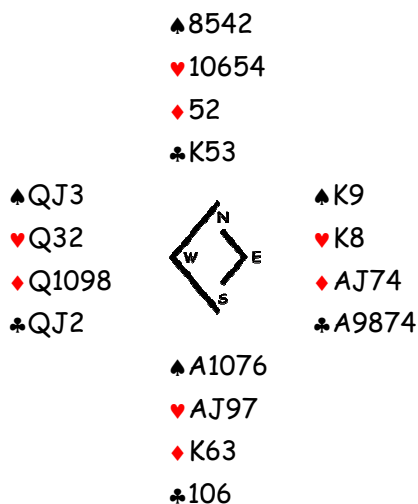
Notes:

- Get to Dummy with ♠'s
- Draw Trump
- Finesse with the 3♥ first
- Do the ruffing Finesse in Clubs
- Cash Ace♣ then put the Q♣ on the table. If it is covered ruff, otherwise throw a ♦.

Example 34: Jump to 3NT (10-15)

East Dealer

None Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
		1NT	P!
3NT	All Pass		

Opening Lead: 7♥

Result: 3NTE = +400

No Trump Checklist

What Pigeon Hole is my hand?

0-7	8-9	10-15	16+
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Do I have a five-card or longer Major? Transfer to it. Rebid shows specific Pigeon Hole.

Am I really weak (0-4)?

Trash Stayman

Transfer to a six-card minor.

Pass

Am I moderately weak (5-7)?

Pass

Do I have a 4-card major or 5-4 in the majors?

Use Stayman

With no major:

2NT 8-9 invitational

3NT 10-15 game going