

# Defense Over Notrump

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

People try to open 1NT as much as possible, as a result there are a multitude of systems to use when opponent opens 1NT. Furthermore, one can see from the lesson on 1NT interference that anytime there is an overcall of Notrump, the following unwanted things may happen:

- 1NT opener loses part of their system usually most of the invitational bids
- 1NT opener and responder may be unsure about stoppers
- There is lead direction whenever the other defender gets in.
- The strong hand may become dummy.

As a result, it is always best to interfere whenever safe to do so.

Here is a list of the multitude of systems designed to interfere over opponent's 1NT (from Amalya Kearse's *Bridge Conventions Complete*, 1990):

Astro	Hamilton (Capp)	Ripstra
Becker	Hello	Roth-Stone Astro
Brozel	Landy	Transfers
Cappelletti	Modified Astro	Two-Way Exclusion
Crash	Modified Dont	
DONT	Natural	
Exclusion	Pinpoint Astro	

Here is some of the ones I like in more detail:

### Natural

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	♣'s
		2♦	♦'s
		2♥	♥'s
		2♠	♠'s
		Dbl	15+
			(one can make this the majors and not 15+)
		2NT	the minors

### Transfers

This system makes sure the weak opponent never gets a lead just the 1NT opener.

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	♦'s
		2♦	♥'s
		2♥	♠'s
		2♠	♣'s
		Dbl	15+
		2NT	the minors

### Landy

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	♥'s and ♠'s
		2♦	♦'s
		2♥	♥'s
		2♠	♠'s
		Dbl	15+
		2NT	the minors

# Becker

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	♣'s and ♦'s
		2♦	♥'s and ♠'s
		2♥	♥'s
		2♠	♠'s
		Dbf	15+

# DONT

## Disturb Opponent's NoTrump

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	♣'s and a higher
		2♦	♦'s and a higher
		2♥	♥'s and ♠'s
		2♠	weak ♠'s
		Dbl	single-suited hand
			relay to 2♣ which is passed or corrected
	1NT	Dbl	P
2♣	P	2♠	strong spades

### Example 1:

W	N	E	S
1N	2♣	P	2♦
P	2♥	All Pass	

LHO opponent opens 1NT and partner bids 2♣. With 3 clubs or more, pass With 4 or 5 clubs, and a distributional hand, bid 3♣. Not quacky and two suited. With 2 clubs or fewer bid 2♦ and partner will pass or correct to his suit.

### Example 2:

W	N	E	S
1N	2♣	P	2♠
All Pass			

South skipped the relay so he is showing a good six-card spade suit. He does not want to hear your second suit otherwise he would have bid 2♦. Your bids are Pass, or with a good distributional hand and good support, 3♠ or 4♠

### Example 3:

W	N	E	S
1N	Dbl	P	2♣
P	2♠	All Pass	

North doubles showing a singlesuited hand. South must bid the 2♣ relay only if East passes and North shows Spades. This is stronger than if North bid Spades directly.

**Example 4:**

W	N	E	S
1N	Dbl	2♦	P
2♥	2♠	All Pass	

East did not pass so South is not required to bid.

**Example 5:**

W	N	E	S
1N	2♦	Dbl	P
P	P		

South has three or more Diamonds and not 4-3 or better in the majors. South is not off the hook for bidding if East doubles. Now that there appears to be a penalty double, it is imperative that South either picks ♦'s by passing or asks for North's second suit by bidding 2♥.

**Example 6:**

South has: ♠K543 ♥K543 ♦K98 ♣32

W	N	E	S
1N	2♦	P	2♥
P	P		

Even though South has three ♦'s, he knows they belong in a major.

## Modified DONT or Meckwell

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	♣'s and a higher
		2♦	♦'s and a higher
		2♥	♥'s
		2♠	♠'s
		Dbl	♣'s or ♦'s or both majors

W	N	E	S	
1NT	dbl	P	2♣	
all pass				long club suit

W	N	E	S	
1NT	dbl	P	2♣	
P	2♦	all pass		long diamond suit

W	N	E	S	
1NT	dbl	P	2♣	
P	2♥	all pass		both majors

## Cappelletti

Very useful over weak notrump because of the penalty double. The frequency of having 15+ increases the weaker the notrump they open. It is also not as risky going to the three-level to find a minor fit.

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	single-suited hand relay to 2♦
		2♦	♥'s and ♠'s
		2♥	♥'s and a minor (2NT asks)
		2♠	♠'s and a minor (2NT asks)

DbI 15+

## Hello

All 2 suited bids are 5/4 or better. The bids are:

W	N	E
	1NT	DbI penalty, usually a long running suit and an entry.
	2♣	♦'s or Major/Minor (typically 5 of the major) Partner must bid 2♦ Opener passes or bids the major 2NT asks for the minor
	2♦	♥'s
	2♥	♥'s & ♠'s
	2♠	♠'s
	2NT	♣'s & ♦'s
	3♣	♣'s
	3♦	strong ♥'s & ♠'s

## Ripstra

W	N	E
1NT	2♣	takeout-♣'s are better than ♦'s
	2♦	takeout-♦'s are better than ♣'s
	2♥	natural
	2♠	natural



## Astro

W	N	E
1NT	2♣	♥'s and a minor (♥'s is the anchor)
	2♦	♠'s and another (♠'s is the anchor)
	2♥	natural
	2♠	natural
	2NT	the minors

Responder bids the anchor with Honour third or better (Hxx or xxxx).

## Crash

Crash stands for Colour, Rank and Shape

W	N	E
1NT	2♣	same colour, all red or all black
	2♦	same rank, the minors or the majors
	2♥	natural
	2♠	natural
	2NT	shape
		both rounded tops (♥'s and ♣'s) or
		both pointed tops (♦'s and ♠'s)
	Dbl	penalty by an unpassed hand
	Dbl	shape by a passed hand

## Watson (me)

W	N	E	
	1NT	2♣	the minors, pass or correct
		2♦	natural
		2♥	natural
		2♠	natural
		Dbl	the majors or ♣'s
			Partner must bid 2♣ if his RHO passes
			Doubler will either pass or bid 2♥ to be passed or corrected