

Defense Over Notrump

Revised Nov 19, 2013 Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club Warren Watson
<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
	Dbl		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

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)
	Dbl		15+

Hello

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

W	N	E	
1NT	Dbl		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	

Modified DONT

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

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	