

Interference Over One No Trump

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/InterferenceOver1NT.pdf>

Interference

It becomes apparent to every player, that

- Players try to open 1NT as much as possible
- Interference does the following:
 - Takes away invitational bids
 - Makes the opponents unsure of stoppers
 - Makes the strong hand the dummy
 - Suggests a lead
 - One leads the following when partner has shown two suits.
 - The suit you have more length and strength in at no trump
 - The suit you are shorter in at a trump suit.
 - One leads the suit partner has chosen when you have shown two suits and are on lead
 - Because one has bid a suit, it may be unsafe to lead it yourself especially when RHO is the strong hand but partner has heard the bidding and will lead the suit if and when he gets on lead.

Two Strategies

- Willy Nilly strategy
 - Get into every 1NT auction possible and get away with shaky overcalls because:
 - the opponents do not know when to punish the bids and
 - the opponents often leak a trick or two on defense.
- Sound Strategy
 - To get into the auction when you are either one-suited or two suited with playable suits containing high card strength and intermediates.
 - Interference systems that show two-suited hands are a must and a system that shows three suited hands is even better because when the opponents are in a doubling mood, partner can pick the best one.

Three-Suited Takeout

- Bidding the Transfer Suit

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♥	2♠

South has support for the unbid suits (♣'s, ♦'s or ♥'s)

Interference Systems

- In all Seats
- DONT against strong one no trump opening (when there is a 15 in the range.)
- Cappelletti against weak.
- Modified DONT (Meckwell) is my favourite against strong one no Trump openings.

DONT

(Disturb Opponents No Trump)

- 1N Dbl single-suited, asks partner to bid 2♣ if his RHO passes.
- 2♣ ♣'s + a higher suit
- 2♦ ♦'s + a higher suit
- 2♥ the Majors
- 2♠ ♠'s but weaker than going through the double.
- 3level You can stand being one trick higher.

Examples

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

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
1N	2♣	Dbl	2♦

The Dbl does not take South off of the hook. South only passes when he chooses ♣'s. 2♦ asks for partner's second suit.

Cappelletti

- 1NT Dbl 15+ systems off because either the opponents will run or partner will leave it in most of the time.
- 1NT 2♣ Single-suited hand
Asks partner to bid 2♦ if his RHO passes
- 2♦ The Majors, 2♥ asks
- 2♥ ♥'s and a minor, 2NT asks
- 2♠ ♠'s and a minor, 2NT asks

Meckwell (Modified DONT)

- 1N Dbl single-suited in a minor or both majors,
asks partner to bid 2♣ if his RHO passes.
The person bidding DON'T either passes or corrects to 2♦ to show the long
minor or bids 2♥ asking partner to pick a major.
- 2♣ ♣'s + a higher suit
- 2♦ ♦'s + a higher suit
- 2♥ ♥'s
- 2♠ ♠'s
- 3level You can stand being one trick higher.

I prefer this system because a Dbl gives the opponents no problem whatsoever because most players play systems on. With Meckwell, one can bid a major taking away bidding room or double which leaves the opponents uncertain what you have.

Mel's Rules

Mel Colchamiro wrote a book called "How to play like an expert without being one." His book describes many rules that encapsulate his good judgment earned through hours of study and hours of play at the bridge table.

- **Rule of 2** [p 16]

- Balancing Over One No Trump**

- "After 1NT-Pass-Pass, one needs two points in distribution to balance regardless of HCP and vulnerability ... partner must realize what you are doing and not go crazy if she has, say 14 points." P17
 - The weaker the balancer is the more points are in his partner's hand behind the 1NT opener.
 - "DONT and Meckwell are the most popular and neither of them allow for penalty doubles..." p15 "My convention of Choice is DONT." Mel p 16
 - "Larry Cohen thinks a penalty double of a strong No Trump is one of the worst bids in the game." P 15
 - "The Modern trend is to open 1NT even with a five-card major, two doubletons or six-card minors." Mel agrees with all of that. P 15

- **Rule of 8** [p 23]

- Overcalling One No Trump Directly**

- Overcall Directly if cards in two longest suits - losers is two or more. Need at least 6 HCP.
 - $6+2=8$.

Colchamiro, Mel, How you can play like an expert (w/o having to be one), Sarasota, FL: Magnus Books, 2007.