

# THE “DONT” CONVENTION

Overcalling subsequent to an opponent's opening bid of 1 NT is oft times misunderstood and, therefore, not frequently utilized by most beginning bridge players. The novice player becomes afraid to bid owing to the strength expressed by his/her opponent's 1NT opening bid, and is frightened, even intimidated, by the prospect of being set should he/she stoop to venture forth with any form of interference. Eventually the more experienced player, however, comes to realize that there is a legitimate need to find the inner fortitude to venture forth with such an overcall, and ultimately, the realization that the partnership need have some understanding as to which convention they wish to adopt in order to best accomplish this form of overcall interference. As one gains experience with bidding it soon becomes evident that although one can use natural bids in these instances, it is usually far better to have some conventional understanding with your partner.

**The “DONT” Convention** (**Disturbing the Opponent's No Trump**), is, today, oft times used with great success. It is simple in its set-up and makes available the capability of dealing with a hand as shown above, as you will soon see. The realities that exist which make the “DONT” Convention the success that it has become are as follows:

1. Two-suited hands occur more frequently than their One-suited counterparts. One needs the capacity to show these Two-suited circumstances.
2. The alternative; i.e., to remain silent and to defend against the opponent's 1NT, is usually not a fruitful one.
3. Because this particular convention allows you to show Two-suited hands, one can disturb the opponent's more frequently --- Fun! Fun! Fun!
4. Although this convention eliminates the double as a means of evidencing an equivalent or better hand, it is infrequently necessary to do so, and if seemingly appropriate, seldom productive, for the opponents then seek, and oft times, secure a better alternative contract.
5. *Points schmoints!* The key to successful interferences over an opponent's 1 NT opening bid is not points, rather vulnerability and distribution.
6. You are infrequently attempting to seek game. Rather you are venturing to enter the auction and, at the very least, trying to interfere with the opponent's capacity to communicate successfully.
7. This Convention is used in both the direct seat, as well as in the balancing seat, although, as with all balancing bids, the HCP strength required is more relaxed.
8. With strong balanced hands, the type with which, beforehand, one doubled to show equivalence, pass, Pass, PASS!!!! You are more likely to get a better score in duplicate competition than if you would enter the auction as you had been accustomed to doing previously.

## “DONT” Bids

### With One-suited Hands (Usually 6-cards or better)

“Double” = A One-suited Club, Diamond, Heart, or Spade Hand

“2S” = A One-suited Spade hand with a weaker HCP holding than the “double” above

### With A Two-suited Hand (5-4 or better) Bid the Cheaper of Your Two Suits

“2C” = A Club suit and a higher-ranking suit as well

“2D” = A Diamond suit and a higher-ranking one as well (Obviously a Major suit)

“2H” = Shows Hearts and Spades

## Responses to THE “DONT” CONVENTION

If partner “Doubles”, puppet “2C” so that partner can identify his/her suit.

If partner overcalls “2C” or “2D” showing the lower-ranking of a Two-suited hand,

- a. Pass with 3 or more cards in partner's bid suit
- b. Bid your own 6-card or better suit

c. Otherwise, make the cheapest bid (alertable) asking partner to bid his/her second suit.

If partner overcalls “2H” showing both Majors, select your choice of the two.

If partner overcalls “2S”, pass.