

The “Sandwich” No-Trump vs. The “Unusual” No-Trump

A **“Sandwich” No-Trump** is a conventional “1-NT” bid showing a two-suited hand, usually at least 5-5 or better, made between two bidding opponents. The “Sandwich” No-Trump is so-called because it is a bid made in the “sandwich seat” between two bidding Opponents. *It evidences both as-yet unbid suits* and is, usually, of weaker strength and a shapelier holding (Example 1) than is a Take-out Double, in the same position (Example 2). A “Sandwich” No-Trump call is analogous to a weak Take-out Double. It is both artificial and alertable. It is not restricted to the Major suits; rather it simply shows the two as-yet un-bid suits, whichever they are.

Note: One could still utilize the “Unusual” 2-NT showing the two as-yet un-bid lower suits, but this Convention forces a competitive bid at the 3-Level, one level higher than the “Sandwich” No-Trump which elicits a competitive bid at the 2-Level (See Below).

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1S	????

You (West) Hold the Following:

1. XX (Make a Take-out Double! You have both shape; i.e., both
KQJX unbid suits, and good opening count.)
XX
AQJXX

2. X (Make a “Sandwich” No Trump Take-out call! - You have the
QJXXX shape for a Take-out, but your hand is too weak.)
XX
KQXXX

The “Unusual” No-Trump is a “2NT” conventional bid used to show two-suited hands in competitive situations. It exhibits *the two lower un-bid suits*, usually 5-5 or better in distribution. The strength of the hand presenting a “2-NT” (“Unusual”) overcall is either very weak (suggesting a sacrifice) (See Example 3), else extremely strong (intending to take further action) (See Example 4).

3. X (A very weak hand suggestive of a sacrifice.)
X (Over a 1H or a 1S opening by the Opponents,
KQXXX a “2NT” bid would show 5-5 or better in the Minors)
QJXXXX

4. AQ (A Very strong hand intent on further action.)
X (Over a 1H or a 1S opening bid by the Opponents,
AQXXX one would bid “2NT” looking for either Club or
AKJXXX Diamond support from Partner on the way to
Game or Slam in one of the Minor suits.)