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After Partner Opens 1NT

**Partner opens 1NT (12-14). What do you respond holding these hands?
Remember, after opening 1NT partner will take no further initiative. It's up to you!**

♠ K102 ♥ 64 ♦ AJ1093 ♣ J105	♠ K102 ♥ 64 ♦ AKJ103 ♣ J105	♠ KQ1052 ♥ 64 ♦ AK109 ♣ J10	♠ KQ1052 ♥ AQ76 ♦ J9 ♣ J10	♠ KQ1052 ♥ Q764 ♦ 93 ♣ J10	♠ KJ1052 ♥ AQ764 ♦ 9 ♣ A10
Pass	3NT	2H 1NT 2H 2S 3NT	1NT 2H 2S 3H 3S 4S	2C 1NT 2C 2D 2S	1NT 2C 2H
No game possible	Do not worry about hearts	Don't show four card minor	Show 5/4 and game values	Stayman without 11+	Transfer into higher rank 1st

♠ QJ105 ♥ 9864 ♦ J1093 ♣ 7	♠ KQ105 ♥ 64 ♦ A1093 ♣ Q75	♠ KQ10542 ♥ 64 ♦ A1093 ♣ 7	♠ K105 ♥ A64 ♦ AKQ9 ♣ KJ10	♠ K105 ♥ A64 ♦ Q932 ♣ Q102	♠ J105 ♥ 64 ♦ A1098643 ♣ 10
2C	2C 1NT 2C 2S 3S	2H 1NT 2H 2S 3S	4NT	2S 1NT 2S 3C	2S 1NT 2S 2NT 3D 1NT 2S 3C 3D
Stayman without 11 pts.	Invitational	Invitational ONLY in spades	Quantitative (not Blackwood)	2S asks whether opener is 12/13 (2NT) or 14 (3C)	

♠ KJ10542 ♥ K4 ♦ K1093 ♣ Q	♠ KQ1054 ♥ 64 ♦ AQJ93 ♣ 5	♠ K104 ♥ 6 ♦ AKJ1053 ♣ AQ10	♠ K1043 ♥ J4 ♦ AKJ105 ♣ 10	♠ KJ4 ♥ K42 ♦ Q53 ♣ Q752	♠ QJ4 ♥ 64 ♦ AK98543 ♣ 7
4S	2H	3D	2C 1NT 2C 2S 4S	1NT 2C 2H 3NT	Pass or 2NT
Protect you kings	5/5 - Not suitable for NTs	Mild Slam try in diamonds	You may have 4/4 spade fit	No stuffing or shape	Worth a punt!

On this last set, RHO overcalls partners 1NT with 2D before you can bid. What now?

♠ K97 ♥ K4 ♦ KJ1093 ♣ 732	♠ J4 ♥ KJ974 ♦ AQ ♣ 1073	♠ K105 ♥ J97 ♦ Q1093 ♣ 73	♠ K10 ♥ KJ92 ♦ Q1093 ♣ A3	♠ AJ62 ♥ KQ95 ♦ 83 ♣ Q75	♠ QJ109 ♥ 92 ♦ A43 ♣ AQ75
X	2H/3H/2NT	Pass	3NT or X	?*	3NT or X
Always a PENALTY double	Forcing / non- forcing?	What else?	Cannot find a heart fit. Decision depends on vul.	Is it forcing?	Cannot find the spade fit. Decision depends on vul.

***'Lebensohl' is a very good defence to such overcalls but it is a difficult gadget and appropriate hands occur infrequently. Only consider adopting this convention if you have a trusted regular partner. Ask if you want handouts or practise hands.**

After Partner Opens 1NT & Opponents Double

1NT is a very good descriptive and pre-emptive bid, but it has its dangers. Although every first round double of a *suit* bid is for 'take out', a double of 1NT is for penalties. If responder is weak, you should play some form of wriggle to escape into a suit contract. Many escape variations are played, so ask the meaning of opponents bids before you decide what to do. IF you adopt the following 'Wriggle' you need to agree it with your regular partner.

All transfer bids after a double of 1NT must be alerted. (Not announced).

The Easy Bit. - Transfer into any five card suit if 1NT is doubled

After 1NT has been doubled, responder can use the opponent's double as an opportunity to **transfer** into **any** five card suit that they hold. (Minors as well as majors).

Do so with 0-5 points. With 6+ HCPs we suggest that you simply pass!

N	E	S	
1NT	- Double	- Re-double	tells opener to transfer to clubs.
1NT	- Double	- 2♣	tells opener to transfer to diamonds.
1NT	- Double	- 2♦	tells opener to transfer to hearts.
1NT	- Double	- 2♥	tells opener to transfer to spades.

The transfer ensures that the contract is being played by the stronger hand.

The lead is coming *around* to the probable tenaces, rather than *through* them.)

RHO doubles partner's 1NT. What now?

QJ109 92 A43 10972	♠ QJ1092 ♥ 92 ♦ 543 ♣ 1097	♠ QJ10 ♥ 92 ♦ J10543 ♣ 972	♠ QJ10 ♥ 92 ♦ 543 ♣ J10972	♠ Q92 ♥ 97 ♦ 5432 ♣ J109	♠ Q64 ♥ A97 ♦ AJ1054 ♣ 109
Pass	2H	2C	XX	Pass	Pass
Partner might make this!	Transfer to spades	Transfer to diamonds	Transfer to clubs	Until you learn the Wriggle. (Of course partner could still bid a five card suit).	Of course partner will make this. No need to transfer!

Remember that if opponents double you cannot use Stayman, but you can transfer into ALL suit. Only use these transfers when your side may be in trouble. (*when you have fewer than 6/7 HCPs*). If partner has even 13 pts for the 1NT opening, your side have as many points as the opponents, so PASS!

Let us take a brief look at the probable distribution of the 40 HCPs

N	16	E	6
W	13	S	5

West opens 1NT 12-14
North doubles 15-18
You, east have 6 HCPs *Relax, look confident.*

South is the one under pressure. Not immediately, but if south passes and west re-doubles, north will pass and when east passes, south has a horrible decision to make.

Can west make 1NT doubled and re-doubled into a vulnerable game score? Most south's will think that would be far too risky, and bid. Obviously the more points that north has, the fewer there are for east and south, and greater the likelihood of south taking out the double.

THE WRIGGLE 1. (only for regular partnerships)

1NT is a very good descriptive and pre-emptive bid, but it has its dangers. Although every first round double of a *suit* bid is for 'take out', a double of 1NT is for penalties. If responder is weak, you need some form of wriggle to escape into a suit contract which is likely to play better. Obviously you need to agree any form of the 'Wriggle' with your regular partner. (Many variations are played).

The Easy Bit. Transfer into any five card suit if 1NT is doubled

After 1NT has been doubled, responder can use the opponent's double as an opportunity to *transfer* into *any* five card suit that they hold. (Minors as well as majors). Do so with 0-5 points.

With 6+ HCPs we suggest that you simply pass!

N	E	S	
1NT	- Double	-	Re-double tells opener to transfer to clubs.
1NT	- Double	- 2♣	tells opener to transfer to diamonds.
1NT	- Double	- 2♦	tells opener to transfer to hearts.
1NT	- Double	- 2♥	tells opener to transfer to spades.

The transfer ensures that the contract is being played by the stronger hand. The lead is coming *around* to the probable tenaces, rather than *through* them.

All transfer bids after a double of 1NT must be alerted. (Not announced).

What to do when you do not have a five card suit

If you are very weak and **do not** have a **five** card suit, you could choose one of these options:

- a. With any 4-4-3-2 shape - ***Pass**, but **that pass must be alerted by opener because it is forcing!**
 1NT - Double - ***Pass** This pass **requests#** opener to re-double for one of two reasons.
1. With 6+ pts. responder can pass partner's redouble to play in 1NT XX hopefully into a game score. Although the number of times that partner has the points to allow 1NT xx to make are rare, it does put extra pressure on the defenders who will often take out the double by bidding.
2. With 0-5 pts. responder can now bid the lowest of his **two** four card suits.
Of course the 1NT opener can bid a five card suit if he has one, (rather than re-doubling!)

North opens 1NT

♠ A1074
♥ 92
♦ KQ3
♣ K1092

■

♠ J6
♥ J873
♦ J542
♣ J74

1NT X P P
XX P 2D P
P

North should be content to have found a 4-3 fit!

♠ A107
♥ 92
♦ KQ3
♣ K10982

■

♠ J6
♥ J873
♦ J542
♣ J74

1NT X P P
2C

Here, opener rebids his 5 card suit!

♠ A1097
♥ 92
♦ KQ3
♣ K1092

■

♠ J642
♥ J873
♦ J5
♣ J74

1NT X P P
XX P 2H P
2S

South's 2H shows two 4 card majors

♠ A1074
♥ Q1092
♦ K5
♣ K1092

■

♠ Q6
♥ J873
♦ Q842
♣ Q74

1NT X P P
XX P P

South passes the redouble with every chance of making!

With any 4-3-3-3 be prepared for TROUBLE

- b. With a 4-3-3-3 shape, and 4/5 HCPs, pass. Look confident. *Partner will alert and re-double! Still looking confident, pass the re-double & hope your LHO panics and bids. They often do.*
- c. With a 4-3-3-3 shape, and 0-2/3 HCPs, you are in real trouble! Pretend that you have a five card suit and transfer into your only four card suit! Do this even if not doubled. **You will be!**

THE WRIGGLE 2. (only for regular partnerships)

When 1NT is doubled in Protective Position.

S	W	N	E	
1NT	pass	pass	X	(More difficult to deal with.)
pass	pass	? *		*? In this auction north can choose between :

Pass shows a willingness to play in 1NT x. (or a 4-3-3-3 hand where there is no sensible alternative).

XX* shows a *five card minor*. 0-5 pts. Opener bids 2♣ and responder either passes or bids 2♦.

This allows you to play in 2♣ or 2♦ with a weak 5 or 6 card suit.

2♣ shows four clubs and four of a higher ranking suit.

2♦ shows four diamonds and four of a major.

2♥ shows 4/4 in the majors.

Think ahead!

Partner has opened 1NT and you find yourself with this hand
Don't think that you might have a lucky escape and pass.

Pre-empt the situation by making an immediate transfer into hearts.

A small lie but now LHO who must have 12+ pts. may double your 2♦ either to show diamonds or as a takeout. *You know* that you have only 1 pt. The opponents don't.

Your 2♦ bid gives nothing away about the strength of your hand.

♠ J74
♥ 8643
♦ 532
♣ 1087

RHO opponent passes

Wriggle after a direct double.

<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 532 ♦ QJ72 ♣ KQ6 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ83 ♦ K86 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ Q85 ♥ 53 ♦ Q9753 ♣ 963 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ Q532 ♦ Q972 ♣ 63 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div> <p>south</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 9532 ♦ Q9 ♣ Q1063 </div>																																																								
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Good chance to make it redoubled into game	2C is transfer to diamonds	2D = four diamonds & four of higher ranking suit. Bingo. If opps. bid, you pass	Opener has only two clubs and bids your two card suit. So bid your 2nd suit hearts.																																																								

Wriggle after a protective double.

<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ K106 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K8643 ♣ J7 </div>	<p>east</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 9532 ♦ Q97 ♣ Q85 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div>	<p>east</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ Q954 ♥ J732 ♦ Q9 ♣ 976 </div>	<p>1NT</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div>	<p>east</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 5px auto;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 532 ♦ Q10972 ♣ Q6 </div>																																												
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p	p	xx	P																																														
2C	P	2D	?																																														
Opener can bid a 5 card		Another lucky 4/4 find		Responder shows 5 card																																													

Responding after Opponents Overcall.

♠ J94
 ♥ J863
 ♦ K975
 ♣ A10
 ♠ AQ862
 ♥ 74
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q876
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ Q102
 ♦ 83
 ♣ KJ543
 ♠ K5
 ♥ AK95
 ♦ QJ1062
 ♣ 92

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	?	?

The first two bids are easy, but what happens next?
 N/S's partnership agreement for a double as responder may be:
 a. to show 9+ pts (the balance of points)
 b. to show both of the other two suits (and likely shortage in opener's suit).
 c. to show 6+ pts. and four of the other major (a negative double).

North has 10 pts with the fit and may raise to 3D (a limit bid)
 North, an 8.5 loser, may decide that the hand is too flat and simply bid 2D.
 3D will keep east out of the auction, but after X or 2D by north,

east should bid 2S. This is a competitive limit bid. NOT encouragement.

NOTE. Each side can make 8 tricks but not 9. IF E/W failed to remove CA, N/S can make 3H but not 3D (The club loser will vanish on the 5th diamond).
 On perfect bidding and play by both sides the best score fore N/S is -100. (3H -1. Double is very unlikely!)

After 2S it is difficult for south to bid 3H unless he knows that north has 4. West will pass.

North should now compete to 3D

East will pass.

South could now reveal the heart fit and bid 3H. (non forcing).

West should now pass, but may push on to 3S at favourable vulnerability.

YOU

♠ KJ4
 ♥ J86
 ♦ 9752
 ♣ A103
 ♠ AQ862
 ♥ 74
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q876
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ Q1032
 ♦ 83
 ♣ KJ54
 ♠ 95
 ♥ AK95
 ♦ KQJ106
 ♣ 92

Suggested auction

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	1NT	P
P	P		

On this layout, you have a good stop in spades AND 9 pts. Don't support the minor bid 1NT. This IS a limit bid **at the top** of 6-9 range. (or even 10). South knows that you do not have 4 hearts and with only 13 pts. south will pass. If he is worried about clubs, he may sign off in 2D (inferior)

YOU

♠ KJ4
 ♥ J86
 ♦ 9752
 ♣ J103
 ♠ AQ862
 ♥ 74
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q876
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ Q1032
 ♦ 83
 ♣ AK54
 ♠ 95
 ♥ AK95
 ♦ KQJ106
 ♣ 92

Suggested auction

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	2D	2S
3D	P	P	P

On this layout, you have a good stop in spades (probably 2 tricks for partner) but only 6 pts. Don't bid 1NT. Compete with 2D (6 pts.) or pass (11 loser) 2D would allow south to bid once more if east bid 2S.

As responder, try to tell partner that you have some values.

YOU

♠ KJ4
 ♥ J86
 ♦ 9752
 ♣ A103
 ♠ AQ862
 ♥ 74
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q876
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ Q1032
 ♦ 83
 ♣ J954
 ♠ 95
 ♥ AK95
 ♦ KQJ106
 ♣ K2

Suggested auction

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	1NT	P
3NT			

As on the above layout, you have a good stop in spades AND 9 pts. Don't support the minor bid 1NT.

South knows that you do not have 4 hearts but with a 16 count and a club stop he can bid 3NT. (16 + 9 = 25)

YOU

♠ J43
 ♥ J86
 ♦ 9752
 ♣ J103
 ♠ AQ862
 ♥ 74
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q876
 ♠ K107
 ♥ Q1032
 ♦ 83
 ♣ AK54
 ♠ 95
 ♥ AK95
 ♦ KQJ106
 ♣ 92

Suggested auction

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	P	2D*
2H	3C	P	4S

NOTE
 11 tricks are makeable in clubs.
 Playing in 4-4 fits are often better than 5-4 fits.
 The diamond loser goes on the 4th spade.

On this layout, with 3 HCPs & no shape you can do nothing but east with an opening hand and an 8 card trump fit should try for game by using an unassuming cue bid.
 IF west had overcalled on a 6 count he would sign off in 2S (or pass 2H). but with his 12 count he can bid an outside feature to show a good overcall and game should be reached.

Bidding Examples After partner opens 1NT

BRIDGE CLUB LIVE

♠ K83	♠ 9
♥ A106	♥ QJ985
♦ J94	♦ 106
♣ AQ106	♣ J9762
♠ 742	♠ AQJ1065
♥ K432	♥ 7
♦ Q872	♦ AK53
♣ K8	♣ 53

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	3S	P
4C	P	4D	P
4H	P	6S	

After 1NT by north, south is ready to bid 3S a slam try in spades.

East however makes a cheeky overcall of 2H.

Now what? How can you force?

3S? Would this be forcing? With SKx north might bid 3NT. Then what?

4S? Surely too timid!

3H? A cue bid would force but what useful information could north give?

4NT? Even if ace asking, couldn't reveal SK or 3 spades.

6S? Must have chances!

PLAY There are TWO potential losers and two choices on the play.

Low to DJ works! OR TWO club finesses. IF you decide to finesse clubs - Win heart lead and draw trumps ending in hand.

Finesse C10 first. Losing to east who returns D10 which you win.

Now finesse lead towards CQ. Yes it has great risk but you cannot lead towards DJ now! However the CK falls and you are home.

BRUNTON

♠ 10852	♠ J6
♥ A8	♥ KQ
♦ AKJ10	♦ 9763
♣ 865	♣ Q10732
♠ -	♠ AKQ9743
♥ J10975432	♥ 6
♦ Q42	♦ 85
♣ J9	♣ AK4

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	3S	P
4D	P	4NT	P
5H	P	5NT	P
6D	P	6NT	

After 1NT by north, south bids 3S. A mild slam try.

North is very happy to accept the invitation and **cue bids** DA.

South now bids 4NT (RKCB) North replies 5H (two key cards without SQ)

South now bids 5NT (asking for kings) and north bids 6D (showing one).

South can now SEE 12 top tricks.

No finesses, guesses or complicated play techniques required so south bids.

6NT

(NOT 6S at match pointed pairs)

Do not bid Grand Slams that require a finesse!

CRAMLINGTON

♠ 965	♠ AQJ
♥ J7	♥ KQ6
♦ J10872	♦ 43
♣ J54	♣ AQ983
♠ 873	♠ K1042
♥ 109542	♥ A83
♦ K6	♦ AQ95
♣ K107	♣ 62

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	P	X
P	P	XX	P
2C	P	2D	X

This is the situation when the penalty double of 1NT is made in the protective position.

Opener could bid a 5 card suit if he had one.

On this hand, he hasn't, so opener passes.

West confirms the double by passing.

We suggest that north should now re-double to show the 5 card minor.

This gives the south hand a 50/50 chance of playing the contract.

IF north had any 4-4-3-2 hand he would BID the lower of the two suits.

With 4-3-3-3, a pass is the only sensible option.

This action scores N/S 29/34 matchpoints because E/W can make 4H and 2D doubled is only one off for -100

Responding after Partner's Intervention

REMEMBER PARTNER'S OVERCALLS ARE NOT FORCING YOU TO DO ANYTHING

<p>♠ K3 ♥ Q8 ♦ AKJ54 ♣ J984</p> <p>♠ J10952 ♥ J972 ♦ 2 ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ 8764 ♥ 1064 ♦ 987 ♣ 763</p>	<p>♠ AQ ♥ AK53 ♦ Q1063 ♣ K52</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td style="color: green;">N</td><td style="color: green;">E</td><td style="color: green;">S</td><td style="color: green;">W</td></tr> <tr><td>1D</td><td>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>2H*</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2S</td><td>P</td><td>3H</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>4H</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">*transfer</td></tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	1D	1NT	P	2H*	P	2S	P	3H	P	4H			*transfer			
N	E	S	W																			
1D	1NT	P	2H*																			
P	2S	P	3H																			
P	4H																					
*transfer																						

East's overcall of 1NT shows 16-18 with a good stop in diamonds. West decides that with 8 HCPs, game is possible and begins with a transfer to spades. After the completion of the transfer, west bids a natural and forcing 3H. East bids game in 4H.

IF west had fewer pts. e.g. the correct bid over partner's 1NT overcall would be

♠ J10952
♥ J972
♦ 2
♣ QJ10

2C (Stayman).

At the table, north led DA and then failed to notice south's D7, and continued with DK. Luckily for N/S, declarer did not need to throw a loser on the now established DQ. Count signals ARE important!

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REMEMBER, OVERCALLS ARE MADE WITH 5 CARD SUITS

<p>♠ A9 ♥ QJ ♦ AJ10843 ♣ 432</p> <p>♠ 875432 ♥ 32 ♦ Q962 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ KJ6 ♥ K10986 ♦ 5 ♣ AQ95</p>	<p>♠ Q10 ♥ A754 ♦ K7 ♣ KJ1087</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td style="color: red;">E</td><td style="color: red;">S</td><td style="color: red;">W</td><td style="color: red;">N</td></tr> <tr><td>1C</td><td>1H</td><td>P</td><td>2D</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2NT</td><td>P</td><td>3NT</td></tr> </table>	E	S	W	N	1C	1H	P	2D	P	2NT	P	3NT
E	S	W	N											
1C	1H	P	2D											
P	2NT	P	3NT											

South overcalls with a 5 card major, rather than doubling. IF partner overcalls, s/he is taking responsibility for that suit and you should not attempt to rescue partner because you only have one or even none of the suit.

Therefore, when you bid on after partner's overcall, you are suggesting that you have an interest in game. Such a bid is called a **constructive bid**. (Obviously north does not have three hearts!)

Although south might have overcalled on a 7 count, south shows that he has a good hand and a stop in the enemy suit by bidding 2NT. With clubs covered north can bid game.

With a poor overcall south would have rebid hearts or passed 2D.

REMEMBER THAT PARTNER'S TAKEOUT DOUBLES REQUIRE YOU TO SHOW STRENGTH - AS WELL AS YOUR BEST SUIT

<p>♠ 62 ♥ J97432 ♦ K98 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ J9853 ♥ 6 ♦ 106 ♣ AK432</p> <p>♠ K1074 ♥ AKQ105 ♦ A4 ♣ 95</p>	<p>♠ AQ ♥ 8 ♦ QJ7532 ♣ QJ86</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td style="color: green;">E</td><td style="color: green;">S</td><td style="color: green;">W</td><td style="color: green;">N</td></tr> <tr><td>1D</td><td>X</td><td>1S</td><td>2H</td></tr> <tr><td>3C</td><td>4H</td><td>5C</td><td></td></tr> </table>	E	S	W	N	1D	X	1S	2H	3C	4H	5C	
E	S	W	N											
1D	X	1S	2H											
3C	4H	5C												

With 16 pts and both majors south is too strong to overcall the 5 card heart suit. Despite the doubleton club, a T.O. double is correct.

West bids 1S. This should guarantee a 5 card suit but east wasn't sure. With four spades, redouble would be our recommendation.

North has only 4 HCPs but six hearts. South can be expected to have at least three hearts for the double, but with five spades in west it is more likely that south has four hearts. East passes. North made a 'FREE' bid of hearts, so expecting more HCPs, south bids game. South IS a 5 loser!

(5C would be a good save but must be doubled!!)

There is nothing in the play with only two clubs and a spade to lose

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REMEMBER, TO USE L.T.C. WHEN YOU HAVE A FIT

<p>♠ J9532 ♥ 7 ♦ 102 ♣ 109872</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ 9854 ♦ KJ763 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ KQ74 ♥ K103 ♦ A85 ♣ QJ3</p>	<p>♠ 108 ♥ AQJ62 ♦ Q94 ♣ 654</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td style="color: green;">S</td><td style="color: green;">W</td><td style="color: green;">N</td><td style="color: green;">E</td></tr> <tr><td>1S</td><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>3H</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>4H</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	W	N	E	1S	X	P	3H	P	4H		
S	W	N	E											
1S	X	P	3H											
P	4H													

Again the shape of this hand is not perfect for a T.O. double but if you wait for the perfect hand in this game, you will wait a long time. (North passed but with *five*, 2S would be quite acceptable).

East has a 10 count and an 8 loser. West has an opening hand and four hearts. East should therefore bid 3H. and game is reached. IF east bids 2H, showing 0-8 pts. west should pass and game is missed!.

East loses only 1 spade, 1 heart and 1 diamond

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Showing Support.

♠ 64 ♥ 10982 ♦ QJ983 ♣ A10 ♠ A10852 ♥ Q ♦ 7652 ♣ J93 ♠ KJ973 ♥ 764 ♦ 4 ♣ Q765 ♠ Q ♥ AKJ53 ♦ AK10 ♣ K842	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1H</td> <td>P</td> <td>3H</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4D</td> <td>P</td> <td>4H</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4S</td> <td>P</td> <td>5C</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6H</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	W	N	E	1H	P	3H	P	4D	P	4H	P	4S	P	5C	P	6H			
S	W	N	E																		
1H	P	3H	P																		
4D	P	4H	P																		
4S	P	5C	P																		
6H																					

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The key to this hand is north's first response to 1♥ by south. With only 7 HCPs a bid of 2♥ looks correct, but - - north is an 8 loser, has 9 pts., including distribution and is short of spades.

The bid of 3♥ gets south interested not only game, but slam. With hearts agreed, 4♦ is a cue bid. North is relieved to sign off in 4♥, but south bids on with 4♠. This is 2nd round control, as spades were missed out after 3♥. It could be KQ or a singleton.

Reluctantly, north cue bids ♣A by bidding 5♣. South signs off in 6♥!

♠ KQ987 ♥ AK87 ♦ - ♣ A763 ♠ J10 ♥ 3 ♦ J10752 ♣ KJ1042 ♠ A63 ♥ Q10 ♦ AKQ9863 ♣ 8 ♠ 542 ♥ J96542 ♦ 4 ♣ Q95	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> <th>W</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1S</td> <td>2D</td> <td>P</td> <td>3D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3H</td> <td>4D</td> <td>4H</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5D</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	N	E	S	W	1S	2D	P	3D	3H	4D	4H	P	P	5D	P	P	X	P	P	P
N	E	S	W																		
1S	2D	P	3D																		
3H	4D	4H	P																		
P	5D	P	P																		
X	P	P	P																		

Cramlington

The key to this hand is whether south and west are prepared to show support with lots of partner's suit but short of points.

N/S 9 loser opposite 4 loser can make 12* tricks in hearts. (19 HCPs)
 E/W 8 loser opposite 5 loser can make 10 tricks in diamonds. (21)

** on any lead except a club.*
 The law of TNT (Total Number of Tricks) says that if you add the combined number of trumps held by E/W to those held by N/S that is the number of tricks available on the hand.
 E/W hold 12 diamonds. N/S hold 10 hearts. 22 tricks available!

Tip - When you know that you have ten trumps between you, bid to the 4 level.

♠ 3 ♥ 6 ♦ 9862 ♣ KJ86543 ♠ Q1074 ♥ AKJ7 ♦ Q ♣ AQ107 ♠ A62 ♥ Q1092 ♦ J7543 ♣ 9	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1S</td> <td>P</td> <td>2C</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2S</td> <td>P</td> <td>4S</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	E	S	W	N	1S	P	2C	P	2S	P	4S	-
E	S	W	N										
1S	P	2C	P										
2S	P	4S	-										

Cramlington

The first sequence shows what happened at the table. Resurrected from many years ago, opponents used a 'Delayed Game Raise'.

This method was designed to show a better hand than one that would go 1♠ - 4♠, but how can opener ever know that you have FOUR card support? It looks as if partner can only support when s/he knows that you have five.

Today, most club players use
 1♠ - 2NT = **Jacoby 2NT, showing 12+ with four card support.** OR
 1♠ - 4♦ = **Splinter bid showing 12+, four card support and a singleton* or void in the suit bid.**

*Do not splinter with a singleton ace or king.

♠ A10754 ♥ AQ5 ♦ Q85 ♣ A6 ♠ J ♥ K86 ♦ AJ10932 ♣ 1095 ♠ Q632 ♥ 42 ♦ K76 ♣ J432 ♠ K98 ♥ J10973 ♦ 4 ♣ KQ87	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>N</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1S</td> <td>2H*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4H</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	N	S	1S	2H*	4H	
N	S						
1S	2H*						
4H							

* 2♥ - As well as five hearts, south's bid promises 10 HCPs. The shape of the hand is well worth the bid of 2♥ because of the good three card support for spades AND the singleton. (A free bid at the 2 level will usually be at worst an 8 loser).

North has 16 HCPs. (17 pts counting 1 for the doubleton) and is a 6.5 loser. SO - north can count at least 26 pts. and at worst 14.5 losers. Therefore north optimises and should simply bid game in 4♥

West leads ♦A. South ruffs the 2nd diamond and leads ♥J.

♠ K98 If partner opens 1♠, you cannot bid 2♥
 ♥ AK97 because this requires five hearts.
 ♦ 43 It is the ONLY time that a change of suit
 ♣ QJ87 at the two level promises FIVE cards in
 the suit bid.

♠ K98 If partner opens 1♠, this is the only hand on which you
 ♥ AK97 should bid 2NT.
 ♦ 943 It shows 11/12 HCPs and precisely 3-4-3-3 shape.
 ♣ J108

IF YOU PLAY JACOBY 2NT and partner opens 1♠ this is the hand where your only option is to bid 2♣.

Responding with 6-9 HCPs

Signing Off after Partner's Minimum Rebid

Partner opens 1D ♠ K432 ♥ J1064 ♦ 65 ♣ Q53	Partner opens 1D ♠ K42 ♥ 10864 ♦ 965 ♣ AQ5	Partner opens 1D ♠ KJ8432 ♥ 106 ♦ 65 ♣ Q105	Partner opens 1D ♠ KJ832 ♥ 10653 ♦ 65 ♣ Q5
Respond 1H	1H	1S	1H
Partner rebids 2C	Partner rebids 1S	Partner rebids 2C	Partner rebids 2H
Rebid 2D	Rebid 1NT	Rebid 2S	Rebid Pass

Partner does NOT have 4 spades. Partner has offered you two suits. Give *Suit Preference*. Return partner to his 1st suit at the level you can afford. (5-2 is better than 4-3).

You have a decent stop in the 4th suit and can make a limit bid of 1NT. It is wrong to bid 1NT immediately as this would deny holding four cards in any suit you can bid at the 1 level.

Your 2S rebid shows six spades but only 6-9 pts. Playing in a long suit held by the weak hand is best, as you are unlikely to make spade tricks unless they are trumps. (*No entries*)

With only 6 pts. you can only ever bid once. Therefore suppress the 5 card spade suit and respond 1H. If you bid 1S, partner may have to rebid 2D (1-4-5-3). Now what can you do?

Responding with only 6-9 pts. after Right Hand Opponent's Overcall or Double

Partner opens 1D RHO overcalls 1H	Partner opens 1D RHO overcalls 1H	Partner opens 1D RHO Doubles	Partner opens 1D RHO overcalls 1H
♠ K432 ♥ J10 ♦ Q9653 ♣ 53	♠ KJ1042 ♥ J106 ♦ Q65 ♣ 53	♠ K432 ♥ J106 ♦ Q96 ♣ Q53	♠ KJ8 ♥ K1065 ♦ 965 ♣ Q53
Respond X	Respond 1S	Respond XX	Respond 1NT
			Respond Pass or 2D

If RHO had not overcalled, you would have responded 1S. NOW you can tell partner that you have 6+ pts. and FOUR spades. (Do not support a minor when you have a major.)

If RHO had not overcalled, you would have responded 1S to show four spades. NOW you can tell partner that you have 6+ pts. and FIVE spades.

Your redouble tells partner that you have 6+ pts. and at least one four card major. If partner rebids 1H, sign off in 2D (*IF LHO bids 1H partner will double to show four spades.*)
Or, you could agree to XX when you have 9+ (Balance of points).

Only make this limit bid when you have 9 pts. and a good stop in the enemy suit. Partner may now try 3NT

With fewer pts. and a decent stop, either pass or bid 2D. *IF you pass & partner reopens with X, bid 1NT.*

Responding with only 6-9 pts. after Partner's Strong Rebid. (17+)

Partner opens 1D ♠ K1092 ♥ Q1064 ♦ 65 ♣ QJ8	Partner opens 1D ♠ 9 ♥ QJ1064 ♦ 10965 ♣ A107	Partner opens 1D ♠ K10843 ♥ ♦ 965 ♣ AQ1074	Partner opens 1D ♠ Q542 ♥ Q653 ♦ 865 ♣ Q74
Respond 1H	1H	1S	1H
Partner rebids 3D	Partner rebids 2S	Partner rebids 3S	Partner rebids 2S
Rebid 3NT	Rebid 3C	Rebid 4C	Rebid Pass

Although 3D is not 100% forcing, it shows a fairly solid 6 card suit & 17/19 pts. You have lots of stuffing and your 8 pts. are well placed for 3NT

2NT, 3D and 3H are all limit bids. 3C is **4th suit forcing**. Even WITH the club stop, you would like to play this in 4H if opener can show you three hearts. 3C gives that opportunity. IF partner bids 3NT, respect that decision.

Your 1S only promised 6 pts. so partners jump to 3S shows either 17+ or a 5 loser hand. You have 3 controls, two fits and a void. Cue bid your CA and if partner bids 4D (cue bid) bid 4H to cue bid 1st round control.

Partner has five diamonds, four spades and 17+ pts. Even with the fit you have the worst possible shape, A terrible hand, pass made up with queens. Pass!

RESPONDING WITH 10+ pts.

Responder's Rebids (Intermediate 10-12 pts.) (Assume Game All)

Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D
♠ KJ1032 ♥ A1064 ♦ Q65 ♣ J	♠ K1087 ♥ AQ1096 ♦ 96 ♣ J10	♠ KJ84 ♥ A1086 ♦ 65 ♣ Q105	♠ QJ7 ♥ Q62 ♦ 532 ♣ KQ54
Respond 1♠	Respond 1♥	Respond 1♥	Respond 2♣
Partner rebids 2C	Partner rebids 2C	Partner rebids 1S	Partner rebids 2D
Rebid 2♥ (FSF)	Rebid 2NT	Rebid 3♠	Rebid Pass
With 11 HCPs and good support for partner's diamonds, you are strong enough to bid twice, so respond 1S. If partner rebids 2C or 2D, and you think game is on, bid 2H. This allows partner to bid 2NT, 3H, or 3S (2NT would be a acceptable)	With a good stop in the 4th suit, and 11 ish pts. bid 2NT. (Partner can not have 4 spades) You are 1 pt. short for your bid but it's a GOOD 10. 2H would be non-forcing, showing six hearts & only 6 ish pts.	Your 3S rebid shows four spades and 11/12 pts. (or an 8 loser). It is a limit bid not forcing. You have returned partner to his suit at the level you can afford. Partner will bid to 4S if he is a 6 loser.	With 10 pts. and no 4 card major the only hope for game is 3NT, but you have told partner that you have 10 pts. What else do you have? Nothing! Pass. If it was a GOOD 10 you might try 2NT but it isn't & partner has only 11-14.

Responding with Intermediate Hands after RHO Overcalls or Doubles (Assume Game All)

Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D
RHO overcalls 1♥	RHO overcalls 1♠	RHO Doubles	RHO overcalls 1♥
♠ KJ1032 ♥ A1064 ♦ Q65 ♣ J	♠ KJ1032 ♥ A1064 ♦ Q65 ♣ J	♠ K1032 ♥ J10 ♦ AQ965 ♣ 105	♠ K107 ♥ KJ8 ♦ A65 ♣ Q943
Respond 1♠	Respond Pass	Respond Re-double	Respond 3NT
A natural bid showing five spades. IF partner rebids 2D you might cue bid hearts to give partner a chance to show three spades. If not raise to 3NT IF RHO bids again, double for penalties.	At favourable vulnerability, pass and hope that partner can reopen with a double which you will pass for penalties. If partner rebids 2C/D, bid 2NT, not 2H. (After your initial pass 2H would show at least five hearts and very weak).	Do not support diamonds. Redouble to show a FOUR card major. A bid of a major suit after RHO overcalls or doubles should always show a FIVE card suit.	Don't muck about. You have 14 HCPs and a good stop in the enemy suit. Bid Game.

Responder's Rebids (Strong 13+ pts.) (Assume Game All)

Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D	Partner opens 1D
♠ K9 ♥ A1064 ♦ Q6 ♣ KJ1032	♠ K42 ♥ AJ864 ♦ - ♣ AJ1073	♠ J1084 ♥ AK7 ♦ 65 ♣ KQ105	♠ KJ8 ♥ 107 ♦ K9652 ♣ AQ7
Respond 2♣	Respond 1♥	Respond 1♠	Respond *2♣
Partner rebids 2D	Partner rebids 2C	Partner rebids 2D	Partner rebids 2NT
Rebid 2♥	Rebid 2♠	Rebid 3NT	Rebid 3NT
With 13 pts you can respond 2C and rebid a forcing 2H over partner's 2D rebid. With a weak hand you would have bid the four card heart suit first. Partner could have four hearts.	You have a great minor suit fit but what are opener's remaining four cards? They may be 3 hearts and 1 spade, so use 4th suit forcing before deciding where game is.	With game values and no fit, bid the most obvious game choice.	*An awkward hand where you cannot bid a major suit and you don't want to simply support partner's diamonds. Invent a bid to hear more about opener's hand.

When R.H.O. bids YOUR SUIT

♠ 5 ♥ QJ74 ♦ KQJ85 ♣ 1093 ♠ AK2 ♥ 963 ♦ A10963 ♣ K7	♠ 109874 ♥ 1052 ♦ 7 ♣ J865	At the table Brunton
♠ QJ63 ♥ AK8 ♦ 42 ♣ AQ42	S W N E 1S 2D ?	

An opening bid of 1S by south, west overcalled 2D. North appeared to have two options. Double to show four hearts (Negative Double) or pass. At this vulnerability there was only one choice - - PASS South would make a re-opening double which would be passed. +1400 for N/S. At another table only +800).

At our table I made the knee jerk reaction & doubled.

Fecklessness personified!

♠ - ♥ 97643 ♦ KJ108 ♣ KQ43 ♠ AQ10752 ♥ AQ ♦ A4 ♣ J52	♠ 3 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 9762 ♣ 109876 ♠ KJ9864 ♥ 1085 ♦ Q53 ♣ A	On the same night Brunton
S W N E 2S 2NT - P		

West does a double take after south opens her six card suit. But again, an automatic response hits the table 2NT !?!?!?!?

For this poor bid E/W only score 9/28 for 2NT -1 (On better defence N/S would take most of the matchpoints).

Even with a 17 count there is no bid available to west. A double would be a takeout double and E/W would play in a dreadful 3C.

♠ Q1093 ♥ 83 ♦ J2 ♣ A7542 ♠ A ♥ AQ974 ♦ A98 ♣ J109	♠ J87654 ♥ 2 ♦ Q7643 ♣ K ♠ K2 ♥ KJ1065 ♦ K105 ♣ Q86	Alertable penalty double
S W N E 1H P 1S P 2H X		

West is ready to open 1H and is surprised to hear south's opening bid. With no bid available west passed - as smooth as silk. North responded 1S and was delighted to see south bid 2H. This was doubled - FOR PENALTIES

Because your partner, east, has not yet bid, the *natural* meaning of this double is that it is for takeout. Therefore, IF you agree to use this double for penalties, *the double must be alerted.*

We think that you *should* treat it as a penalty double, because you had the opportunity to make a takeout double on the 1st round of bidding!

♠ Q6 ♥ AKJ96 ♦ J92 ♣ QJ6 ♠ K5 ♥ 874 ♦ K865 ♣ K975	♠ 10843 ♥ Q52 ♦ A3 ♣ A843 ♠ AJ972 ♥ 103 ♦ Q1074 ♣ 102	On the Computer
W N E S P 1H 1S P P 2H P P 2S - - -		

OK strange things happen online. Like east's 1S overcall?!? Same principles apply though. South with five spades, passes. North, now in protective position, rebids 2H rather than X.

That is passed around to west in protective position who competes with 2S (*perfectly reasonable*).

South, now in protective position, feels that he is not strong enough to double for penalties, and passes.

2S -1 by east would have scored 84% for N/S, but east's play for -2 was worse than his bidding and gave N/S 100%

Bidding 3 Card Suits

at the 1 LEVEL

♠ A9		
♥ 42		
♦ AK9		
♣ KQ10832		
♠ 532	♠ KQ1086	
♥ K85	♥ 109763	
♦ 106543	♦ J82	
♣ 54	♣ -	
♠ J74		
♥ AQJ		
♦ Q7		
♣ AJ976		
	S	N
	1C	1D
	2C*	3NT**

After 1♣ by south, what ARE north's options?

- 5♣ could be OK or you score a zero because 6♣ or 3NT +1 is best.
 - 6♣ could be OK or you score a zero because there are 2 heart losers
 - 3NT could be OK or you score a zero because there is no heart stop.
- The best creative option is to bid a forcing 1♦ to hear what south's rebid will be. Unfortunately east can now overcall 1♠.

This makes it impossible for south to rebid 1NT with no spade stop.

*2♣ Only option. (Remember north may only have 6 pts.)
 ** 3NT Still a shot in the dark. East led K♠ West played ♠2.
 North won and finessed ♥Q to west's ♥K. West returned ♠5.

With no other entries should east win or hold off, hoping that west can get in again to lead back the ♠3? East guessed correctly and took the ♠Q keeping N/S to 11 tricks and scoring 23/34 matchpoints. IF North was counting, the 12 tricks are there if he simply returns a spade at trick 2! He doesn't need the heart finesse. 6 clubs, 3 diamonds, 1 heart and 2 spades!

at the 2 LEVEL

♠ J75		
♥ KQ87		
♦ K75		
♣ Q107		
♠ A96	♠ 108	
♥ J6	♥ 532	
♦ Q10842	♦ J93	
♣ K862	♣ A543	
♠ KQ432		
♥ A1094		
♦ A6		
♣ J9		
	S	N
	1S	2C
	2H	4H

After a 1♠ opening from south, north can make the natural bid of 2NT which shows PRECISELY 3-4-3-3 shape with 11/12 pts. BUT if you play Jacoby 2NT, you are completely stuck for a bid. The ONLY bid available to you is 2♣.

This is not alertable and your partner will expect you to have four clubs.

If opener bids a 2nd suit, even clubs, he must have five spades so bid 3♠. If opener rebids 2NT you can still show the 3 card support for spades in case opener is 5-3-3-2

at the 3 LEVEL

♠ J9		
♥ KJ6		
♦ AQ1086		
♣ 852		
♠ A76	♠ 532	
♥ 874	♥ A10532	
♦ J543	♦ 9	
♣ J107	♣ K643	
♠ KQ1084		
♥ Q8		
♦ K72		
♣ AQ9		
	S	N
	1S	2D
	3C	3NT

After 1♠ from south, north bids 2♦. With 10+ pts in the north hand, south must 'reverse' to show game values (15+). South *could* simply bid 2NT or 3NT, but it's possible that north has no heart stop and 3 card support for spades.

Is there a better bid? Well as outlined above a bid of 3♣ *would* be forcing *and* show the stop in clubs. Now with 3 good hearts, and only two spades, north can comfortably bid 3NT.

On another day this might happen

S	N
1S	2D
2NT	3NT

♠	
♥	
♦	
♣	

♠ 532	
♥ A10532	
♦ J5	
♣ J43	

♠	
♥	
♦	
♣	

as DIRECT SUPPORT TO MAJOR

♠ J75		
♥ 87		
♦ K7542		
♣ Q107		
♠ A96	♠ 108	
♥ J106	♥ KQ532	
♦ Q108	♦ AJ93	
♣ K862	♣ 43	
♠ KQ432		
♥ A94		
♦ 6		
♣ AJ95		
	S	N
	1S	2S
	P	P

With 6-9 points north cannot bid a new suit at the 2 level. 1NT, the dustbin bid, looks obvious but perhaps 2♠ is better. East is unlikely to overcall 3♥ but may very well enter the auction at the 2 level if you bid respond 1NT. Then you may have to compete to 3♠ when west supports hearts.

Remember to open 1♠ partner will have either 5 spades or 15+ pts. IF he has 17+ with only four spades, he would rebid 2NT.