

Over Opponents 1 No Trump Opener

Change Log

11/5/12 Added discussion of Meckwell
(1NT)-X-(P)-2♣; (P)-2NT for big 2 suited hand

Strong Notrump Defense: Meckwell

Double is a transfer to ♣, showing either a single suited hand with ♣, a hand with both majors, or a strong hand with an undisclosed 5+ card suit (typically 6+)

2♣ shows ♣ and a major

2♦ shows ♦ and a major (2♥ is pass or correct)

2♥ shows both majors

2♠ is a ♠ one suiter

2NT shows the minors

3♣ natural, preemptive

3♦ natural, preemptive

Meckwell continuations:

After 1NT-Double (a transfer to ♣, showing either a single suited hand with ♣, a hand with both majors, or a strong hand with an undisclosed 5+ card suit), responder will typically bid 2♣ unless they have no tolerance for ♣ and a self-sufficient suit of their own.

Opener's rebids after 1NT-Double-pass-2♣(forced)-Pass are as follows:

Pass - ♣ one suiter

2♦ - ♦ one suiter

2♥ - both majors

2♠, 3♣/♦/♥ - strong one suiter

A rebid of 2NT shows a strong two suiter, responder should bid 3♣ to ask overcaller to show their suits. (added 11/5/12)

If responder bids 2♦/♥/♠ rather than 2♣, they are showing their own suit to play.

Responder ignores doubles of 2♣.

After 1NT-Double(Meckwell)-Pass-2♣(Forced)

-Pass-2♥(both majors)

Pass is to play

2♠ is to play

2NT shows invitational or better values

3♣/♦/♥/♠ are to play

Over a double, redouble asks for better major, 2♥/♠ are to play.

If responder has invitational or better values, a 2NT response can be used.

The 2NT response may be delayed if the invitational values depend on what type of hand the overcaller has (e.g. ♠Kxxx ♥Axxx ♦KQxxx ♣ void, would not have invitational values after 1NT-Double-Pass-2♣, but would bid 2NT after 1NT-Double-2♣-2♦/♥)

The 2NT asking bid can be used directly over the Meckwell Double.

After 1NT-X(Meckwell)-Pass-2NT(asking bid):

3♣ shows a ♣ one suiter, minimum

3♦ shows a ♦ one suiter, minimum,

3♥ shows the majors

3♠ shows a strong hand with ♠

3NT shows a one suited undisclosed minor with extra values

4♣/♦ show a one suiter distributional hand with extras

After 1NT-X(Meckwell)-Pass-2♣(forced)

Pass-2♥(majors)-Pass-2NT:

3♣ better ♥

3♦ better ♠

3♥ 5-5 weak

3♠ 5-5 extras

3NT 4-4 extras

After 1NT-2♣(♣ and a major), responder bids:

2♦ asks the major

2♥/♠ is to play

3♦ directly is natural with invitational values

Redouble asks for the major; Pass, 2♦/♥/♠ are to play.

After 1NT-2♣(♣ and a M)-2♦(transfer to ♥), Double shows desire to compete (typically showing ♣ and ♠).

With invitational or better values, after

1NT-2♣(♣ and a major)-Pass-2♦(which major?)

-2M-Pass-2NT(invitational or better):

3♣ shows a bad hand

3♦ shows a ♥ splinter

3 other M shows a ♦ splinter

3M shows 5 of the major

3NT good hand with 4M

After 1NT-2♦ (♦ and a major), responder bids:

Pass is to play

2♥ is pass or correct

2♠, 3♣/♦ are to play

Over a double, redouble asks for the major, 2♥/♠ are to play.

Responder with an invitational or better hand can bid 2NT as an asking bid.

After 1NT-2♣/♦-Pass-2NT(asking bid):

3♣ shows 4♥

3♦ shows 4♠

3♥ shows 5+♥

4♠ shows 5+♠

Over Opponents Weak No Trump Defense (13-15 or below): Bergen

Double = Penalty

2♣ = transfer to ♦, unspecified one suiter

2♦ = 4+/5+ two suiter, ♦ and a higher ranking suit

2♥ = majors 4+/5+

2♠ = natural (weaker than going thru transfer sequence)

2NT = minors (5+/5+)

If opponents double 2♦:

Redouble asks partner to bid their second suit.

2♦/♥/♠ is natural, non-forcing, shows no interest in the DONT suits.

If opponents bid at the two level over 2♦:

Double asks partner to bid their second suit.

Other minor/♥/♠ is natural, non-forcing, shows no interest in the DONT suits.

3m is competitive

If opponents bid over 2♥:

Double is penalty (no need for takeout since both suits are known)

3♥/♠ is competitive.

If opponents redouble the DONT double:

Pass asks partner to bid their suit.

2♦/♥/♠ are non-forcing, natural, showing no interest in partners suit.

If opponents bid over the DONT double:

Double shows some points and support for the unbid suits, and asks partner to bid their suit (may be converted to penalty if the opponents

have bid the DONT suit).

In general, redoubles are SOS and doubles are takeout.
(Note the exception with a 2♥ DONT bid where doubles are penalty).

If there is game interest (rare) over 2♣, partner bids 2NT.

The DONT bidder responds:

3♣ - minimum hand

3♦ - a maximum hand with the minors (game forcing)

3♥/♠ - a maximum hand with ♣ and the bid major (game forcing)s

2NT after a 2♦ DONT bid:

3♣ = minimum with ♦ & ♥

3♦ = minimum with ♦ & ♠

3♥ = maximum with ♦ & ♥

3♠ = maximum with ♦ & ♠

2NT after a 2♥ DONT bid:

3♣ = minimum with a ♥ preference

3♦ = minimum with a ♠ preference

3♥ = maximum with a ♥ preference

3♠ = maximum with a ♠ preference

Over competition, the structure is similar to DONT except that the 2♣ sequence is similar to a DONT double, and after a double of 1NT, doubles by partner are penalty oriented.