

Fifth Chair



Defensive bidding after Unusual NT

Courtesy of Stan and Louise Dorn

Over unusual No Trump bids the partner of the opening bidder has some decisions to make and finds it difficult to describe his hand. His first thought should be to ask himself if he holds an OFFENSIVE hand or a DEFENSIVE hand.

The following are some of the defensive bids to the Unusual No Trump.

PARTNER 1 OPPONENT 2NT You hold:

xx Axxx Kxxxx Kx

This is a defensive hand. DOUBLE! The double says that you are prepared to punish one of the minors. Now partner with

Akxxx Kxx x Qjxx

is able to cooperate. If the responder bids 3C, he must double this to tell you he can defend against this contract, and if 3D is the call, you are prepared to double that.

UNUSUAL OVER UNUSUAL

Partner 1 Opp 2NT You hold:

Qxx Axxx xx Kjxx

Bid 3D This is unusual over unusual. Certainly you have NO desire to play 3D in view of the bidding. Thus bidding the higher of their suits shows a limit raise or better in spades.

Partner can now make an intelligent decision. He can sign off in three spades or bid 4 if his hand warrants it.

What do you do when partner opens 1H and there is a 2NT overcall? You have a limit raise or better in hearts. Bid 3C.

It's the same principle. The lower of their suits shows the lower major.

How about when partner opens 1 and opponent overcalls 2NT? Now you have hearts and an invitational or better hand:

Ax Akxxx xx xxxx

Again the lower suit shows the lower major. 3C says "I have an invitational hand or better in hearts." Partner can now make an informed judgment.

So what does 3D show over 1S - 2NT? This would be a competitive raise of spades, the top of a 1S 2S raise.

What would 1S - 2NT 4S show?

Certainly not a limit raise or better-we have unusual over unusual for that hand-so it must be preemptive.

Axxxx xxxxx x xx or

Axxxx Qxxx x xxx

The same hand that you would have raised 1S to 4's if they had not bid. Let's try 1 2NT (for 's and 's) 3NT by you. It can't be unusual, so it is to play.

It might look like: x Kqx Kxx KQJxxx

THESE BIDS KEEP YOU FROM GETTING SHUT OUT OF THE AUCTION BY DISRUPTIVE CALLS. WHEN YOU HAVE A BAD HAND PASS IS AVAILABLE!

UNUSUAL OVER UNUSUAL QUIZ

1 2NT

1} 2} 3) 4}

Qxxx xx xxx Kxx

Axxxx Kxxx Qxxx Kxxx

Ax AQxxx Kxx Kx

Ax Ax xxx xxxx

1} 3D Shows limit raise or better in Spades

2} Double-I am prepared to punish one of the minors. This does not prevent partner from bidding out his pattern. He may rebid spades or bid hearts. If so you should be happy to bid game in either case.

3} PASS

4} 3S -I have the top of a 2 call=Competitive!

.....

1C 2NT (shows Hearts and Diamonds-2 lower)

1}	2}	3}	4}
Axx	Ax	xx	KQJxxx
xx	x	Ax	xx
xxx	xxx	KJx	Ax
Kxxxx	QJxxxxx	KQxxxx	Kxx

1] 3C Strictly competitive

2] 5C Preemptive. This would not be considered a defensive hand, right?

3] 3NT Looks right to me.

4] Does 3C look right? I don't think so. It doesn't give enough value to this hand. I would want to get to game on this hand. My choice would be 3H. A limit hand or better in Spades. I think 3 spades would be competitive and not forcing in light of the auction.