

Defense Method to Unusual No Trump Over a Major Suit

In the case of a 2 No Trump immediate overcall following a Major suit opening by partner, showing both Minor suits, the responder should be able to rely upon a pre-agreed method in combating this overcall.

As with many conventional defense methods employed in competition there must also be defense methods to defense methods. This topic has been mentioned and addressed in various bridge publications regarding continuances.

We would like to present the following course of action proposed by several partnerships, which guarantees an informative and communicable means of conveying important information to the partner with the continuances.

It must also be noted that there are other defense methods to an overcall of 2 No Trump, or the Unusual No Trump conventional defense method, and that the following in no way constitutes the only possible defense method. The following is only a suggestion and a recommended possibility.

Continuances Following Unusual No Trump After 1 Heart

Opener	Opponent	Responder	Meaning
1 ♥	2 NT	Double	This is generally considered a penalty double. The responder has no support for the suit of partner.
		3 ♣	Promises a good to solid raise in Hearts, showing a maximum of 8 Losing Tricks.
		3 ♦	Promises <i>working</i> values in Spades such as: ♠ KQ876 minimum. The length of the suit is normally considered to be a minimum of 5 cards. Additional values must be present in order to bid on the three level, i.e. 10 plus points.
		3 ♥	Per agreement this direct or partner's suit should show weak values, and showing generally 8.5 to 9 Losing Tricks.
		3 ♠	Guarantees <i>working</i> values in a minimum 6-card plus Spade suit, such as ♠ KQJ854. Sufficient values should be present to bid on the three level. This response is considered non-forcing; partner may pass.
		3 NT	This response is to play.

- 4 ♣ Shows 3-4 card support for Hearts. Since the opponent has shown both Minor suits, then this first response is logically a splinter bid in Clubs showing either a singleton or a void. This is a mild slam try in Hearts.
- 4 ♦ Shows 3-4 card support for Hearts. Since the opponent has shown both Minor suits, then this first response is logically a splinter bid in Diamonds showing either a singleton or a void. This is a mild slam try in Hearts.

Continuances Following Unusual No Trump After 1 Spade

Although the continuing response are similar to the first responses when the opening bid by partner is 1 Heart, the responses are slightly different following an opening of 1 Spade.

Opener	Opponent	Responder	Meaning
1 ♠	2 NT	Double	This is generally considered a penalty double. The responder has no support for the suit of partner.
		3 ♣	Promises <i>working</i> values in Hearts such as: ♥ KQ876 minimum. The length of the suit is normally considered to be a minimum of 5 cards. Additional values must be present in order to bid on the three level, i.e. 10 plus points.
		3 ♦	Promises a good to solid raise in Spades, showing a maximum of 8 Losing Tricks.
		3 ♥	Guarantees <i>working</i> values in a minimum 6-card plus Heart suit, such as ♥ KQJ854. Sufficient values should be present to bid on the three level. This response is considered non-forcing; partner may pass.
		3 ♠	Per agreement this direct or partner's suit should show weak values, and showing generally 8.5 to 9 Losing Tricks.
		3 NT	This response is to play.
		4 ♣	Shows 3-4 card support for Spades. Since the opponent has shown both Minor suits, then this first response is logically a splinter bid in Clubs showing either a singleton or a void. This is a mild slam try in Spades.
		4 ♦	Shows 3-4 card support for Spades. Since the opponent has shown both Minor suits, then this first response is logically a splinter bid in Diamonds showing either a singleton or a void. This is a mild slam try in Spades.