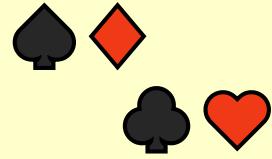


# Bridge on Sundays



## Defences to 1 NT Opening

The weak no-trump is so popular that it is expedient to try to overcall it as often as possible, with sensible values.

### The usual defence:

- Double with one more point than the top of the opponent's 1NT range or if on lead with a long suit, expecting to make 7 tricks or more.
- With a 12-14 range, double with balanced hands with 15 or more points.

Against a strong NT, competing is much more difficult.

### How many points do you need to bid a suit?

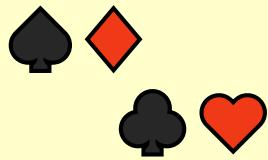
8-14 is the usual range.

### Conventions to compete against a 12-14/15 NT opening

There are very many conventions and only a few can be considered here.

- Natural overcalls  
 $2\clubsuit/\diamondsuit/\clubsuit/\spadesuit$  are all natural bids, showing a 5 card suit (or more)  
Responses are natural and change of suit is forcing for 1 round
- The Landy convention  
 $2\clubsuit$  shows both major suits, preferably 5-4 or better, though many players play this as 4-4.  
 $2\diamondsuit/\heartsuit/\clubsuit$  show a 5 card suit in the suit named  
With a weak hand, you may have to give preference to the major if partner overcalls with  $2\clubsuit$   
There are quite a few variations on this convention. Some use the  $2\diamondsuit$  bid to show an unspecified 6 card suit

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- **Astro/Apstro**

- 2♣ shows hearts and another suit
- 2♦ shows spades and another suit
- 2♥/♠ show a 5 card suit without another suit

It works better if the so-called anchor major is 5 cards. However, holding 5 hearts and 4 spades many players bid 2♦.

Responses:

- With less than 3 cards in the *anchor* major, bid the next suit up.
- With 3 or more cards, then bid the major at the appropriate level.
- Over partner's bid of 2♣/♦, then bid 2NT if you are good enough to play at the 3 level and need to know the other suit.

## Comparisons

- Natural overcalls are uncomplicated but give no indication if there is a second biddable suit.
- Landy works best for showing both majors, though you may play in a 4-3 fit.
- Astro works well for 5-4 hands, but less well for both majors.

Other named conventions: Sharples, Ripstra, Cansino