



## 9/2/15: Bidding NT after Partner Intervenes

When we have a balanced hand and get to make the opening bid, we pretty much know the bid or sequence of bids to make to show the various point ranges. They've come up often enough that we've memorized them. We've probably also settled on a range for a balancing 1NT.

But what about when an opponent opens and partner intervenes with an overcall or takeout double. Do we remember what 1NT, 2NT and 3NT mean? Have we discussed these NT advances with partner and come to an agreement? Are the advancing NT High Card Point (HCP) ranges the same for an overcall as for a takeout double?

No, they are not. Why is that? The answer lies in the minimum requirements to overcall and to make a takeout double. Typically, an overcall can be made on as few as 8 HCP whereas a T.O. double has a minimum of about 10 HCP and is usually an opening hand.

Given those minimums and an inability to raise the overcall, especially if it's a major, or bid a 4-card major after a T.O. double, we can recommend the following HCP structure to advance in NT:

after partner's overcall: 1NT = 8-11, 2NT = 12-15, 3NT = 16+

after partner's T.O. Db! : 1NT = 8-10, 2NT = 11-12, 3NT = 13+

There is, of course, an additional requirement for bidding NT. You hold one or more stoppers in the opponent's suit.