

## RIGHT HAND OPPONENT OVERCALLS 1NT

Your partner opens the bidding 1 of a suit and your right hand opponent overcalls 1NT.

When your partner has opened 1 of a suit and your R. H. O. has overcalled 1NT, 28-30 of the HCP have been accounted for – an opener in partner's hand and 15-17 in the opponent's hand. There are only about 10HCP left between your hand and the opponent to your left. Keeping in that in mind, I would recommend the following:

1. When you have 10 pts (or maybe even 8 with a good suit) you should double the opponent. LHO will have virtually no points and 1NT will be impossible to make. Your double is a Penalty Double. Your partner should pass.
2. When you have 0-6 points, you are happy that they came into the bidding, you pass.
3. When you have 6-8 points and no 5 card suit, it rarely pays to try to discover a bid For your side. Most often you won't find one and you'll play the contract too high.
4. When you have 6/(8) pts. And a 5 card suit or longer, you can bid it. It's good to compete. Partner will know that you don't have a strong hand (or else you would have doubled) and will pass your 2 level bid.

6 Questions for you: What's your bid?

1. Partner opens 1Diamond, RHO bids 1NT – you hold: AK1052 J1083 8 K65
2. Partner opens 1 Club, RHO bids 1NT – you hold: K103 Q94 AJ1095 Q10
3. Partner opens 1 Spade, RHO bids 1NT – you hold: 53 QJ1074 A92 1083
4. Partner opens 1 Diamond, RHO bids 1NT – you hold: K743 QJ82 105 983
5. Partner opens 1 Diamond, RHO bids 1NT – you hold: A74 J5 52 J107642
6. Partner opens 1 Diamond, RHO bids 1NT – you hold: AJ5 32 97 QJ10876

A763  
82 Pass  
KJ85 3 Diamonds  
Q105

10954		KQJ	DEALER – 1 Heart
K106	2 Hearts	AQJ75	Pass
763	Pass	104	Pass
A72	Pass	963	

82  
943 Pass  
AQ92 2 NT  
KJ84 Pass

Allowing the opponents to play at the 2 level when they have found a fit is a NO – NO! You should either balance with your long suit if you have one, or with a balancing double, asking partner to pick one of the other 3 suits. On this hand, South doesn't have a 5 card suit to bid and doesn't want to double and hear North (partner) bid spades. South bids 2NT, asking partner to bid 3 club or 3 diamonds. (2 Hearts makes, 3 Diamonds also makes, and 3 Hearts goes down).

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Question? You hold: AK1094 10986 A5 64 What's your bid?

Open 1 Spade. Whenever you have 11 HCP with a good 5 card suit or your 11 pts. Are made up of an A and a joined AK, you should open the hand. Opening the bidding is a good thing for your side because, even if the hand doesn't belong to you, you have interfered with the opponent's bidding. If partner bids 1NT, you should bid 2 Hearts, non-forcing. This is a pass or correct.

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Bridge bidding seeks to answer two questions: Where should you play this hand, and how high should you go? For every hand, identify whether it is balanced or unbalanced, classify it as minimum, medium or maximum, and remember to reevaluate as the bidding continues. With only 15 words to describe more than 13 billion combinations of cards, it's no wonder that the story isn't always easy to tell. But it's important to remember the purpose of an auction: you have a story to listen to and a story to tell.

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