

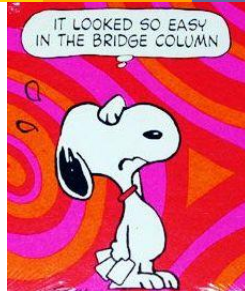
Competitive Bidding - Weak No Trump (12-14)



Weak No Trump (12-14) Tournament Series #17

www.bridgewebs.com/borderlinebridge

Weak No Trump Opening Valuation



1 No Trump Opening - In the very beginning, before Charles Goren, before Vanderbilt, a "1 No Trump" opening bid was 12-14 hcp.

There are many different ranges for a 1NT opening, 10-12; 11-14; 13-15; 14-16; 16-18; Some vary their NT range based on Vulnerability and bidding seat. Today, the most common hcp range is 15-17. However, many choose to play a weak No Trump; common range of 12-14 hcp.

The advantage of the weak 1 No Trump range is that it describes your hand, flat distribution and point range, while pre-empting the opponents out of the one level.

It makes it just a little bit tougher for Left Hand Opponent to bid as the weak lead directing overcall is eliminated because a 2 level over call generally shows opening count values.

A "1 No Trump over call" is still 16-18 with "stoppers".

The Weak No Trump should only be played with established partnerships. Regular partnerships will not find it difficult to incorporate the weak no trump into their system...However, there are too many variations that incorporate many different bidding systems for casual partnerships.

Recommended Reading "The Weak No Trump - How to Play It, How to Play Against it" by Andy Stark. This book should be read by all tournament players. It will teach you bidding and defense against the Weak No Trump.

Jacoby Transfers

Some play transfers ON over a weak No Trump and some play transfers OFF over a weak No Trump. Originally under Goren, a bid of 2♦/♥/♠ was weak and asked the No Trump bidder to PASS. Many partnerships play TRANSFERS OFF, with a 2 level response as weak and a demand PASS. The choice is up to you and your partner.

A flat hand is any hand without a singleton or void and at most 1 doubleton. Most weak No Trump bidders include a 5 card major (including ♠) in their weak 1 No Trump.

As you are aware, most would bid "1 No Trump", with a 15-17 hcp range, with 5♥, as the re-bid problems of a 1♠ response to a 1♥ opening bid are troublesome with 15-17 hcps. Therefore, to also include a 5 card ♠ suit when opening a weak No Trump when describing a flat hand is very appropriate.

You can and should still play STAYMAN in response to a weak No Trump. The difference is that you adjust the hcps needed to respond. If with a 15-17 hcp range you need 8 hcps for STAYMAN (as 17+8 totals game values) with a weak 12-14 hcp range you need 11 hcps for STAYMAN (as 14+11 totals game values). Whatever your hcp range for opening 1 No Trump, adjust STAYMAN accordingly.

The tricky part...

What do you do with a 15-17 hcp hand, the hand that would have been 1NT normally? Open at the 1 level with the convenient minor or 5 card major and Re-bid 1NT to show 15-17 hcps. If 1NT is not available because partner made a 2/1 bid, there is no problem as you are forced to game and can show your extra values through traditional bidding.

As a rule, "conventions" are OFF over bids and ON over doubles of No Trump openers. However, you and partner can agree that a double of 2♣ is Stayman and if you play "Transfers", they are still on over 2♣ interference.

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|
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| #2 - Six Basic Conventions | #12 - Blackwood |
| #3 - Play of the Hand | #13 - Cue-bids |
| #4 - Defense | #14 - Flannery |
| #5 - Intermediate Bidding | #15 - Carding |
| #6 - Advanced (Two over One) | #16 - Four Suit Transfers |
| #7 - Stayman and Transfers | #17 - Weak No Trump |
| #8 - Lebensohl | #18 - Wolf Sign-off & XYZ |
| #9 - Doubles and Overcalls | #19 - Unusual/NMF/4SF |
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Dude, this is a fishing trip. Can you stop playing bridge for 1 day

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Thursday Noon - Ameriprise Financial Bldg
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Wednesday 7pm - MB Bridge Centre
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Thursday 1pm - (0 - 200) Temple Shalom
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Saturday 12:30pm - MB Bridge Centre
Swiss Teams
Director - Bill and Sue Treble (204) 669-1458

Defense to the Weak NT and Strong ♣ Bidding Options



There is no simple solution for bidding and competing against a weak 1 No Trump. However, if you are vacillating between bidding or passing - tend to bid. It's a bidder's game, not that bidding will always work. Sometimes you will go for a number, but a weak No Trump does not rule out game for your side, as compared to a strong NT.

Use Constructive Bidding over a weak No Trump. Over call with opening values and 5 card suits. Do not use obstructive bidding systems like DONT. When the opponents have opened a weak No Trump, it could easily be your side's hand. Simply being obstructive when it is your hand is not effective.

When incorporating the Weak No Trump into your bidding system, it is recommended that you keep as many bids the same as you have them now. If you use "transfers", keep "transfers" in your weak No Trump system. It's easy to remember that way!

If double of a 2♣ overcall is Stayman with transfers still on, keep it that way. If you use 4 way transfers with a 2♠ range ask, keep it that way. If 3♣/♦ are invitational over 1NT and 3♥/♠ show a fragment with at least 5/4 in the minors, keep it that way. Simply adjust your hcp range by adding 3 hcp for bids, since 12-14 is 3 hcp less than 15-17 hcp.

Double is for Penalty

Double shows any good hand with 14+ hcp. You have an easy lead and a source of tricks (a 5 card suit). Since the weak 1NT is 12-14, partner should PASS with 5 or more hcp.

Since partner will PASS with 5 hcp, it is imperative that the partner who doubles has a "good" 14, not a flat 4/3/3/3 with quacks. Keep it simple.

Cappelletti can work against the weak No Trump,

- ✓ 2♣ shows a one-suited hand (usually 6 or more cards)
- ✓ Partner is expected to bid 2♦ with a weak hand, which the over-caller can correct to his long suit, or bid 2 of a Major if he has a good 5 or 6 card suit, or bid 2NT with a strong hand, (over-caller bids the suit)
- ✓ 2♦ shows both major suits (at least 5-4 or 4-5)
- ✓ 2♥ shows hearts and a minor (at least 5-4 or 4-5)
- ✓ 2♠ shows spades and a minor (at least 5-4 or 4-5)
- ✓ 2NT shows both minor suits (at least 5-5)
- ✓ Double is penalty

Double is penalty with Cappelletti, which is very important against a weak NT - you need to punish the weak No Trumpers when they step into it!

The Strong ♣

The WEAK 1 No Trump is often played with the STRONG ♣, but it doesn't have to be.

It may seem counter intuitive, but when the opponents open a WEAK No Trump, you need to be CONSTRUCTIVE in your bids and have values.

On the other hand, when the Opponents open a STRONG ♣, you need to be DESTRUCTIVE in your bids by bidding your distribution and getting in their face, especially at favorable vulnerability.

Not recommended by the pros...they would laugh at this!

When frustrated by the Weak No Trump and you decide to do a crap shoot...this could work in pairs, but not in teams; the opponents will have time to figure it out

- ✓ 2♣ says your ♣ are better than your ♦ and you have a 5 card major
- ✓ 2♦ says same thing - ♦ are better than your ♣ and you have a 5 card major
- ✓ 2♥ says you have 4♥ and a longer minor
- ✓ 2♠ says you have 4♠ and a longer minor
- ✓ 2NT is for the minors
- ✓ Double is for a single suit, or both majors or a Strong NT

This can be a lot of fun!

MOHAN is recommended by Andy Stark

MOHAN - a very short course - *read the book!*

When partner Doubles a weak NT, pretend partner opened 1NT and use all of your systems both in the direct and balancing seats. A balancing seat Double is just as strong as a direct seat Double. (An easy lead, a source of tricks - 5 card suit, and more hcp than the 1 No Trump (12-14).

If RHO bids over the double

- ✓ DOUBLE is values and shortness in the opponent's suit
- ✓ PASS is values, but 3+ cards in the opponent's suit
- ✓ SUIT BID is a weak hand, not suitable for defense

Partner's Overcall of 1NT - advancer response

- 2♣ = Both Majors - equal length bid 2♦, else longest
- 2♦ = Transfer to ♥ - super accept is invitational to game
- 2♥ = Transfer to ♠ - super accept is invitational to game
- 2♠ = ♣ and a Minor-2NT asks for the minor
- 2NT = Both Minors - Pick one

Overcalls at the 3 level

- 3♣/♦ = Good hand, 6+ card suit
- 3♥/♠ = Typical 3 level pre-empt

After a DOUBLE all PASSES are FORCING. It is your intention to buy the contract cheaply because the opponents have the balance of power or to DOUBLE the opponents at the 2 level because you have the balance of power and a trump stack.