



Acol Weak 1NT Opening – A Reminder

Point Range: 12 or 13 or 14 HCPs; Shape Balanced

Under English regulations the opener's partner must announce the agreed strength, so typically they would say "Twelve to Fourteen".

An opening 1NT is assumed to be balanced, some players may use it with a five-card major.

Opponents open 1NT to force you to go to the 2 level if you come into the auction. This can be daunting. But sometimes you will have something to say...



A Simple "Defence"

Competing with a Shapely (Unbalanced) Hand

A suit overcall at the two level normally promises an opening hand, at least five cards in the suit bid, and "quality" in the suit bid.

2♥ is a sensible overcall.

♠ K Q J 10
♥ K Q 9 5 4 3
♦ 3
♣ 7 4

Competing with a Strong, Balanced hand

With a strong (16-18 high card point), balanced hand, you double your opponents opening 1NT. This double is NOT a take out double.

♠ K Q 10 8
♥ K Q 10 8
♦ A 9
♣ A 8 7





There are many, more sophisticated, methods

A quick check on the internet revealed 65 different approaches to this one problem.

You will find champions of each and may find yourself playing against opponents using an unfamiliar one.





Remember that, at your turn to bid, if you need to know, you can ask and keep asking until you understand their method.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Wikipedia article "List of defenses to 1NT". The browser's address bar shows the URL "en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_defenses_to_1NT". The article content includes a list of defensive conventions such as ANTI, Aspro, Aspro, Modified Aspro, Pinpoint Astro, Grano-Astro, Roth-Stone Astro, Astrotel, Becker, Bergen over 1NT, Blue Club transfers, Broze, Cansino, Canape transfers, Cappelletti, CDH Buchanan, CHASM, Comfy Canape, CRASH, and Crowhurst convention. It also lists references and further reading.



Multi Landy

A method that covers most situations and is fairly easy to remember. Over the opening 1NT, with at least an opening quality hand, overcalls are as follows:

<u>Overcall</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Double	A strong balanced hand (19+ HCP vs. <u>strong no-trumps</u> , and 15+ HCP vs. <u>weak no-trumps</u>).
2♣ 	At least 5-4 or 4-5 in hearts and spades. (This is the Landy aspect of the convention.)
2♦ 	6 hearts or spades (rarely 5) without a side suit. (This is the Multi aspect.)
2♥ 	5 hearts and a 4+ card minor. (This is the Cappelletti aspect.)
2♠ 	5 spades and a 4+ card minor. (This is also the Cappelletti aspect.)
2NT 	At least 5-5 in clubs and diamonds.



Responding to Multi Landy Overcalls 2♣

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2♣	 Pass	?

The Multi Landy 2♣ overcall is artificial and must be alerted.

It is also forcing showing 5:4 holding in the majors.

West should bid any longer major.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2♣	 Pass	2♥

♠ Q J 10
 ♥ Q 9 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 4 3
 ♣ 7 4

With no preference (equal length, or 3:2 in the majors) West bids 2♦ asking East to bid the five-card major.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2♣	 Pass	2♦ 

♠ Q J 10 9
 ♥ Q 9 5 4
 ♦ 5 4 3
 ♣ 7 4



Responding to Multi Landy Overcalls 2♦

The Multi Landy 2♦ overcall is artificial and must be alerted.

It shows a six+ holding in one of the majors.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2♦	 Pass	?

West always responds 2♥.


<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2♦	 Pass	2♥ 

♠	Q J 10
♥	Q 9 5
♦	5 4 3
♣	7 4 3 2

If asked, West explains it's a "pass or correct" bid. East will pass if the long suit is hearts, but will bid spades otherwise.



Responding to Multi Landy Overcalls 2♥/♠

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	
1NT	2♥/2♠		Pass	?

The Multi Landy 2♥/♠ overcall has extra meaning and must be alerted. It shows a five-card suit in the bid major AND a four or more card minor suit. It is not forcing.

West should pass or raise the major with at least three cards, and suitable HCPs.

♠ Q J 10
 ♥ Q 9 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 4 3
 ♣ A K

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2♥		Pass
			4♥

With no fit and length in the minors West bids 2NT asking East to bid the minor suit intending to pass.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2♥		Pass
			2NT
			

♠ Q J 10 9
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K 5 4 3
 ♣ Q J 7 4



Responding to Multi Landy Overcalls 2NT

The 2NT overcall shows both minors, at least 5:5. It is forcing.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2NT 	Pass	?

West must bid the better minor.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	2NT 	Pass	3♣

♠ Q J 10
♥ Q 9 5
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 6



Responding to Multi Landy Overcalls X

The Multi Landy double is a strong balanced hand. It's recommended to be at least 2HCP better than the top of the range of opening 1NT. It's not forcing.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	X	Pass	?

West makes a decision based on his strength and shape and the vulnerability.