



## The 1NT Opening Bid Shows:

### Example

12, 13 or 14 High Card Points

No Voids or Singletons

Maximum of one Doubleton

No Five Card Major

♠	K 3 2
♥	A 9 8
♦	K Q 7 5
♣	9 8 7

## Competing against one no trump opening

You need shape or points, preferably both because the 1NT opening forces any interference to be at the 2 level

With a really impressive (long) suit

If you have a long suit (5 cards and two honours or 6 cards and one honour or 7+ cards) to overcall a suit at the two level (2) you need...

Non Vulnerable

Vulnerable

10-14 HCP

13-16 HCP

With a powerful balanced hand

If you have 16-18 HCP X  
a balanced, and  
strong hand: balanced

♠	A 3 2
♥	K Q 8
♦	A 10 7 5
♣	K 8 7



## Defence to one no trump opening doubled

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

If the opener has, say, 13 HCP, and the doubler has, say, 17 HCP, the other two hands have 10 HCP between them. If opener's partner finds 5 HCP or less in his hand, a partnership total maximum 18, and a strong hand seated in the direct position looming over his partner's cards.

The Pair are in trouble!

Partnerships choose various levels of defence to this worrying situation!

## Without an Agreed Defence

All systems are "off". No Stayman or Transfers

If the responder has a five-card suit, they bid it. Any suit bid at the two level is a Weak Take Out; opener should pass.

If responder has a balanced hand, pass and hope for the best. They may well be beaten in 1NTX and give away many points.

Some possible defensive methods are given below.

It's intended that you and your partner make your choice of them, and that you will understand other pairs using these methods. There are still more around!

If it's too much just pick out what makes sense to you.



## A Simple (and Common) Defence – XX = “SOS”

All systems are “off”. No Stayman or Transfers

If the responder has a five-card suit, they bid it. Any suit (including Clubs) bid at the two level is a Weak Take Out and is passed by opener. If responder has a balanced hand with at least 7 HCP, pass intending to take on the 1NT doubled. So, in this case a pass is strong and not forcing.

If responder is weak (less than seven HCP), and balanced, redouble (XX), asking partner to bid their lowest ranking four card suit. If responder has four cards in their suit, or even a decent three card suit, pass, otherwise bid the next suit up the line. The idea is to find some kind of fit. Often, if the partnership looks like it has found a fit, the opposition will come into the auction.

This is one step up from no defence. It lets opener know that a pass means it's possible to tolerate the doubled 1NT, whereas the redouble shows some kind of fit needs to be sought and hopefully found.



## The Staveley Wriggle

The Staveley Wriggle This is an escape convention, for use when 1NT is doubled for penalties. The system allows you to escape to a five-card or longer suit, and also allows the partnership to show two four-card suits: diamonds and hearts, diamonds and spades, or hearts and spades.

The disadvantage of this convention is that it cannot show a pair of four-card suits including clubs. But against that, it allows you to play a natural redouble.

For more details, see:

[http://www.bridgebum.com/staveley\\_wriggle.php](http://www.bridgebum.com/staveley_wriggle.php)

The version of the wriggle, as detailed in Acol in Competition, by Eric Crowhurst, is: After 1NT has been doubled

- Bid 2♣, when that is doubled, redouble to show diamonds and hearts.
- Bid 2♣, when that is doubled, bid 2♦ to show diamonds and spades.
- Bid 2♣, when that is doubled, bid 2♥ to show five hearts and four spades.
- Bid 2♦, when that is doubled, redouble to show equal length in hearts and spades.



## Halmic Defence To 1NT Doubled -Responder's Rescue

The idea of the Halmic defence is that Responder uses the full range of possible calls to send the opener as much information as possible and give the partnership the best chance of finding the best contract.

Responder has a weak hand single-suited (i.e. 5 or more cards) hand

With a weak hand and any 5-card (or more) suit, responder wants to do a "weak take out" and shows this with a re-double. Opener must alert the redouble and, at his turn, must bid 2♣, and responder then "passes or corrects" to the relevant 5-card suit.

For Example,  
South holds:

♠ 8 5

♥ A 9 5 3 2

♦ J 7 5

♣ 9 5 2

South re-doubles.

Opener must bid  
2♣.

	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	X	XX (Alert)	P
	2♣ (Alert)	P	2♥	P
	P	P		

South then "corrects" to 2♥ - the five-card suit.



Responder has two four card suits (4:4:3:2) and a weak hand.

With a weak hand with two four card suits, responder bids the lower ranking of the suits. Opener should alert. Opener should pass with three-card suit support, or better, to the suit bid. With a doubleton, responder bids his next suit up. This should find at least a 4:3 fit.

For Example,  
South holds:

♠ K 9 6 3

♥ 8 3 2

♦ 7 4

♣ Q 9 5 2

**N**

**E**

**S**

**W**

1NT

X

2♣

P

(Alert)

2♥

P

2♠

P

P

P

For Example,  
North holds:

♠ Q J 3 2

♥ A J 6 5

♦ 9 3 2

♣ K J

The 2♣ bid shows a weak hand with two four card suits, one being clubs and one higher ranking. North shows a four card Heart suit, and South realizes there's a spade fit and bids 2S.



A stronger hand prepared to play in 1NT doubled.

Responder should **pass**. This is agreed to be forcing; opener re-doubles; responder alerts. The re-double is then left in.

For Example,

South holds:

	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
♠ K 9 4	1NT	X	P	P
♥ K 9 3			(Alert)	
♦ Q J 5	XX	P(?)	P	P
♣ 10 9 5 2	(Alert)			

East is now under pressure to find a bid!

A "perfectly balanced" weak hand

With a **weak 4-3-3-3** hand, responder **passes**. Opener must re-double, so partner must Alert this call. Opener re-doubles, and, in this case, responder bids 2♣. Opener should bid any four-card or better suit to play in at least a 4:3 fit.

For Example,  
South holds:

♠ K 8 3  
♥ 9 6 4 2  
♦ J 6 5  
♣ 10 9 7

	N	E	S	W
	1NT	X	P (Alert)	P
	XX (Alert)	P	2♣ (Alert)	P
	2♦	P	P	P

For Example,  
North holds:

♠ Q 4  
♥ A J 3  
♦ Q 9 8 3 2  
♣ K J 4





## A summary of Halmic

### East opens 1NT and South doubles

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

The Halmic method now comes into play – East must remember to alert anything West calls!

<u>West Action</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>East Action</u>
Redouble (XX)	Weak hand with a five or more card suit	Bid 2♣ for partner to pass or to correct.
Suit Bid	A flat, weak, hand, with two four card suits of which the bid suit is the lower ranking.	If you have three cards or more in the bid suit, pass. If you have a doubleton in the bid suit, bid your next four card suit up.
Pass	EITHER Balanced hand with 7+ HCP	Redouble (XX)
Pass	OR	Redouble (XX)

West ActionMeaningEast Action

Perfectly balanced  
hand with <7 HCP

When Partner Passes the Double

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	X	P!

If North bids, then East passes if North Passes, then East redoubles:

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	X	P!
P	XX	P	P

Balanced hand with 7+ HCP

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	X	P!
P	XX	P	2♣

Partner is weak with a 4:3:3:3 shape.  
With four or more clubs, pass,  
Otherwise bid your next four card suit