

Modern Understandings:
Responding to Partner's 1 No
Trump Opening Bid

Responding to an Opening 1 No Trump

- Some of the ways players respond to an opening 1 no trump bid have changed over the past several years.
- These bids have been around, among experts, for a long time.
- Now they are filtering down to some of us, less expert, players.
- We'll take a look at some of them.

How Do You Handle 8 Points?

- I learned that 8 balanced points was an invitational hand.
- But that was when we opened 1 no trump with 16 to 18 hcps.
- Now we open with 15 to 17.
- So you must judge the quality of your 8 points.
 - With some you might pass
 - Some you might invite
 - And with some you might bid game.

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ Q 2

♥ J 7 3 2

♦ K J 7

♣ J 8 4 3

This is a very
downgradeable 8 points.

- No aces.
- Weak 4 card suits.
- Too many quacks
- Poor intermediate cards.

To make 3nt with this hand, partner would have to have a very good 17 points.

Best to pass

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ K 10

♥ 10 9 8

♦ K Q 10 7

♣ 10 8 4 3

This is a pretty good 8
points.

- No aces.
- A Quality 4-card suit.
- Good intermediate cards.

With a reasonably good 17, partner has a good chance to make game.

Best to invite

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ 10 3

♥ 5 3

♦ A 10 9 8 5

♣ A 10 9 5

This is a really good 8
points.

Upgradable.

- Two aces.
- A good 5-card suit..
- Good intermediate cards.

partner has a good play
for game.

Best bid 3 no trump

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ J 10 8 3

♥ A J 3

♦ K 9 8

♣ 10 9 5

9 points and definitely worth a bid

- You might want to start with 2♣, to look for a major suit fit.
- Don't bother.
- When you have 4-3-3-3 distribution, just bid the appropriate level of no trump.

This is an invitational hand..

Best bid 2 no trump

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ J 10 8 3

♥ A J 3

♦ K 9 8

♣ J 10 5

Another example, but here you have 10 pretty good points

- You might want to start with 2♣, to look for a major suit fit.
- Don't bother.
- When you have 4-3-3-3 distribution, just bid the appropriate level of no trump.

This is a game forcing hand..

Best bid 3 no trump

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ A 10 8 3

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 9

♣ K 10 9 5

- Here we are changing focus a bit.
- With this hand you have slam interest.
- But you don't have enough to force a slam.
- Do remember partner is more likely to have a minimum.

- With 4-4-3-2 distribution you might be better in a suit.
- So, start with 2♣.
- But you need to ask and answer a few questions..

What if partner says 2♦?

What if partner says 2♥?

What if partner says 2♠?

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ A 10 8 3

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 9

♣ K 10 9 5

- Here's the same hand.

- If partner responds 2♦ or 2♥, you will bid 4 nt.
- This is not Blackwood.
- You and your partner should have a clear understanding that:
- A direct 4 no trump bid after a Stayman response is always quantitative.
- Saying “We did not find a major suit fit.”

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ A 10 8 3

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 9

♣ K 10 9 5

When opener bids 2♠.

- The way to confirm a major suit fit and slam interest after a Stayman inquiry is to bid the 3 of the other major.
- With this hand you bid 3♥, which communicates two bits of information.
 - We have a major suit fit.
 - You have slam interest.

Partner Opens 1 No Trump

Your hand.

♠ A 10 8 3

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 9

♣ K 10 9 5

Imagine this auction.

North east south west

1nt pass 2♣ pass

2♠ pass 3♥

- If opener has a minimum and no slam interest, he simply bids 4♠.
- If opener also has slam interest, he bids his lowest control.

We'll Look at a Couple of Hands

Opener

♠ J 9 7 4

♥ A Q J

♦ A 7 5

♣ Q J 6

.Responder

♠ A 10 8 3

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 9

♣ K 10 9 5

north	east	south	west
1nt	pass	2♣	pass
2♠	pass	3♥	

- Here the no trump opener has a minimum and has no slam interest.
- He will simply bid 4♠, after his partner confirms spades as the trump suit.

We'll Look at a Couple of Hands

Opener

♠ K Q 9 7

♥ K J

♦ A 7 5

♣ A 8 7 6

.Responder

♠ A 10 8 3

♥ 10

♦ K Q 9

♣ K Q J 5 2

north	east	south	west
1nt	pass	2♣	pass
2♠	pass	3♥	

- With this hand, the opening no trump bidder has a solid max and is also interested in slam.
- After 3. the bidding proceeds:

Opener	Responder
4♣	4♦
4♥	4nt
5♦	6♠

Consider This Auction

north	east	south	west
1nt	pass	2♣	pass
2♥	pass	3♠	

- South's 3 confirms hearts as trump.
- Shows slam interest.

Jacoby Transfer – Maybe Not

- We all use the Jacoby Transfer.
- There are some hands with a long major suit, where you should not use a Jacoby transfer.
- When partner opens 1nt, you're the boss.
- So, take charge.

We'll Look at a Couple of Hands

Partner opens 1nt.

Your hand

♠ 3

♥ Q J 10 6 5 2

♦ A 9

♣ K 9 5 2

- With this hand, you want to play at game.
- You have absolutely no slam interest.
- Use Texas transfer.
- You bid 4♦
- Partner bids 4♥
- You pass.
- With this type of hand, Texas transfer is clearer.

We'll Look at a Couple of Hands

Partner opens 1nt.

Your hand

♠ A J 8 5 3

♥ Q J 10 6

♦ K 5 3

♣ 2

- Smolen is a necessary convention, everyone should play.
- Even though it does not come of very often.
- This is not a hand for a transfer bid.
- Start with Stayman and if partner bids diamonds, use the **Smolen** convention.
- After 2♦, you will jump in your 4-card major and partner knows you have five of the other major.

We'll Look at a Couple of Hands

Partner opens 1nt.

Your hand

♠ K Q J 8 7 5 3

♥ 6

♦ K 3

♣ K Q 4

- Another hand that won't come up often, but remember it.

- Another hand with serious slam interest.
- All you need to know is if partner has adequate controls.
- It does not matter who declares this hand,
- Bid 4♣ Gerber.
- If partner has 1 or 2 aces, you stop at 4♠.
- If 3 aces, bid 6♠.
- If 4 aces 7 no trump.

We'll Look at a Couple of Hands

Partner opens 1nt.

Your hand

♠ K 3

♥ A Q J 10 5 3

♦ K Q 10 6

♣ 4

- Another bid hand but not a Gerber hand.

- Transfer using the Texas transfer.
- Than, bid 4 nt. If partner bids:
 - 5♣, (1 or 4), bid 5♥, if partner has 4, she'll take you to six.
 - 5♦, (0 or 3), bid 5♥, if partner has 3, she'll take you to six.
 - 5♥, bid 6♥

Let's Say a Quick Word About Super Accept

- When you open 1 no trump and partner transfers to a major suit, you can super accept when your hand has certain characteristics.
 - 17 points.
 - 4 cards in the suit to which you are being transferred.
- Super accept is bidding the transfer suit by jumping a level.

Pick Your Super Accept Carefully

- Every 17 point hand is not worth a super accept.
- Do not super accept when you have 4 -3-3-3 distribution even when you have 17 points.
- You almost always super accept if you have 5 trump.

Examples: Auction-1nt...2 ♦ ... ??

♠ 4 2
♥ K Q 10 9
♦ A K
♣ A Q 10 9 5

- Good super accept.
- 17 points
 - No wasted values
 - A good 5-card side suit

♠ Q 2
♥ A K 8 4
♦ K J 8
♣ K J 9 4

- Poor super accept.
- 17 points
 - wasted values
 - Too many quacks

♠ A K Q
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ 10 5
♣ K Q 10 8

- Good super accept.
- 17 points
 - No wasted values
 - Good side suit

♠ K Q 9
♥ A J 9 6 5
♦ 10 5
♣ K Q 9 8

- Good super accept.
- 15 points
 - No wasted values
 - 5-card trump suit

Final Thoughts

- There are a lot of changes in the way we respond, today, to a 1 no trump opening.
- Most of the ones I have discussed in this lesson are ones you should learn and use.
- Most of your opponents will be using them so you need to know them even if you don't adopt them.
- Be sure to talk any changed over with your partner.