

Interference After a Conventional Bid

Partner Makes a Conventional Bid

– RHO Interferes

- Learning conventions is difficult enough.
- Learning what to do when opponents interfere is even more difficult.
- Some of the things I'll talk about don't happen really often...
- But they do, and should, happen (when the opponents have the right hand)
- So, you and your partner should know how to handle it when they do happen.

1nt ... (pass) ... 2 ♣ ... (2 ♥)

- You and your partner should agree that a double is penalty.
- You can bid 2 ♠ if you have four spades.
- You can pass. No need to bid diamonds to tell partner you don't have a 4 card major.
- Let's take a look at some example hands.

1nt ... (pass) ... 2 ♣ ... (2 ♥)

Hand 1

♠ A 2

♥ A J 7 5

♦ K 3 2

♣ A 10 4 3

Double with
something like
this.

Hand 2

♠ A J 7 2

♥ A 5

♦ K 3 2

♣ A 10 4 3

2 ♠ with
something like
this.

Hand 3

♠ A 7 2

♥ K 5

♦ K 7 3 2

♣ K Q 8 3

pass with
something like
this.

Interference Over a Transfer

- Lots of times this interference is in the form of a lead-directing double. I'll get to that in a minute.
- Suppose it goes: 1nt...(pass)...2♥ ...(3♦)
- The opening bidder usually passes.
 - Partner will have an opportunity to bid again.
 - It is possible that partner was transferring on a very weak hand, possibly with 5 spades.
- A general guideline is, if you accept, you have a max no trump and 4 spades.

1nt ... (pass) ... 2♥ ... (3♦)

Hand 4

♠ K 6 5

♥ K Q 5

♦ A Q 2

♣ Q 10 4 3

Pass with this
hand

Hand 5

♠ K Q 10 2

♥ A K J 5

♦ K 2

♣ J 10 9

Bid 3♠ with
this hand

A Lead-Directing Double

- Any time you double an artificial bid (Stayman, transfer or a Blackwood response) it is lead directing.
- It tells your partner two bits of information:
 - You have strength and length in that suit.
 - You request partner lead that suit, if she is making the opening lead.

1nt ... (pass) ... 2♣ ... (?)

Hand 6

♠ 8 6 5

♥ 7 5 3

♦ 3 2

♣ A Q J 10 3

Double with this
hand

Hand 7

♠ 8 6 5

♥ 7 5 3

♦ A 5 2

♣ A J 7 3

Pass with this
hand

1nt ... (pass) ... 2♥ ... (?)

Hand 8

♠ J 6 5

♥ A K 10 8 7

♦ A 2

♣ 6 4 3

Double with this
hand

Hand 9

♠ Q 10 2

♥ A 10 6 5

♦ A 3 2

♣ J 10 9

Pass with this
hand

1 ♥ ... (pass) ... 2 ♥ ... (pass)
4nt ... (pass) ... 5 ♣ ... (?)

Hand 10

♠ 6 5 4

♥ J 7

♦ 10 7 6 5

♣ A K 6 3

Double with this
hand

Hand 11

♠ 8 5 2

♥ 10 6 5

♦ Q 9 3 2

♣ A 9 7

Pass with this
hand

Some Other Thoughts

- There is a mnemonic, used after interference over a Blackwood 4nt called D.O.P.I., which stands for:
 - Double = 0 key cards
 - Pass = 1 key card.
 - Bid up the line with two or more key cards.
- It is nice convention, but it comes up so very seldom.
 - I've been playing bridge for over 40 years.
 - To my recollection, it has come up twice.

Interference Over 2 ♣ Opening

- This does not happen often, but when it does,,,, best advice ignore it.
 - As responder, you can pass. Partner has a bid coming.
 - You can bid no trump with 8 points and a stopper in the overcalled suit.
 - A double would be penalty oriented, but opener might have a distributional hand and want to show it.
- If the bid goes 2 ♣...(pass)...2 ♦ ...(2 ♥)....
 - Just ignore it make the natural bid you intended.
 - Double, of course, would be penalty.

Interference Over Jacoby 2 NT

- This will happen more often than over a 2 ♣ or over Blackwood.
- The Jacoby 2nt convention has a system for handling such overcalls, but they require a great deal of memory...
- Best advice, again: Ignore it. Bid your hand.

1 ♥ ... (pass) ... 2nt ... (3 ♦) ... ?

Hand 12

♠ Q J 4

♥ A J 7 5 3

♦ K 5

♣ Q 6 3

Just bid 4 ♥

Hand 13

♠ Q J 2

♥ A K J 10 5

♦ A 2

♣ K 9 7

Bid 3 ♥ to
show a mild
interest in
slam.

Hand 14

♠ K J 2

♥ A K J 10 5 2

♦ 2

♣ A Q 7

Bid 3 ♠ to
show a spade
control and
slam interest.

Interference Over 1 No Trump

- I have noticed some player that will have D.O.P.I marked on their card, while having nothing marked for handling interference over partner's opening no trump bid.
- Some want to play stolen-bid double.
- If you are playing that convention, stop it today.

1nt....(2 ♦)...?

Hand 15

♠ Q 10 8 3

♥ A 3

♦ K J 10 7

♣ J 6 3

On this hand, if double means a transfer to hearts, you cannot get to your best contract .

Interference Over 1 No Trump


- Lebensohl is the best convention when they overcall your partner's 1 no trump opening.
- If you play the entire convention it can get pretty memory intensive.
- So, here's a quick overview what you need to handle most situations.

Interference Over 1 No Trump

- Double is always penalty.
 - If they have made a two-suit overcall, you are doubling the known suit.
- Two-level bids are to play.
- Direct three-level bids are game forcing.
- If you want to stop at the 3-level, you bid 2nt...partner bids 3 ♣, you bid your suit.
- A cue bid of the opponent's suit is Stayman.
- If they double, ignore it and make the bid you would have made (systems on)

1nt... (2 )... 2 

Hand 16

 Q 10 8 7 5 3

 Q J 3

 10

 J 6 3

With this hand you are willing to compete to the two level, but not much higher.

1nt...(2 ♠)...2nt...(pass)
3 ♣...(pass) ...3 ♥ (pass)

Hand 17

♠ 5 3

♥ K J 9 7 4 2

♦ Q 10

♣ J 6 3

With this hand you are willing to compete to the three level, but not much higher.

1nt... (2 )... 3 

Hand 18

 Q 10 8 7 5

 Q J 3

 10

 A J10 6

You have a game-forcing hand with 5 spades. If you had 6 spades you would have bid 4 yourself.

1nt... (2 ♦)... 3 ♦ ... (pass)

Hand 18

♠ Q 10 8 7

♥ K J 3 2

♦ 10 3

♣ A J 10

You have a game-forcing
hand and looking to find a
major suit fit.

1nt...(2 ♦)...3 ♦ ... (pass)

Hand 19

♠ Q 10 8 7

♥ K J 3

♦ A 10 3

♣ A J 10

You don't have to have both majors, but you need to know where you are going if partner does not match your major suit.