The Unusual No Trump

Contract Bridge



Tips & Tools

General Observations

- Over an opening bid of 1 of a suit, a jump to 2 no trump initiates the Unusual No Trump convention.
 - Shows a two-suited hand with at least 5 cards in each of the suits.
 - Points concentrated in the two suits.
 - Typically a weak defensive bid.
 - Played along with Michaels' Cue, covers most (but not all) two suited overcall hands.

General Observations (cont,)

- Some play the Unusual No Trump strictly for minor suits.
- The majority of modern players play it for the lower two unbid suits.
 - Over 1 ♠ or 1♥, a jump to two no trump shows
 ♦ and ♣
 - Over 1 ◆, a jump to two no trump shows ♥ and
 ♣.
 - Over 1 ♣, a jump to two no trump shows ♦ and♥.

Suit Strength

- Similar to Michaels' Cue, the Unusual No Trump is used with a weak or strong hand.
- A midrange hand is usually handled with two overcalls.
 - Weak hand 6 to 10 points
 - Midrange hand 11 to 16 points
 - Strong hand 17+ points.

Avoid Unusual With Hands Like This

East Hand



♥ J 2

1086432

♣ J 9 7 6 4 2

North

1 🔻

East

pass

Avoid Unusual With Hands Like This

East Hand

♠ Q 2

K

♦ Q 8 6 4 3

♣ K 9 7 6 2

North

1 🔻

East

pass

Minimum Unusual No Trump

East Hand

♠ 7

Q J 9 6 3

♦ 3 2

♣ K 10 7 6 4

North East

pass

Unusual No Trump: Example 1

East Hand

- **♦** 2
- K 10 9 7 4
- ♦ J 5
- ♣ A Q 9 4 2

North East 1 • 2 nt

Unusual No Trump: Example 2

East Hand

- **♦** 2
- KJ864
- ♦ A Q J 10 2
- **♣** 4 2

North East 1 ♣ 2 nt

Unusual No Trump: Example 3

East Hand

★ 2

v 7

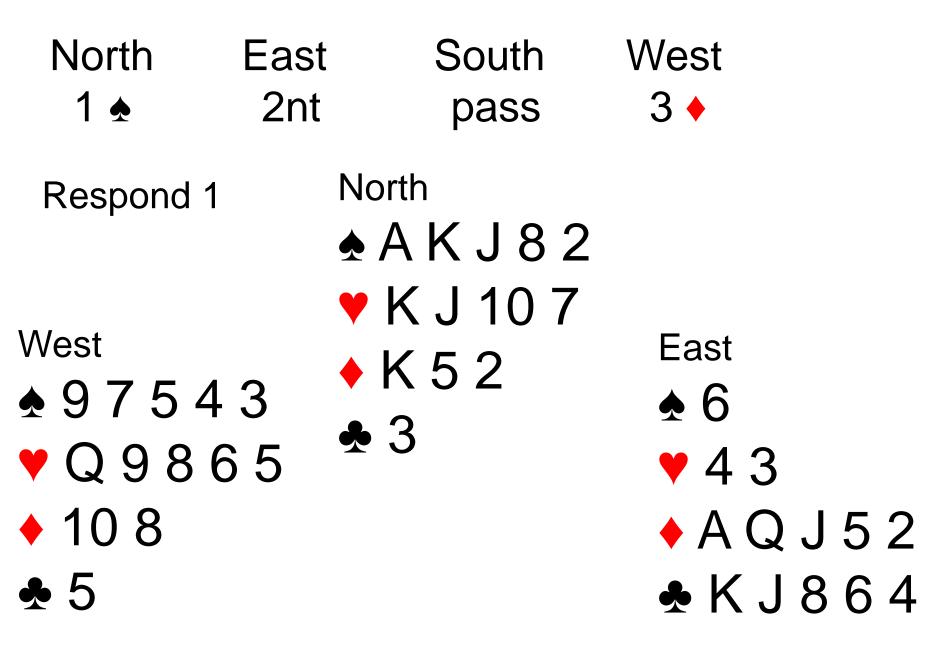
♦ A Q J 5 2

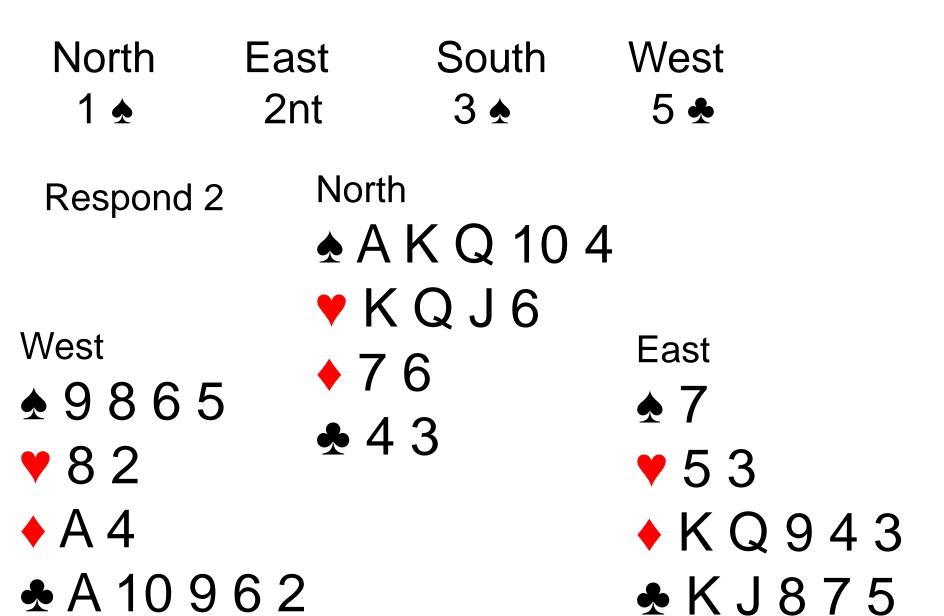
♣ KJ8642

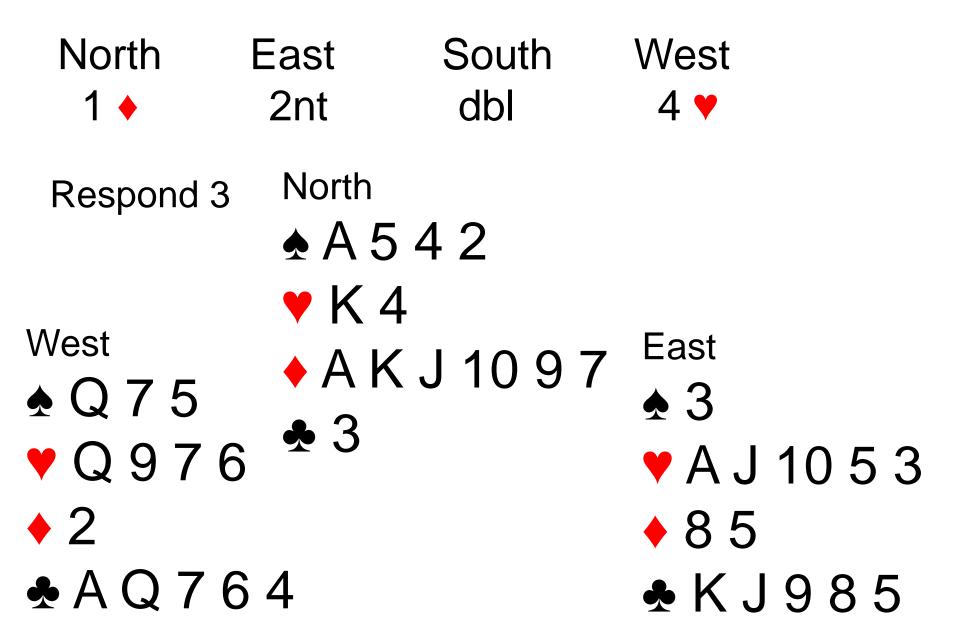
North East 1 ♠ 2 nt

Responding to the Unusual No Trump

- Visualize your partner's hand.
- Remember, the unusual no trump convention is primarily an interference strategy.
- When your hand fits your partner's hand, bid accordingly.
- When you have a misfit. Get out as quickly as possible.

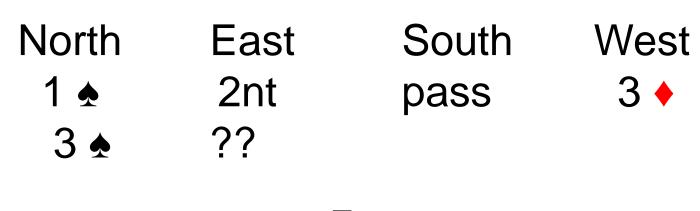






Rebids by the Unusual No Trump Bidder

- Can the unusual no trump bidder bid again?
- Yes, but only when she has extra highcard values or extra distributional values.
- Trust your partner... When you do not have extra values, <u>leave it up to partner</u>.



Rebid 1

East

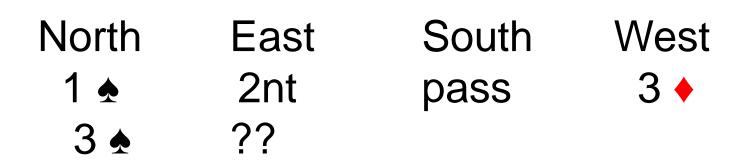
★ 3

♥ 5 3

◆ A K 9 5 4

♣ K J 9 8 5

Pass



Rebid 2

East



♥ 5 3

♦ A Q 10 9 8 4

♣ KJ985

4 •

North East South West 1 → 2nt pass 3 ♣ ??

Rebid 3

A strange auction shows extra values.

East

♦8

Y A K Q 7 5

\ 4

♣ A K J 10 4 2

3 •

North East South West 1 → 2nt pass 3 ♣ ??

Rebid 4

East

\$ 8

AKQ975

\ 4

♣ A K J 10 4

3 🔻

An Unusual No Trump Success

West

♦ J 8 3

9 7 5

4 3

♣ A Q 5 3

East

♦8

Y 5

♦ KJ 10 9 6 2

♣ KJ10864

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North East South West

1 ♥ 2 nt 4 ♥ 5 ♣

5 ♥ 6 ♥ 7 ♣
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