

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

♦ 10 8 6 4 3 2

♣ 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

1 ♦

East

pass

Unusual No Trump: Example 1

East Hand

♠ 2

♥ K 10 9 7 4

♦ J 5

♣ A Q 9 4 2

North

1 ♦

East

2 nt

Unusual No Trump: Example 2

East Hand

♠ 2

♥ K J 8 6 4

♦ A Q J 10 2

♣ 4 2

North

1 ♣

East

2 nt

Unusual No Trump: Example 3

East Hand

♠ 2

♥ 7

♦ A Q J 5 2

♣ K J 8 6 4 2

North

1 ♠

East

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.

North

1 ♠

East

2nt

South

pass

West

3 ♦

Respond 1

North

♠ A K J 8 2

♥ K J 10 7

♦ K 5 2

♣ 3

West

♠ 9 7 5 4 3

♥ Q 9 8 6 5

♦ 10 8

♣ 5

East

♠ 6

♥ 4 3

♦ A Q J 5 2

♣ K J 8 6 4

North

1 ♠

East

2nt

South

3 ♠

West

5 ♣

Respond 2

North

♠ A K Q 10 4

♥ K Q J 6

♦ 7 6

♣ 4 3

West

♠ 9 8 6 5

♥ 8 2

♦ A 4

♣ A 10 9 6 2

East

♠ 7

♥ 5 3

♦ K Q 9 4 3

♣ K J 8 7 5

North

1 

East

2nt

South

dbl

West

4 

Respond 3

North

 A 5 4 2

 K 4

 A K J 10 9 7

 3

West

 Q 7 5

 Q 9 7 6

 2

 A Q 7 6 4

East

 3

 A J 10 5 3

 8 5

 K J 9 8 5

Rebids by the Unusual No Trump Bidder

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

North

1 ♠

3 ♠

East

2nt

??

South

pass

West

3 ♦

Rebid 1

East

♠ 3

♥ 5 3

♦ A K 9 5 4

♣ K J 9 8 5

Pass

North

1 ♠

3 ♠

East

2nt

??

South

pass

West

3 ♦

Rebid 2

East

♠

♥ 5 3

♦ A Q 10 9 8 4

♣ K J 9 8 5

4 ♦

North

1 

pass

East

2nt

??

South

pass

West

3 

Rebid 3

A strange
auction
shows extra
values.

East

 8

 A K Q 7 5

 4

 A K J 10 4 2

3 

North

1 

pass

East

2nt

??

South

pass

West

3 

Rebid 4

East

 8

 A K Q 9 7 5

 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
♥ 5
♦ K J 10 9 6 2
♣ K J 10 8 6 4

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	2 nt	4 ♥	5 ♣
5 ♥	6 ♣	6 ♥	7 ♣