

Fifth Chair



Defense bidding over opponents Hamilton/Cappelletti bid after Partner's 1NT opening bid

Partner: 1NT

Opp: 2C (Hamilton showing single suited hand)

Double is Stayman. This says that is the bid I would have made without the interference.

Axxx Kxxx xx Kxx

Or

Kxxx AQx Qxxx xx

With either of these hands you would have used Stayman over your partner's NT opening so why should you be denied that option now. So I reiterate 1NT, 2C, X is Stayman.

Partner: 1NT Opp: Double. Remember this is basically a penalty double by the Hamilton bidder, so how can we escape with a hand like:

xx xx xxx Qxxxxx

First let's clarify that systems are on in our methods over NT interference, so 2 Clubs would be Stayman! What are we to do? Simple-Redouble instructs partner to bid 2 Clubs. If they bid-fine-but there is no way we want to play 1NT doubled with this hand. Another hand you may hold on this auction is:

x xxxx QJxxxx xx

2 Diamonds would be a transfer to Hearts, right. Again Redouble tells partner to bid Clubs, and now you correct to Diamonds. Don't try to be a hero and use Stayman hoping partner will bid hearts. Remember you are trying to escape from 1NT doubled. Again, if opponents decide to bid, let them have it. For those of you who do not have a method to reach 2 Diamonds without any interference when partner opens 1NT, this becomes a plus for you.

Partner: 1NT

Opp: 2C (single suited hand)

AJxxx Qx Kxxxx x

Aren't you happy that systems are on? Bid 2 Hearts (transfer to Spades) and over Partner's forced 2 Spades, bid 3 Diamonds. Isn't this exactly what you would do without the interference?

The next sequence will seem foreign to most of you, but is much more useful and will occur more frequently than a penalty double. NEGATIVE Doubles over opponents' Major suit overcalls.

Partner: 1NT

OPP: 2H How can we handle this hand?

AKxx Jx Qxxx Qxx

No room for Stayman over 2 Hearts. No Trump may be completely wrong if partner has something like Ax or Kx of Hearts. To the rescue Negative double – it shows the other major and enough values to compete. This hand is actually good enough to bid 3 if you like, which would also be Stayman, but the double gives more flexibility. If you had this hand, you would not be strong enough to bid 3:

AQxx xx Qxxx Jxx

So the negative double is really a necessity. If partner bids 2 you can invite. Remember, you still need the values to make these bids, because partner with a top No Trump may be able to bid 4 or 3 No Trump.

So what do we do when we really have the penalty double of 2H? For this we must be able to rely on partner. Remember, partner also knows your methods.

If partner held: AKxx xx AQx Axxx

Certainly he would always double for takeout to the other three suits. If you had the hand that you wanted to defend you would pass. This brings up another situation. Partner with good hearts IN FRONT of the heart bidder would never double. He would be happy just to defend. This bid comes up over normal overcalls also. In the absence of any methods or conventions, what would you do with the preceding hand if the bidding went 1NT, 2H? Would you pass when the bidding came back to you? I hope not!

Another convention you should use over these interfering bids is LEBENSOHL.
Here are the methods:

3 Level Bids are Game Forcing

2NT relays to 3 Clubs

3NT shows 10 or more points/no stopper in the opponents suit

2NT followed by 3NT shows 10 or more points with a stopper (Slow Arrival)

3 of opponents suit is Stayman and GF

So what would partner do in this auction-1NT 2H 3NT:

Axxx Jx AQxx Axx

Remember the fast arrival showed no Heart stopper. Only a masochist would play 3NT. Just start bidding your four card suits up the line. Partner will know that you also have no Heart stopper and will decide where you must play the hand. This is no longer forcing to game since the two hands may not be able to play at the five level in a minor.