

# Fifth Chair



## Modern No Trump Bidding

By Marcia West & Diana Thompson

OPENING 1NT = 15 - 17 High Card Points

WITH 18 - 19 HCP open 1 of a minor, and jump to 2nt.

OPENING 2NT = 20-21 HCP

WITH 22 - 24 HCP - Open the STRONG 2C, artificial and forcing and then rebid 2nt over partner's response. The NEGATIVE response to the STRONG 2C bid is 2D. The POSITIVE response is given, bidding 2H, 2S, 3C or 3D. These bids show a 5 card suit, HEADED BY AT LEAST 2 OF THE TOP 23 HONORS.

WITH 25 and more HCP, open the STRONG 2C, and then rebid 3NT.

OPENING 3NT - This bid is now used for a gambling 3NT, which shows a 7 OR MORE MINOR suit, headed by at least AKJ. This hand has NO outside ACES.

Bidding rules: Open NT on any hand that is balanced, 4-4-3-2 OR 4-3-3-3 that contains any of the point count listed above. If the hand contains different counts, open either a major or minor suit at the appropriate level.

What is the correct NO TRUMP opening bid on each of these hands, or write

unsuitable, if the hand is unsuitable for No Trump.

1. AQxx 2. xxx 3. Axx

xxxx KQx Kxxx

AK AQxx KQxx

KJx KQJ AX \_\_\_\_\_

4. AQxx 5. AKx 6. Axx

KQx QJx KQJx

x KQJxx AKJx

KQxxx Ax \_ \_\_\_\_\_ AK \_\_\_\_\_

7. x 8. AQx 9. AKQx

xx KJxx QJx

AKJxxxxx J10x KQJ

xx AQJ Axx \_\_\_\_\_

10. AJxxxx 11. Ax 12. (void)

xxx KJ10x Kxx

AQX KQxx KQJXXXXX

A Axx AK \_\_\_\_\_

Answers to Opening NT

1 1NT

2 1NT

3 1NT

4 cannot open no trump, since a singleton - open this one 1C

5 2C, to be followed by 2nt, showing 22-24 HCP

6 2C, to be followed by 3nt, showing 25 and more count

7 either 3 Diamonds, or gambling 3NT

8 1C too strong for a no trump opener

9 2NT

10 1S

11 1NT

12 1D