

Dealing with Overcalls After Strong 1NT

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1 Situation: Partner bids 1NT. RHO overcalls 2♣.

- 1.1 All systems would still be on if RHO had doubled or overcalled 2♣.
- 1.2 You are the captain because 1NT limited your partner's hand.
- 1.3 What has been lost?
 - 1.3.1 Stayman, including garbage Stayman.
 - 1.3.2 Major-suit transfers.
 - 1.3.3 Three-level bids?
- 1.4 What has been gained?
 - 1.4.1 The knowledge that RHO has some strength.
 - 1.4.2 The knowledge that RHO has whatever the bid required (spades, spades and hearts, spades and a minor or something else).

1NT		NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS		2NT	
15	to 17	3♣	_____	20	to 21
	to _____	3♦	_____	Puppet Stayman <input type="checkbox"/>	
5-card Major common <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3♥	_____	Transfer Responses:	
System on over <u>Interf.</u>		3♠	_____	Jacoby <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Texas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2♣ Stayman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Puppet <input type="checkbox"/>			_____	3♠ Relay to 4♣ _____	
2♦ Transfer to ♥ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4♦, 4♥ Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Forcing Stayman <input type="checkbox"/>		Smolen <input type="checkbox"/>			
2♥ Transfer to ♠ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Lebensohl <input type="checkbox"/> (____ denies)		Conventional NT Openings	
2♠ Relay to 3♣ _____		Neg. Double <input type="checkbox"/> _____		_____	
2NT _____		Other: Stolen bids (xfer @ 3 lvl)		_____	

2 Case #1: You are playing Stolen Bids without 3♣ Puppet Stayman

- 2.1 Are all bids game-forcing?
- 2.2 You can show clubs or diamonds by doubling 2♠.
- 2.3 How do you show four hearts?
- 2.4 How do you show five hearts? 3♦ or 3♥?
- 2.5 What if you have a spade stack?

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS		
1NT	15 to 17	3♣ Puppet Stayman
	to	3♦
5-card Major common		3♥ 5-5 Majors <8 HCP
System on over Interf.		3♠ 5-5 Majors >7 HCP
2♣ Stayman	Stayman	
2♦ Transfer to ♥	Forcing Stayman	4♦, 4♥ Transfer
2♥ Transfer to ♠	Smolen	
2♠ Relay to 3♣	Lebensohl (denies)	
2NT Invitational	Neg. Double	
	Other: Stolen bids (xfer @ 3 lvl)	

2NT 20 to 21
Puppet Stayman
Transfer Responses:
Jacoby Texas
3♠ Transfer to 4♣

3NT 25 to 27
Conventional NT Openings

3 Case #2: You are playing Stolen Bids with 3♣ Puppet Stayman

- 3.1 Are all bids game-forcing?
- 3.2 You can show clubs or diamonds by doubling 2♠.
- 3.3 Is 3♣ still Puppet Stayman? If not, how do you show four hearts?
- 3.4 How do you show five hearts? 3♦ or 3♥?
- 3.5 What if you have a spade stack?

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS		
1NT	15 to 17	3♣ Puppet Stayman
	to	3♦ 5-5 Minors Strong
5-card Major common		3♥ 5-5 Majors <8 HCP
System on over x.2♣		3♠ 5-5 Majors >7 HCP
2♣ Stayman	Stayman	
2♦ Transfer to ♥	Forcing Stayman	4♦, 4♥ Transfer
2♥ Transfer to ♠	Smolen	
2♠ Transfer to 3♣	Lebensohl (Dir denies)	
2NT Transfer to 3♦	Neg. Double	
	Other: Super: 16: jump	

2NT 20 to 21
Puppet Stayman
Transfer Responses:
Jacoby Texas
3♠ Slam - minors: 3N
4♠ Both Minors

3NT to
Gambling 0 outside
Conventional NT Openings
Pre-acc: Compl Xfer
17: Cheapest Ace

4 Case #3: You are playing lebensohl

- 4.1 Are all bids game-forcing? No. 2NT relay allows for non-forcing bids.
- 4.2 Gives up on Jacoby transfers. Retains Texas transfers.
- 4.3 Double can be negative, penalty, or some combination.
- 4.4 Cue bid is Stayman.
- 4.5 Several other complications. Top players think that it is worth the effort.

Next week: Overcall after Stayman or Jacoby Transfer