



O'VOLTA ARTIKO

NOTRUMP COMPLEX

Version 2.5
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OVAI – notrump complex

Notrump bidding is to a certain degree independent of the system OVAI as such; certainly a few features have been adapted to the system but mainly the notrump modules could be played in any systemic framework.

NOTE:

Never step-wise responses in the notrump bidding **even** if the preceding bid is a “relay” or “singleton ask”.

1. MAIN 1 NT MODULE

The offensive 1 NT bidding is applied in the following situations

- 1 NT opener and 1 NT overcall *without* a passed partner
- 1 ♣ - (overc/X) – X/XX – (p) – 1 NT

NB that OVAL normally opens 5-card Major hands with 1 ♥ or 1 ♠, not 1 NT Also, there are **never** any CA/SLAB sequences after 1 N (2 N) openers!

1.1 Responses

The system uses a "Stayman+transfers" logic, but 2 ♦/♥ in certain cases promise only 4 cards in the trx suit..

- | | |
|---------|--|
| - 2 ♣ | Stayman, bid with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAL INV hand w/wo a 4-card M • INV 4 ♠ + 5 ♥ • INV any 5-card ♠ hand • GF 4-4 or better MM (though normally not (4441) shape • BAL ST with 4M4m to find any 4-4 fit <p>NB: A wk hand with 4-5 MM cannot be bid via 2 ♣ since a rebid of 2 ♥ is INV</p> |
| - 2 ♦ | 4+♥; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all 5+ card ♥ hand <i>except</i> GF 5-4+ MM and hands just wanting to play 4 ♥ • 4-card ♥ if wk INV with 5+m or GF 4♥(441) |
| - 2 ♥ | 4+♠; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all 5+♠ hand <i>except</i> 5-4+ MM and hands just wanting to play 4 ♠ • 4-card ♠ if wk INV with 5+m or GF 1♥444 |
| - 2 ♠ | 5+ ♣; 5-card suit possible if quantitative slam try only, otherwise 6+card suit |
| - 2 NT | mm;
4-4 if quantitative slam INV
5+-4+ if GF or stronger
5-5 if wk |
| - 3 ♣ | 5+ ♦; 5-card suit possible if quantitative slam try only, else 6+ |
| - 3 ♦ | INV with 6+ ♦ |
| - 3 ♥ | GF or better with 4 ♠ 5 ♦ and short ♥ (complements other sequences) |
| - 3 ♠ | GF or better with 4 ♥ , 5 ♦ and short ♠ (complements other sequences) |
| - 3 NT | to play |
| - 4 ♣ | 5-5 MM, just for game or
a) follows up with RKC
b) follows up with EBW 5 m |
| - 4 ♦/♥ | trx, just for game or
a) follows up with RKC
b) follows up with EBW new suit |
| - 4 NT | Quantitative, normally with 4333 with a 4-card minor. |

1.1.1 1 NT – 2 ♣

- 1 NT – 2 ♣
- 2 ♦ no 4-card Major
- 2 ♥ 4 ♥ not 4 ♠
- 2 ♠ 4 ♠ not 4 ♥
- 2 NT 4-4 MM, minimum
- 3 ♣ 4-4 MM, maximum (=would accept a "classic" INV 1 NT – 2 NT)

1.1.1.1 1 NT – 2 ♣ - 2 ♦

- 2 ♥ INV with 4 ♠ and 5 ♥ (maybe light)
 (good) max with doubleton ♥
 positive INV with support
- 2 NT new general INV
- 3 ♥ suggestion to play with 3-card support
- 3 NT to play
- 4 ♥
- 2 ♠ INV with 5 ♠ (maybe light)
 in analogy with the above
- continuation
- 2 NT INV, with or w/o a Major
- 3 ♣ GF, NAT 5+♣ + unknown 4M or 4♣ BAL ST
 (normal bid) asks for \$
 values
 values
 to play (bad ♣ support)
- 3 ♦
- 3 ♥
- 3 ♠
- 3 NT
- 3 ♦ GF, NAT 5+♦ + unknown 4M or 4♦ BAL ST but not 4-1 MM
 (normal bid) asks for \$
- 3 ♥
- 3 ♥/♠ Smolen, i.e. 4 cards in the bid Major and 5 cards in the other. The hand could
 contain a 5-5 or 6-4 MM Slam-try
 to play, normally some 4 M
- 3 NT
- 4 ♥/♠ to play, normally 6-4 in the Majors
- 4 NT quantitative, no 4-4 MM

1 NT – 2 ♣

- 2 ♦
- 3 ♣
- 3 ♦ ask \$
- 3 ♥/♠ short ♥/♠
- 3 NT/4 ♦ short ♦, NF/F SI
- 4 ♣ 5 ♣ + 4 M SI (CBW)
- 4 M 4 ♣ + 4 M S (RKCB responses on 5-level)
- 4 NT NF ST 4 ♣ no good 4M ÷ 5 ♣ + RKC answers
- 3 ♦
- 3 ♥
- 3 ♠ \$ ♣
- 3 NT 4M/5 ♦ NF SI (22)
- 4 ♣ void ♣
- 4 ♦ 5 ♦ + 4 M (CBW)
- 4 M 4 ♦ + 4 M SI (bid M) SI (5-level bids RKCB answers with ♦ fit)
- 4 N NF ST 4 ♦ no good 4 M ÷ 5 ♦ + RKC answers

(1 N – 2 ♣ - 2 ♦ cont'd)

- 3 ♥ could, apart from 5 ♠ and 4 ♥ hide
 - 4 ♥ / 6 ♠, slam try
 - 5-5 slam try, then with short ♣

- 3 ♠ support
 - 3 NT slam try, no shortness
 - 4 m slam try, shortness
 - 4 ♠ to play

- 3 NT no ♠ support
 - 4 m shortness, 6-4, sets ♠ as trumps
 - 4 ♥ 5-5 \$ ♣ light slamtry, NF
 - 4 ♠ 5-5 \$ ♣ F1 ST (4 NT 2.2 MM, 5 any response KCBW ♥)

- 3 ♠ could, apart from 5 ♥ and 4 ♠ hide
 - 6 ♥/4 ♠ slamtry
 - 5-5 MM slam try, then with short ♦

- 3 NT no ♥ support
 - 4 m shortness, 6-4, sets ♥ as trumps
 - 4 ♥ 5-5 \$ ♦ light slamtry, NF ð 4NT KCBW ♥
 - 4 ♠ 5-5 \$ ♦ F1 ST, (4NT 2-2 MM, 5 any response KCBW ♠)

- 4 ♣/♦ cue, ♥ support (no re-transfer, 4 ♥ is only negative bid)
- 4 ♥ minimum, support.

- 4 ♣/♦ trx to M to let O play

1.1.1.2 1 N – 2 ♣ - 2 M

1 NT – 2 ♣
2 ♥

- 2 ♠ INV
- 2 NT INV (w/wo 4 ♠)
- 3 m 5+ suit and 4 ♠ GF or 4 ♠/4 m ST (O only raises with 4+ m and suitable hand)
- 3 ♥ INV
- 3 ♠ **NB!!!** TRX to 3 N to play or cuebid with ♥ support w/o shortness
- 3 NT **NB** spade SPL
- 4 m SPL
- 4 M to play

- 3 ♣ 5+ suit/4 ♠ GF(+) or 4 ♠/4 m SI (O only raises with 4+ ♣ and appropriate hand)
- 3 M values
- 3 NT good values in ♦♥
- 3 ♦ ask\$

- 3 ♥/♠ \$ ♥/♦
- 3 NT 4225 ST NF
- 4 ♣ CBW (≈4225)
- 4 ♠ 4324 ST F
- 4 NT 4234 ST NF
- 5 ♣++ 4234 F BW answer

(1 N – 2 ♣ - 2 ♥ - 3 ♦ cont'd)

- 3 ♦		5+ suit/4 ♠ GF(+) or 4♠/4♦ SI (O only raises with 4+♦ and appropriate hand)
- 3 ♥		ask \$ (normal bid)
- 3 ♠		\$ ♣
- 3 NT		4252 NF
- 4 ♣		void ♣ 4-card ♠
- 4 ♦		4252 CBW
- 4 ♠		4342
- 4 N		4243 ST/NF
- 5 ♣ ++		4243 ST F / Key-card responses

1 NT – 2 ♣

2 ♠

- 3 ♣		5+ suit/4 ♥ GF(+) or 4♥/4 m SI (O only raises with 4+♣ and appropriate hand)
- 3 ♦		ask \$ (normal Bid)
- 3 ♥		\$ ♦
- 3 ♠		\$ ♠
- 3 NT		4225 ST NF
- 4 ♣		CBW
- 4 ♠		3424
- 4 NT		2434

- 3 ♦		5+ suit/4 ♠ GF(+) or 4♠/4 m SI (O only raises with 4+♣ and appropriate hand)
- 3 ♥		ask \$ (normal Bid)
- 3 ♠		\$ ♣
- 3 NT		4252 NF
- 4 ♣		void ♣
- 4 ♦		CBW with 4252
- 4 ♠		3424 (O accepts with RKCB responses on 5-level)
- 4 NT		2434 (NF)
- 5 ♣ ++		2434 RKCB bids

- 3 ♥	ST ♠ no \$
- 3 ♠	INV NF
- 3 NT	to play often 4-card ♥
- 4 m/♥	♠ fit: SPL

1.1.1.3 1 NT – 2 ♣ - 2 NT / 3 ♣

Again, R will often have a M-suit fit. The continuation is almost identical whether O rebid 2 NT (min) or 3 ♣ (max).

1 NT – 2 ♣

2 NT/3 ♣

(-pass	BAL INV w/o Major)
- 3 ♦	transfer to ♥ (followed by normal 3 M module)
- 3 ♥	transfer to ♠ (same continuation)
- 3 NT	to play (over 3 ♣)
- 3 ♠/4 m	void, support ♠ (3 ♠ = void ♥)

1.1.2 1 N – 2 ♦

According to modern bidding theory, O is free (almost required) to superaccept with 4-card support. He does so also with a good maximum hand with 3-card support. Giving preference to INV sequences we thus risk getting to the 3-level, on the other hand the pressure on R to invite with doubtful cards makes us stay on the 2-level when the fit or strength is not sufficient.

So long as no fit is known, further bidding aims both at investigating the fit and an appropriate level.

Please note that R may have only a 4-card ♥ suit; in that case he is game-going (4441), or wk INV with a 5+m.

1 N – 2 ♦	
2 ♥	normal response
2 ♠	good maximum hand with 3-card ♥ support
2 N	maximum with 4-card support, general max
3 ♣	maximum with 4-card support, ♣ suit
3 ♦	maximum with 4-card support, ♦ suit or general max
3 ♥	not too boring a minimum hand with 4-card support

1.1.2.1 1 N – 2 ♦ - 2 ♥

R proceeds with 2 ♠ which shows exactly 5 ♥ in an INV hand or a 4♥(441) shape **or** a **re-transfer** 2 N/3 ♣ guaranteeing at least 4 cards in the minor transferred into.

A raise to 3 ♥ is a totally natural game-try.

Other high responses are slam tries. Jumps in a new suit are **void-showing** whereas the bid 3 ♦ is a conventional slam-try with a long ♥ suit but denying a void.

NB that given O's non-super acceptance, R may pass 2 ♥ also with a weak/distributional INV hand.

1 N – 2 ♦	
2 ♥	non-super acceptance (2-3 ♥ (or a "boring" 4-card support hand))
- 2 ♠	a) all 5-card ♥ suit hands with <i>precisely</i> INV strength (though - since O may superaccept with max and 3-card support - INV hands tend to be quite OK) b) 4 ♥ (441)
- 2 N	at least 4 ♣, GF or weak/weak INV hand with 4 ♥/longer ♣
- 3 ♣	at least 4 ♦, idem
- 3 ♦	slam try with long ♥, no side void
- 3 ♥	INV, 6+ ♥ suit
- 3 ♠/4 ♣/♦	void, slam try with long ♥ suit
- 3 N	Game-going hand with exactly 5 ♥
- 4 ♥	(very) mild slam try requesting good max with top tricks to proceed

Bidding after the 2 ♠ (5-card ♥) should be as simple as possible if there is an 8-card fit or if R is balanced – but leave room for investigation in case R is unbalanced.

In the 2 ♦ - 2 ♥ - 2 ♠ sequences below, "short ♣" etc refers to 4441 hands. NB that there is no CA/SLAB in these sequences. After the \$ of a 4441 is known ǒ 3NT = to play, 4 m = CBW, 4 ♥ = suggestion

1 N – 2 ♦
2 ♥ - 2 ♠

- 2 NT non-accept, not 3 ♥ (would pass 2 NT after a standard 2 ♦ -2 ♥ -2 NT)
NAT (≈5-5) normally passed
- 3 m short ♣
- 3 ♥ short ♠
- 3 ♠ short ♠
- 3 N/4 ♣ short ♦
- 3 ♣ all other hands à non-acc w 3 ♥, all accept **except** 4-card ♥ support
- 3 ♦ short ♦
- 3 ♥ INV
- 3 ♠ short ♠ (4 m sets suit)
- 3 NT short ♣ NF (4 ♣ sets ♠)
- 4 ♣ short ♣ F
- 3 ♥ 4 ♥ ("boring" hand not wishing to superaccept)
- any 3 M module

1 NT – 2 ♦
2 ♥

- 2 NT 4+ ♣ GF or 5+ ♣ weak INV (could be 5-5 if GF only)
normal bid
- 3 ♣
- 3 ♦ 4 ♣ short ♦
- 3 ♥ 4 ♣ short ♠
- 3 ♠ 2-5-2-4 ST
- 3 NT 2-5-2-4 NF SI
- 4 m 5-5 \$ NGF SI

Rule: after re-trx, the first two bids show 5(+)431 types.

- 3 ♦ exceptionally accepting the weak INV
- 3 ♥ 4 ♣ short ♦ (4 ♣ acc ♣ rest acc ♥)
- 3 ♠ 4 ♣ short ♠ (ditto)
- 3 NT INV hand
- 4 m 5-5 \$ NGF ST
- 4 ♥ 2-5-4-2 F ST (a SI hand opposite a hand exc. acc 3 ♣ à F)
- 3 ♥ exceptionally 4 ♥
- all short suit, slam try
- 3 ♣ 4+ ♦ GF or 5+ ♦ weak INV (could be 5-5 if GF only)
normal bid
- 3 ♦ 4 ♦ short ♣
- 3 ♥ 4 ♦ short ♠
- 3 ♠ 2-5-4-2 NF ST
- 3 NT 5-5 \$NGF ST
- 4 m 2-5-4-2 F ST
- 4 ♥
- 3 ♥ exceptionally 4 ♥
- 3 ♠ exceptionally accepting the weak INV, 3-card ♥
weak INV
- 3 NT weak INV
- 3 NT exceptionally accepting the weak INV, 2 ♥
- 3 ♦ ST w/o void
- 3 ♥ INV
- 3 ♠/4 m void

- 1 N – 2 ♦
- 2 ♥ - 3 ♦
- 3 ♥ asks if R has a singleton (he denies with 3 N)
- 3 NT low honours overall and max Jx in ♥ - suggestion to play and warning
- Other Cue

1.1.2.2 1 N – 2 ♦ - 2 ♠

Whereas O has shown a superacceptance, it is still not certain that there is an 8-card fit present. Therefore re-transfers are intact, **but a third re-transfer is introduced, back to hearts !**

- 1 N – 2 ♦
- 2 ♠ max+ with 3-card support
 - 2 NT 4+ ♣ normal retrsf but could be 1-4-4-4
 - 3 ♣ 4+ ♦ normal retrsf
 - 3 ♦ retrx after which R shows shortness, etc acc to normal rules
 - 3 ♥ 4441
 - 3 ♠ 4414 (4 m sets suit, 4 ♥ suggests to play)
 - 3 NT suggest to play
 - 4 ♣/♦ void
 - 4 ♥ void ♠ NF
 - 4 ♠ void ♠ F
- 2NT retrx
 - 3 ♣ normal BID
 - pass wk INV 5+ ♣ 4 ♥
 - 3 ♦ 5 ♥ 4 ♣ \$ ♦
 - 3 ♥ 1444
 - 3 ♠ 5 ♥ 4 ♣ \$ ♠
 - 3 NT 2-5-2-4 NF (should be ST, else 2 ♦ - 2 ♥ - 3 NT?)
 - 4 m 5-5 \$ NGF ST
 - 4 ♥ 2-5-2-4 F ST
 - 3 ♦ exceptionally accepting the RE-INV
 - 3 ♥ 5 ♥
 - 3 ♠ 1444 (=no ♥ trump suit)
 - 3 N acceptance of acceptance
 - 4 ♣/♦ 5 \$ NGF as normal
 - 4 ♥ to play
- 3 ♣ retrx
 - 3 ♦ normal BID acceptance according to 2 ♦ - 2 ♥
 - pass wk INV 5+ 4♥
 - 3 ♥ 5 ♥ 4 ♦ \$ ♣
 - 3 ♠T 5 ♥ 4 ♦ \$ ♠
 - 3 N 2542
 - 4 m 5-5 \$ NGF ST
 - 3 ♥ exceptionally accepting the RE-INV
 - 3 ♠ 4441
 - 3 N acceptance of acceptance
 - 4 m 5-5 \$ NGF
 - 4 ♥ 5-4
- 3 ♦ re-trx
 - 3 ♥ shortness
 - 3 ♠/4 m ST w/o shortness (4 m now = NAT or cue)
 - 3 NT

1.1.2.3 1 NT – 2 M - 4-card super acceptance

NB! O may superaccept with 4-card support as follows

- 2 N as a general acceptance with max
- 3 m(/♥) as natural

Whenever possible, R will retransfer back to 3 M, after which the normal 3 M module applies.

A direct bypass of 3 M without retransfer shows a void.

A direct 3 N without retransfer is a suggestion to play.

1.1.3 1 NT – 2 ♥

Bidding is much in analogy with the 2 ♦ transfer. There is no need for a superacceptance bid with 3-card support since all 5-card ♠ INV hands, also weak ones, are bid via 2 ♣, **not** 2 ♥.

1 NT – 2 ♥

2 ♠

- 2 NT
- 3 ♣
- 3 ♦
- 3 ♥
- 3 ♠
- 3 NT
- jump

- re-transfer, 4+♣ 5 ♠ GF, 5+♣/4 ♠ weak or 4-1-4-4
- re-transfer, following re-transfer scheme as outlined under 2 ♦
- slam try, no void (cont like after 1 N – 2 ♦ - 2 ♥ - 3 ♦)
- 5-5 NF INV
- INV, 6+ ♠ suit
- “standard”
- void, slam try

1 NT – 2 ♥

2 ♠

- 2 NT

- 3 ♣

- 3 ♦
- 3 ♥
- 3 ♠
- 3 NT
- 4 m
- 4 ♥

normal BID acceptance according to 2♦ - 2♥

- 4 ♣ \$ ♦
- 4 ♣ \$ ♥
- 4-1-4-4
- 5-2-2-4 ST F4N
- 5-5 \$ NGF ST
- 5-2-2-4 F ST

1 NT – 2 ♥

2 ♠ - 3 ♣

- 3 ♦

- 3 ♥
- 3 ♠
- 3 NT
- 4 m

- 4 ♦ \$ ♣
- 4 ♦ \$ ♥
- 5242 ST F4N
- 5-5 ♠ ♦, \$ NGF

How to accept/ decline a ST

Rules:

- § 4m (m is at least 3-crd long) accepts this suit and is CBW (Not from O, then NAT (R 4 N=SO))
- § Lowest NT Bid, if no fit is know is a sign off bid (i.e. lost values in short suit or MIN, etc.
- § 4NT if Fit is known is KCBW
- § 4M (M is at least 4-crd long) is an attempt to play
- § Lowest free bid accepts ST in M (M is at least 4-crd long) it show/ denies controls if more then one bid is free and available below 4M
- § If there is no possibility to accept a suit below 5♣ then 5♣+ is KCBW-answer with acceptance of this suit
- § If two Fit are possible (at least one known) and no room to accept below 4NT; 4NT is KCBW low suit d(m) 5♣+ is KCBW-answer high suit (usually M)
- § We hope this includes all upcoming situations

Quantitative sequences

Basically, Stayman or transfers (+ retransfers) or 2♣ + 3m + 4N are all quantitative ST with logical suit lengths

O declines with 4N (or passes 4N) or steps keycards (if there is a possible trump suit – normally the minor when R shows 2 suits → if no trump suit is "possible" O steps Aces) starting with 5♣

1.1.4 1 NT – 2♠

2 NT	accepts a hypothetical INV to game in ♣
3♣	does not accept - " -
- 3♣	to play
- 3♦/♥/♠	shortness, GF
- 3 NT (over 2 NT)	accepts the acceptance
- 3 NT (over 3♣)	minimum slam try with long ♣ without any singleton
- 4♣	slam try with long ♣ without any singleton (CBW)
- 4♦/♥/♠	void, slam try, long ♣
- 4 NT	5332, 5♣, quantitative

1.1.5 1 NT – 2 NT

3♣/♦	preference, assuming R to be weak
- 3♦/4♣	GF, 6-4
- 3 M	shortness, 5-4
- 3 NT	2254/-45, NF
- 4 m	CBW
- 4 M	void
- 4 NT	quant, 44-mm

1.1.6 1 NT – 3♣

3♦	
- 3 M	shortness
- 3 NT/4♣	short ♣, NF / F SI
- 4♦	slam try, no shortness - CBW
- 4 M	void, slam try
- 4 NT	5♦332, quantitative slam try

1.1.7 1 NT – 3 ♦

Opener accepts INV by bidding 3 NT or possibly an honor combination on the 3-level.

1.1.8 1 NT – 3 ♥

3 ♠	good raise in ♥
3 N	NAT
4 ♣	5+ ♣ (possible trump suit)
4 ♦	support
4 ♥	"bad" raise in ♥

1.1.9 1 NT – 3 ♠

3 N	NAT
4 ♣	5+ ♣ (possible trump suit)
4 ♦	support
4 ♥	good ♠ raise
4 ♠	"bad" ♠ raise

1.1.10 1 NT – 4 ♣

O just makes a preference to 4 M. A continuation with 5 m is EBW, with 4NT is KCBW.

2. 1 NT bidding with a limited R

NB that the partnership may elect to play the standard NT system, the below is a simplified version more aimed at partscore/INV sequences.

- pass – 1 NT
- 1 ♣ - 1 ♦ - 1 NT
- 1 ♣ (D/1X) – p – (p) – 1 NT
- 1 ♣ - 1 ♦ - (D/1 X) – 1 NT
- pass (1 X) – 1 NT

The ordinary system being very geared at GF and ST situations, it is very irrelevant for the above situations. Instead the system prescribes a simplified model:

1 NT

- 2 ♣	- any	Stayman, 3 responses (2 ♥ could "hide" a 4-4 MM) weak/Truscott light INV natural INV INV, 5+ m, a 4-card M on the side
- 2 ♦	- 2 ♥	5-card suit transfer
	- 2 ♠	5 ♥ + 4 ♠, INV
	- 2 NT	natural INV
	- 3 m	INV, 5-5
- 2 ♥	- 2 NT	5-card suit transfer (like the above)
- 2 ♠	- 3 ♣	one or both minors longer ♦ or equal length longer ♣
	- 3 m	sign-off
	- 3 M	shortness, both mm (4 m from O is a suggestion to play)
- 2 NT		INV
- 3 m		INV
- 3 M		Strong INV with one good m and short M
- 3 NT		to play
- 4 m/M		Texas/to play

3. Opposed 1 NT bidding

3.1 Opponents make a natural ("PEN") X of 1 NT

- RD 8/9+, natural. We cannot let opps play undoubled below 2 NT. All O's bids are natural; if R makes a bid on the 2-level it is INV/NF. If R wishes to force he has to bid a cuebid or jump.

If we cannot double either of opponents, 2 NT is F, not necessarily BAL and suit is INV.
- pass neutral
- 2 M NAT
- 2 ♣ natural, but could be rescue with ♦+♥ (2 ♦) or ♦+♠ (RD) or MM equal (2 ♥)
- 2 ♦ natural, but could be rescue with both MM (+ 2 ♥= better ♥, XX = better ♠)

3.2 Opponents overcall with a natural bid

- D negative, promises as a rule 4 cards in unbid M (over e.g. 2 ♥ it could be an INV BAL hand removing 2 ♠ to 2 NT). D should be at least a light INV or better and O may bypass 2 N.
- 2 any NF
- 2 NT Rumpelsohl (i.e. ♣ or any suit NF)
- 3 any (≠overc suit) TRX to next higher suit INV+
- 4 m (over 2 m) SYSON
- 4 m (over 2 M) 5-5 in m + oM, good cards (GF(+))
- 3 NT normally promises a stopper in their suit

3.2.1 3 ♣ & TRX

- to new suit A 3 LEV TRX to new suit is INV+. Opener breaks the TRF with max even without a good fit. A new suit by the TRXbidder is GF.
- to opps suit The TRX to opps suit is a Stayman substitute. Opener is required to bid a 4-c M. If he doesn't possess one he bid 3NT with a useful stop in opps suit. With neither M nor stopper he simply accept the trx.
- to 3NT the 3 ♠ TRX to 3NT shows a hand wishing to play 3NT but not containing a stop in opps suit.

3.2.2 2 NT

- weak hands 2NT shows a NF bid in a lower ranking suit (lower than the overcalled suit)
- ♣ hands 2 NT + any bid **above** the overcalled suit on the 3 LEV shows a FG hand with ♣ as the main suit and has a natural meaning.
2NT + Cue = FG ♣ no stop or SI
2 NT + 3 NT=FG in ♣ with stop (normally light ST)

3.2.2.1 ♣ hands INV

Since there is no INV bid with ♣, R can improvise by doubling and then bidding 3 ♣ (or 2 N depending on situation) with an INV hand, thus 2 N *tends* to be GF or to play.

3.3 Opponents interfere conventionally

This applies whether O make a non-hcp/penalty D or makes a conventional overcall (whether it shows a specific hand-type including the suit bid or not).

The principle is the same as above.

1 N (D)

- RD strength (8/9+). We cannot let O play a contract below 2 NT; we can pass out a suit bid made on the 2-level (from R this is INV). RD + new suit by R is INV. If we don't double, R's subsequent 2 NT or 3-level bids are good-bad (i.e. direct bid is GF and 2 NT is "weak", i.e. INV, and O bypasses any suit he would have accepted an invitation in)
- other if D was entirely artificial (=any suit, any 2-suiter, 1 Major-1 minor) other bids are SYSON

If D showed a specific suit (including: one specific suit + any other) or two specific suits then 2-level bids are like over a 2 ♣ overcall showing the same thing.

1 NT (2 ♣)

- D/other if 2 ♣ was entirely artificial (one suit, two unknown suits, etc)
- D à is SYSON

If 2 ♣ showed 2 suits (Landy)
- D à PEN-oriented (some acceptance to play ♣)
- 2 any: NAT
- **lowest** cuebid: NAT
- **highest** cuebid: T/O, distributional only if possible on 2-level
- Rumpelsohl (trx to their lower suit as usual GF Stayman), to higher: \$.
- D+cue = stoppershow

If 2 ♣ showed one suit ≠ ♣ (eg Astro)
- D à PEN-oriented
- 2 any: NAT
- cuebid (*only on 2-level if possible*) distributional non-GF T/O
- Rumpelsohl (trx to their shown suit = GF Stayman)
D+cue = stopperask.

For higher ART overcalls than 2 ♣, we still play cuebid on 2-level as unBAL non-GF T/O (over specifically 2 ♦ = MM, 2 ♥ is NAT and 2 ♠ the non-GF T/O), Rumpelsohl as of 2 N. Transfers

1 N (2 ♦*) X (2 M)
P (p) X
2 N
3 m/oM

PEN
Scr or GF (any bid is GF)
NAT/INV

1 N (2 ♦*) 2 N++

Rumpelsohl, their ART suit is their suit (in treatment) if no suit has been shown

3.4 1 NT – 2 ♣/♦/♥/♠ - (D)

If opps decide to double our bid (and assuming it is lead-directional) we bid like the following:

Rule: pass always denies a stopper if opps double 2-level bids.

3.4.1 1 NT – 2 ♣ (D)

NB that R has not promised a 4-card M.

pass	no ♣ stopper
RD	4+ ♣, Hhxx or better
2 ♦ etc	like without the double, but promises a ♣ stopper

1 NT – 2 ♣ (D)

RD	
- 2 ♦	renewed Stayman (no danger of O bypassing 2 ♠, he cannot have 4-4 MM...)
- 2 ♥ à	like unopposed

1 NT – 2 ♣ (D)

bid	(promising a stopper)
- any	like unopposed

1 NT – 2 ♣ (D)

pass	
- 2 ♦	Stayman, but denies both Majors if INV or stronger
- RD	both MM
- 2 M	INV, but denies both MM

Over 2 ♦ O bids naturally, a 3 ♣ bid from R is GF.

Over RD O bids 3-card suits from below, with 4-card support he must bypass 2 NT (3 m with max with support for corrM, 3 M with min); this way we can stop low on a 4-3 fit on the 2-level when we have no stopper in their suit.

3.4.2 1 NT – 2 ♦/♥ - (D)

pass	doubleton support, stopper
RD	doubleton support, no stopper
2 M (accept)	3-card support (possibly a "dull" 4-card support hand)
new suit	4-card support, (but 2 ♦ - 2 ♠ shows ♠ values)

1 NT – 2 ♦ (D)

pass

After pass, R can redouble with diamonds or proceed syson.

After RD, R continues syson

2 M, in principle logically syson

3.4.3 1 NT – 2 ♠ - (D)

pass	no acceptance, no ♠ stopper
3 ♣	no acceptance, ♠ stopper
RD	acceptance, no ♠ stopper
2 NT	acceptance, ♠ stopper

1 NT OPENER

5. 2 NT bidding

Since no strong notrump hand starts with high bids, R's strength is normally quite limited once we "arrive" in 2 N. One of the few exceptions is a 2 NT overcall, but we keep the structure for simplicity.

It also applies in 1 ♣ sequences when:

- O shows a strong BAL hand with 2 NT and R has only bid pass or a non-suit showing double
- R shows an 11-13 BAL hand with 2 N over an overcall over 1 ♣

System is a Romex module and applies in all cases when O has shown a BAL hand with 2 NT and R has not yet shown a suit

NB When O shows support with a cuebid without yet having bid the trump suit (e.g. 2 N – 3 ♦ - 4 ♣) we systematically play retransfers wherever possible, 4 M then shows a cuebid in the suit bypassed and is F1.

5.1 Responses

We bid:

Starting with 3 ♣: ROMEX-Stayman

- 4M
- 3M if interested in 5/3-M-fit (3/1 MM, 6m 3M, ect.)
- 5 ♠/4 ♥
- 3 ♠/5 ♥
- 5-5 MM slam try

Starting with 3 ♦ TRANSFER

- 5 ♥
- 5 ♥/4 ♠
- 5 ♥4 m, 5 ♥5 m
- 6 ♥ no ST

Starting with 3 ♥ TRANSFER

- 5 ♠
- 5 ♠ 5 ♥ no ST
- 5 ♠ 5 ♥ SF
- 5 ♠ 4⁺ m
- 6 ♠ no ST

Starting with 3 ♠ Minor Suit Stayman

- 4/4mm ST
- 5/4+ mm usually no 3M
- 6/4 mm

Starting with 4 ♣

- 6+ ♦ ST

Starting with 4 ♦

- 6+ ♥ ST

Starting with 4 ♥

- 6+ ♠ ST

Starting with 4 ♠

- 6+ ♣ ST

5.1.1 2 NT – 3 ♣

2 NT – 3 ♣
 3 ♦ denies a 4/5-card ♥ and 5-card ♠ suit (does not promise anything else)
 3 ♥ 4/5-card ♥
 3 ♠ 5 ♠
 3 NT 4 ♥ + 4 ♠

2 NT – 3 ♣
 3 ♦ ask for ♠ length
 - 3 ♥ 3-c ♠ ð 4 m CBW, 4 ♥ ST ♠ CBW, 4 ♠ to play
 - 3 ♠ 2-c ♠ ð 4 m CBW
 - 3 NT 4-c ♠ cue ð Re-TRF if possible, cue
 - 4 m/♥ 4-c ♠ SO
 - 4 ♠

- 3 ♠ asks for 3-card ♥ suit (promises a 5-c ♥; 3-5 MM or strong 5-5 MM)
 - 3 NT 2-c ♥
 - 4 m shortness, 5-5 MM, slam try
 - 4 m cue with good hand and 3-card ♥ support
 - 4 ♥ 3-card ♥ support

- 3 NT to play
 - 4 m 5-card suit (CBW); either 5332 or 5+m and 4 ♥
 - 4 ♥ 4/3♥ 1♠
 - 4 ♠ interested ð 4NT equal or longer ♦, 5♣ SO longer ♣
 - 4 NT SO
 - 5 m m-fit NF

- 4 ♠ 3♠ 1♥ ð 4NT SO, 5m FIT NF

2 NT – 3 ♣
 3 ♥ 4 ♥ (possibly 5 ♥)
 - 3 ♠ asks for 5-card ♥ suit; looking for 5-3 or slam try with 4+♥ support
 - 3 NT no 5-card ♥
 - 4 m slam try ♥ (4 ♣ possibly control, 4 ♦ always control)
 - 4 ♥ 3♥1♠ Slam try
 - 4 ♠ interested ð 4NT equal or longer ♦, 5♣ SO longer ♣
 - 4 NT SO
 - 5 m m-fit NF

- 4 ♣/♦ Cuebid with 5-card ♥ support ð ReTRF if possible

- 3 NT to play
 - 4 ♣/♦ CBW
 - 4 ♥ to play
 - 4 ♠ 3♠ 1♥ ð 4NT SO, 5m FIT NF

2 NT – 3 ♣
 3 ♠ 5 ♠
 - 3 NT to play
 - 4 m 5-card suit (CBW)
 - 4 ♥ slam try in ♠
 - 4 ♠ to play
 - 4 NT quantitative

2 N – 3 ♣ (cont'd)

3 NT	4/4 MM
- 4 ♣	CBW for ♣
- 4 ♦	transfer to 4 ♥ to make O declarer
- 4 ♥	transfer to 4 ♠ to make O declarer
- 4 ♠	CBW for ♦

5.1.2 2 NT – 3 ♦

2 NT – 3 ♦	
3 ♥	
- 3 ♠	asks for 3-card support; is bid with 5-card ♥ suit, including strong hands with 5 ♥ and 4 ♠ + hands with a 5-5 in ♥+minor
- 3 NT	4 ♠ + 5 ♥, NF
- 4 m	5-4 only, slam try
- 4 ♥	to play
- 3 ♠	
- 3 NT	no 3-card support
- 4 m	5-5 (CBW)
- 4 ♥	4-6 in Majors, slam try but NF
- 4 ♠	same but forcing
- 4 NT	4 ♠ + 5 ♥, ST quant

Superacceptance. Should O have 4-card support (and max) he may superaccept by bidding a suit or, with general values, 3 NT. Over the superacceptance 3 ♠/NT: 4 ♦ is a re-transfer and 4 ♣ slamtry in ♥. Over 4 ♣ 4 ♦ is retransfer and 4 ♥ a ♦ cue (F1). Over 4 ♦ 4 ♥ is for play.

5.1.3 2 NT – 3 ♥

2 NT – 3 ♥	
3 ♠	
- 3 NT	choose game!
- 4 m	natural, normally slam try
- 4 ♥	5-5, p/c
- 4 ♠	to play
- 4 NT	quantitative

Superacceptance. Should O have 4-card support (and max) he may superaccept by bidding a suit or, with general values, 3 NT. Over the superacceptance 3 NT/4 ♣: 4 ♥ is a re-transfer and 4 ♦ slamtry in ♥. Over 4 ♦ 4 ♥ is retransfer and 4 ♠ a ♥ cue (F1). Over 4 ♥ 4 ♠ is for play.

5.1.4 2 NT – 3 ♠

3 NT no 4-card minor
 - 4 ♣ 5-card suit, possibly 5-5 à adapted 4 ♣ model (see 5.2)
 - 4 ♦ 3 ♦, not 3 ♣
 - 4 ♥ ♣ KC
 - 4 ♠ ♦ KC
 - 4 NT to play

- 4 ♥ ♣ fit, no slam interest
 - 4 ♠ KC
 - 4 NT to play

- 4 ♠/5 ♣ à ♣ fit, OK for slam, RKC responses à
 - 4 NT negative with something like 4432 and “fat” majors

- 4 ♦ 5 ♦, 4 ♣
 - 4 M cue with ♦ support
 - 4 NT negative

3 NT void, at least 5-5
 - 4 M ♣, BW
 - 4 oM (if poss) sets ♣, BW (if oM preempted), sets ♦ if M = ♥)
 - 4 NT sets ♦, BW response
 - 5 any

4 m 4-card suit
 - 4 M shortness

5.1.5 2 NT – 4 X

2 NT – 4 ♣ CBW (for ♦)
 2 NT – 4 ♦/♥/♠ step 1: negative, step 2++: RKCB response with support

5.2 4 ♣ CBW à special cases

When 4 ♣ is CBW and there is a possible ♦ fit then the following structure is used:

4 ♣

- 4 ♦ ♦-suit normally no ♣-fit
 - 4 oM KCBW ♦ (**M is a known 4⁺-card suit from opener**)
 - 4 M suggestion to play

- 4 ♥ ♣-fit no SI
 - 4 oM KCBW ♣
 - 4 M suggestion to play (then 5⁺ ♣ KCBW answer)

- 4 ♠ ♣-fit SI 1/4 KC
 - 4 NT no fit or definitely no SI (according to knowledge about pards strength)
 - 5 ♣♦♥ ♣-fit 0/3 KC, 2/noQ, 2/Q

5.3 2 NT in other situations

Same system applies for reasons of simplicity.

6. 3 NT bidding

Only used when we overcall with a natural 3 NT

- 4 ♣ ask for 3NT type
 - 4 ns trick NT (i.e. long suit)
 - 4 Q Power NT ie ~20+
 - 4 NT stretch NT 15-19
- 4 ♦/♥ TRF M
- 4 ♠/N TRF m

A TRF to Opponents suit is SI in the oM/om