

Overcalling No Trumps

The opposition have a habit of opening the bidding before you, the pesky varmits. When we have a 5 card suit we can double, overcall a five card suit or double and bid a five-card suit (15-18pts). But you may want to show a balanced hand and you can by bidding 1NT as you would if you were the opener. The only caveat is that you need to have a stopper in the oppositions suit. You would like to over call 1NT in any of these situations:

Opening Bid	Your hand	Notes
1C	♠ A53 ♥ A53 ♦ 9742 ♣ AKQ	Don't worry about the Diamonds as Stayman and transfers apply so you may not end-up in NT.
1C	♠ A532 ♥ A53 ♦ 974 ♣ AKQ	Partner may have a Spades suit and could find it using Stayman
1D	♠ A53 ♥ A53 ♦ 9742 ♣ AKQ	Pass here no cover in D's
1H	♠ AQJ53 ♥ A53 ♦ 974 ♣ AQ	If you play puppet stayman asking for a 5 card suit 1NT is a good overcall otherwise double and then bid spades

But what if your hand is even stronger with say 19 – 20 pts you need to double first and then bid 1NT. (You still need to have a stopper in their suit)

Something like,;

♠ AQ53
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K742
 ♣ AK4

This rarer but still comes up regularly. Stayman and transfers apply but you do not need to be as strong to do stayman (5+ pts). Do not forget partner must have at least 2 cards in your suit so if you have a 6 card suit you know there is a fit.

Very rarely, you will have a hand even stronger, 21-22 pts.

Such as;

♠ AQ53
 ♥ AQ53
 ♦ K7
 ♣ AK4

Here you would bid a double first but then jump bid in NT.

Take this sequence;

Opp	You	Partner
1H	X	1S (must Bid something)
	2NT (shows 21-22pt with stopper)	
1H	X	1S (must Bid something)
2H Cheeky Buggar!	3NT (with heart in mouth)	