

EXAMPLES

Suppose that you hold an example hand we saw earlier:

♠ A K J x x ♥ x x ♦ J x x ♣ K x x

If one notrump is opened to your *right*, you should pass. However, if one notrump is opened to your *left* and passed to you, overcall two spades. If you do not, partner will get the defense off to a false start with his opening lead, and the enemy may make a part score on a hand that belongs to you. This is a serious loss, so the risk of bidding is outweighed by the risk of passing.

Similarly, another hand we saw earlier must be treated differently:

♠ A x ♥ K x x ♦ K Q J x x x ♣ x x

This was a fine penalty double of one notrump *directly over* the opening, since you were on lead. But you must not double in fourth seat, since partner is unlikely to lead diamonds. Simply overcall two diamonds. (With a strong major suit in a hand of considerable power in the pass-out seat, make a *jump* overcall to invite game. The jump overcall is preemptive directly over one notrump, but is strong in the reopening position.)

The next example was a sound *direct* double of a weak notrump opening:

♠ K x ♥ Q J 10 x ♦ A K x x ♣ Q x x

After one notrump-pass-pass, however, the double is not nearly so attractive. First, partner must make a blind lead and thus your chance of defeating the contract is less. Second, the fact that your right-hand opponent passed one notrump means that he holds a balanced hand of some merit; therefore, there is not much chance of a large penalty. To double risks a huge loss when your partner has little strength, and there is too little prospect of a huge profit to compensate. You should pass one notrump, and hope to defeat the contract.

Clearly, the penalty double has little utility in the pass-out position against a weak notrump opening. Therefore, this double:

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-----------|--------|
| OPENER | PARTNER | RESPONDER | YOU |
| 1 NT | Pass | Pass | Double |

should be for *takeout* into a major suit. It should be used on just those hands with which you would have bid two clubs, Landy, *directly over* one notrump. And partner should respond to your double almost exactly as if you had used Landy. He does, however, have the option of passing for penalties, and he should do so when he has length and strength in the minor suits and no fit for your majors.

Natural Two-Club Overcall

The overcall of two clubs in the reopening position is natural, promising clubs. As we have seen, it is very desirable to overcall in any long, strong suit in fourth seat. There is no need to deny yourself the opportunity of overcalling in clubs, since the double is used for takeout.

Finally, let me point out that there is another situation in which your bid of two clubs over *any* notrump opening is natural, showing club length, even though you and partner use the Landy Convention. This is when you are a passed hand. Obviously, you cannot be strong enough to double one notrump for penalties; thus, the double by a passed hand is for takeout into a major suit. So the two-club overcall is no longer needed as a takeout bid and means just what it says.