

No one vul.

1♣ - 1♣ - 1NT - ?

♠ 8 7 2
♥ K 8 6 5 4
♦ K J 3
♣ 4 2

Best to pass. Minimum and poor trumps. While it is true that 2♣ could work out, it is tempting fate. When you overcall aggressively, you give the opponents problems. Here, RHO seems to have solved the problem. There is no need to continue putting pressure on the opponents

when they have completed a satisfactory description of their values. After RHO bids 1NT, you should be raising when you *expect* to have a play for the contract, not when you *hope* to have a play for it. When RHO bids 1NT, a raise by you will be doubled whenever you are too high. It is one of the easiest auctions for the opponents to clip their coupons when you get out of line.

No one vul.

1♦ - 1♥ - 1NT - ?

♠ 8 7
♥ 10 6 5 4
♦ A 8 7
♣ Q 6 5 4

2♥. You have a moderate playing hand with a fourth trump. There is almost no hand where partner will be bidding towards game and he's not too likely to be competing for a part-score unless he has something extra. Partner knows the trump suit will be offside and his bidding will take that into consideration.

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Vul. vs. not.

1♥ - 1♣ - 1NT - ?

♠ K J 8 7
♥ 8
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ 9 6 3 2

2♣. Good trump plus good distribution means anything goes. RHO probably has something like Q 10 3 in spades and will be disappointed when he takes no trump tricks. Only when you have exceptional trumps such as these can you expect to negate RHO's holding.

Not vul. vs. vul.

1♣ - 1♣ - 1NT - ?

♠ Q 8 6 5 4
♥ K Q 3
♦ A 7 6
♣ 10 6

In spite of your good hand a raise to 2♣ is sufficient. Game prospects are dim. One alternative is to double, but a general rule in bridge is to take the path of least resistance. You have a safe part-score and a speculative double. Perhaps some people didn't overcall with your

partner's hand. If this is the case, you will be in the auction on hands where others did not compete. I said that game was unlikely. Almost *a priori*, when the bidding goes something like the example auction, you will never have a game on the basis of high cards. Game will succeed as the result of distribution and working cards. This hand has good HCP, but in spite of the fifth spade, the distribution is somewhat pedestrian.