

11) Our 1NT opening overcalled by opponents.

We have seen that opponents have, at their disposal, a large variety of overcalls to disturb our 1NT opening. We therefore have to be prepared to the fact that opponents, at least the most aggressive ones, will not miss the opportunity to disturb our 1NT opening with natural or artificial overcalls.

The modern trend consists in reacting to overcalls to our 1NT opening with transfer bids. Such technique was created by the two Champions Bocchi-Duboin and it is now quite popular at least at a certain level. The use of transfer bids is quite effective because it tends to make opener declarer so that the over caller will have to make the lead. In this way it is possible to avoid the often fastidious over caller partner lead in the over caller suit.

In order to use the transfer technique it is however necessary to learn 3 or 4 pages of bidding developments that not everybody is ready to memorise.

To the most ambitious bridge players we certainly highly recommend our two big Champs solutions related in detail on the book " The Bocchi-Duboin system " published by Mursia.

To the less ambitious bridge players, not inclined to study, we propose a simpler but obviously rougher method:

W	N	E	S
-	1NT	X	XX = 8+ HCP over which North bids a 4 cards major or 2NT without a 4 cards major.
		X	2x = 5-7 HCP and a nice 5 carder.
		2x	X = 8+ HCP without stopper in x.
		2x	2NT= 8+ HCP with stopper in x
		2x	2y o 3y = 5-7 HCP and a nice 5+ carder

South responses after the overcall, are meant to clarify responder strength in order to avoid expensive misunderstandings. They also allow opener to transform X or XX into a punitive bid, this being the case. They finally provide to opener the information, often crucial, about a stopper in the over caller suit.

All above is valid only in case of a natural overcall.

In case the overcall would be artificial, things get complicated because it is generally the case of a 2 suited overcall and in such a case you need precise pair agreements.

Lacking such agreements, usually X or XX would show 8+ HCP while a bid of a new suit shows a 5+ carder with 0-7 HCP.

As anticipated, the technique is not very refined but permits, however, to make a difference between competitive and positive hands.