

LEBENSOHL REVIEW: 2 Level Overcalls of Your No Trump by Maritha Pottenger

Remember: **all doubles by you of natural 2-level bids by them are penalty!** This includes delayed doubles (after relay or after waiting to determine their suit).

Partner Opens 1NT and RHO Bids....

Double (NOT for penalty): all systems (Stayman, transfers, etc.) are ON. Redouble is to play (8+ HCP).

Double (FOR penalty): all systems are on. Redouble transfers to 2C (to play 2C or 2D).

2C (overcall or single-suit, NOT showing both majors)

Double is Stayman. All transfers & other systems are ON.

2D (overcall) showing diamonds, NOT majors

Double is penalty.

2H or 2S are to play (natural).

2NT relay forces 3C. Following relay with 3D is Stayman with a stopper (in diamonds). Following relay with 3H is invitational (5 or 6 card suit). Following relay with 3S is invitational (5 or 6 card suit). 3NT after relay promises stopper (in diamonds).

Immediate 3C, 3H, or 3S are game-forcing.

Immediate 3NT shows game values & denies a stopper (in diamonds).

2D (showing majors) [or 2C showing both majors]

Double is penalty-oriented for at least one of their suits.

Cheaper cue-bid (3H) is game invitational. Higher cue-bid (spades) is game-forcing.

Relay (2NT forcing 3C) followed by cue-bid shows or denies stopper according to partnership agreement. (Suggest SHOWS stopper as is usually case with 2 suits in question.)

Relay followed by new suit at 3-level is to play.

Immediate new suit at 3 level is forcing.

Immediate 3NT shows game values without a stopper in either suit.

Relay followed by 3NT shows game values and promises stoppers in both suits.

2H (natural or showing hearts & another suit)

Double is penalty (for hearts)

2S is to play.

2NT is relay. Followed by any suit at 3 level is to play (except 3S is invitational).

Immediate suit bid at 3-level is game-forcing.

Immediate cue-bid (3H) is Stayman and denies a stopper.

2NT relay followed by cue-bid (3H) is Stayman and promises a stopper (in hearts).

Immediate 3NT shows game values, but no stopper.

Relay, followed by 3NT shows game values with stopper (in hearts).

2S (showing spades or spades & another suit)

Double is penalty (for spades)

2NT is relay. Following with 3D is to play. Following with 3H is to play but can be raised to game with a fit and a maximum hand. Following with 3S is Stayman WITH a stopper. Following relay with 3NT is game values and promises stopper (in spades).

Immediate 3C or 3D are game-invitational in minor; game forcing with NT stoppers.

Immediate 3H: game-forcing with 5-card (or longer) suit.

Immediate 3S: Stayman without a stopper

Immediate 3NT: game values without a stopper.