

Notrump Interference - Intermediate

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Level: Intermediate

In many classes, I get asked, "Larry, what should we do when they use a Convention (such as CAPPALLETTI, or [DONT](#) against our Strong Notrump?) There is no fast answer. To cope with interference, you need to do a little studying and memorizing. (Otherwise, be prepared for some accidents). You and your partner have to come to some agreements.

It is impractical (unless you are a world-class bridge pro) to try to memorize different schemes versus different methods. For example, to play System-A against [DONT](#), but System-B against CAPPALLETTI, and System-C against Brozel would be too much memory drain.

Here is a simple scheme to deal with any kind of interference--you can choose parts or all of it. For a more complete (and more difficult scheme), click [here](#).

They DOUBLE

If they double 1NT (as a convention), don't even bother asking what the ALERT means. Just ignore them. I mean I-G-N-O-R-E! All your bids mean what they would have meant without the [artificial](#) double. If 2♦ would be a transfer, then it is still a transfer. If 2NT would be a transfer then it is still a transfer. Just pretend they passed.

[If they PENALTY Double 1NT, then just play ALL NATURAL -- no [Stayman](#), no Transfers. Use XX as a rescue/runout]

They Bid 2♣

You can also ignore ALL 2♣ overcalls. You double to say, "They stole my bid." So, double is [Stayman](#). All other calls mean what they would have meant if the opponent had passed.

They Bid 2♦ or Higher

If they overcall 2♦ or higher, I suggest you abandon transfers completely. Bid naturally (and if you know [lebensoh!](#), you can use it). Play DOUBLE as "negative." It would take too long to explain exactly what qualifies as "negative." But, here is a simple explanation: It is NOT penalty. It is not purely showing the other major(s). It just means, "Partner, I have values to bid, but no bid I can conveniently make."

This scheme is not 100% complete, but it will help you cope with most situations with a minimal amount of memory strain. If you want a more thorough treatment, click [here](#) (but I warn you to be prepared for a headache)