

September 16, 2024 Class

K1062 1 Spade
 87 4 Spades
 A954
 Q63

J5 Pass
 Q63 Pass
 KJ832 Pass
 982

943 Pass
 J95 Pass
 Q107
 AK74

AQ87
 AK1042 DEALER – 1 Heart
 6 3 Spades
 J105 Pass

South has opened on a minimum opener of 14 HCP, but North's 1 Spade Response allows South to reevaluate his/her hand because of the fit. South's hand becomes 14 HCP + 2 points for the singleton diamond and some of us also count an extra point when we find a fit. In any case, South now has 16 or 17 points | support of spades.

North has 9 HCP + 1 point for the doubleton heart and, opposite South's 15-17 pts, has enough to raise to 4 spades. North should set up dummy's hearts and just lose the A and K of clubs.

K976 2 Diamonds
 1054 3 Clubs (Stayman)
 872 4 Spades
 Q72

Q104 Pass
 K9732 Pass
 A64 Pass
 93

83
 QJ6 Pass
 10953 Pass
 10865 Pass

AJ52
 A8 DEALER – 2 Clubs
 KQJ 2 NT
 AKJ4 3 Spades

When North shows a minimum of an Ace or a King, I've occasionally seen South jump to 3 NT because they know they have game. South should rebid 2 NT to show 22-24 HCP. North will use Stayman to check for a spade fit, and raise to 4 when he finds one. 4 Spades makes, 3 NT will score 7 or 8 tricks on a heart lead.

J4 2 NT (Unusual 2 NT)
A10984 Pass
QJ753
5

Q85	DEALER – 1 Club	AK1073	3 Spades
QJ6	???	K75	???
A4		10	
KQ762		J1093	

962
32 5 Diamonds
K9862
A84

You don't just use Unusual 2 NT when your opponent opens 1 of a major. When an opponent opens 1 of any suit, a jump to 2 NT shows at least 5-5 in the lower 2 of the remaining 3 suits. West opened 1 Club, so partner's 2 NT shows at least 5-5 in hearts and diamonds, so South knows that NS have at least a 10 card diamond fit. When East bids 3 Spades, South knows that EW are finding a fit because partner can have very few spades. If South bids just 4 Diamonds to show North the Diamond fit, West is almost certain to bid 4 Spades and then either North or South will have to make the decision to Pass or bid 5 Diamonds. It's much better for South to jump to 5 Diamonds immediately over 3 Spades and make EW have the decision whether to double or bid 5 Spades. On this hand 5 Diamonds goes down just 2. 4 Spades would have made but if EW push on to 5 Spades, they go down 1 when South leads a heart, North wins the Ace and switches to clubs for his ruff.

Use your judgment:

Like all bids, these overcalls (Unusual 2 NT) give information to both your Partner and the opponents. If you don't buy the contract, your bid may work against you because it gives declarer an almost perfect picture of your distribution. For this reason, you should use these bids when your hand meets all the requirements for suit length and playing strength.

Be careful if your high-card strength is outside of your suits. With a hand like
K A6 J9853 Q7622, your suits are too weak for a 2 NT overcall.