

DO YOU NEED A STOPPER TO BID NO TRUMPS?

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
a) 1NT			
b) 1D 1NT	Pass	1S	Pass
c) 1C	1H	1NT	
d) 1D	Double	Pass	1NT

We are so often asked: "When do we need a stopper to bid No Trump?"

a) When you open the bidding with 1NT, you can have

S AKJ6
H AKJ7
D 432
C 32

If partner bids 3NT, the opponents have been given no clues. They do not know what to lead. They have a 25% shot at hotting your weakest suit.

b) Different story now! You gave the opponents clues! They know not to lead a Diamond and not to lead a Spade. Therefore when you as opening bidder now bid NT, you guarantee a Heart stopper and most of the time a Club stopper also. The opponents are most likely to lead the unbid major against NT. It is often a wise choice to make. So you are now promising stoppers in the unbid suit AND no singletons or voids please!! You promise a balanced hand.

c) The NT bidder here guarantees a Heart stopper and 6-10 HCP. Whenever opponents have bid a suit, your NT bid now guarantees a stopper in their suit.

d) When partner makes a Takeout Double, he is begging you to bid a major, if you have four cards or more in that major. But if you do not, then try to bid NT if you have a stopper in the opponent's suit. Note that this NT bid does not promise stoppers in the OTHER suits, only in opponent's suit. After all, partner's takeout double says that she has some substance in the unbid suits.