

HELLO

A Defense after the Opponents Open or Overcall 1NT

Created by Jerry HELms and Bill LOhman

Source: Max & Mary Hardy, presented by Mike Savage

HELLO is a very effective defensive convention used when the opponents bid **1NT**—either as an opening bid or as an overcall. With a 1-suiter, it transfers play in clubs, diamonds and hearts, directly bids spades at the 2-level (blocking their standard no-trump responses) and also handles all 2-suiters.

I. **1NT** (opening) followed with an overcall by a non-passed hand of:

2C = Shows a one-suited hand in diamonds **or** a two suited hand with a major and a minor.

2D = Semi-automatic response to find out which hand your partner has.

Pass = Shows that you had a one-suited diamond overcall.

2H or **2S** = Shows that major and an unknown minor (shows 5-5).

2NT = Asks you to bid your minor.

2D = Shows Hearts.

2H = Shows Both Majors.

2S = Shows Spades.

2NT = Shows Clubs.

3C = Shows Both Minors.

3D = Shows Both Majors with a very good hand and is game invitational.

DBL = Penalty—made with tricks or overwhelming power. Partner is requested to pass.

II. If they open **1NT** and you are in the pass-out seat, all bids remain the same except two:

DBL = Shows a one-suited hand in clubs **or** a two-suited hand with diamonds and hearts.

2C = Automatic response.

Pass = Shows that you had a one-suited club overcall.

2D = Shows that you have a two-suited hand with diamonds and hearts.

2C, **2D**, **2H** and **2S** are the same as when you are not a passed hand (see above).

2NT = Shows better clubs and stronger if non-passed; both minors, when you're a passed hand.

III. **HELLO** can also be used after your partner's opening bid and the next hand overcalls **1NT**.

The bidding structure is basically the same as above; for example **1H-1NT-2D** still shows hearts but is now a simple raise. There are some subtle differences in the meaning of **2C**. Here they are:

If opener has bid **1C**:

2C = Shows diamonds **or** a minor and a major. Responder could have a club fit and a major or he could have diamonds and a major. Opener should bid **2D** to find out which he has.

If opener has bid **1D**:

2C = Shows a fit for diamonds and a major suit. Opener bids **2D** with or w/o a potential major fit—but with major shortness, he can preempt in diamonds, assured of a fit

If opener had bid **1H**:

2C = Still shows a diamond 1-suiter **or** a major/minor 2-suiter. Opener bids **2D** to find out.

2H by responder shows 3 or more hearts, a 5-card minor and is a constructive raise.

2S by responder shows 5-5 in spades and a minor (**2NT** always asks which minor).

If opener had bid **1S**:

2C = Still shows either diamonds **or** a major/minor 2-suiter. Opener bids **2D** to find out.

2S by responder shows 3 or more spades, a 5-card minor and is a constructive raise.

2H by responder shows 5-5 in hearts and a minor (**2NT** always asks which minor).

IV. After any **HELLO** auction, **2NT** ("Heavy" **2NT**) by advancer is fit showing, inviting game.