

Unusual vs Unusual

Defense After *Unusual* Notrump (Basic System is ①, ②, ③ & ④) with **Modifications** and Extensions presented by Mike Savage

After 1-of-a-suit and a 2 NT overcall, you always know which two suits the 2 NT bidder holds. Basic defensive strategy over our major suit opening/2 NT is to cue-bid the lower of their suits to show the unbid major and bid the higher of their suits to show good support for partner's suit; both bids showing invitational or better values. Three of partner's suit is a competitive raise and double will be penalty oriented but may also be a balanced hand, invitational or better with 3-card trump support. If partner opens 1-of-a-minor, followed by 2 NT showing both minors (rarely), then 3C is a transfer to hearts, 3D is a transfer to spades, both invitational or better & 3H/3S are weak, showing a good suit.

1. After 1 of a Major – 2 NT - for both minors:

Double = Shows defense and invites partner to double or pass with defense.

Rebids by Doubler (example: **1H** 2NT **DBL** 3C **Pass** **Pass** ?):

DbL = Penalty.

3 of Opener's Major = Invitational, three trumps & good defense.

3 of Unbid Major = 4-card suit, forcing with strength in the unbid suit.

3NT = To play, with good defensive values.

4C/4D = Slam interest cue-bids with a fit and a balanced hand.

① **3 Clubs** = Shows five or more cards in the other major & is invitational or better.

Response: **3D** = Denies 3-card support or a 6-card major suit.

② **3 Diamonds** = Shows an invitational or better raise in opener's major.

③ **3 of Opener's Major** = A competitive raise, about 6-8/9 points and four trumps.

④ **3 of Unbid Major** = Shows a very good 6-card suit with nothing else outside.

3NT = 4 cards in the other major, 3 of partner's major and game values or better.

4 Clubs/4 Diamonds = Splinter raises; at least four trumps and game values.

2. After 1 of a Minor – 2 NT - for hearts and the other minor (2 lowest unbid suits):

Double = Shows defense and invites partner to double or pass with defense.

Rebids by Doubler (example: **1D** 2NT **DBL** 3C **Pass** **Pass** ?):

DbL = Penalty.

3 of Opener's Minor = Invitational with good defensive values.

3S = Natural (4 cards usually), forcing with strength in the unbid suit.

3NT = To play, with good defensive values.

① **3 of Opener's Minor** = A constructive, mildly invitational raise with a good fit.

② **3 of Opponent's Minor** = Shows minor stopped, a fit for partner & game values.

③ **3 Hearts** = Transfer to spades and shows invitational or better values.

④ **3 Spades** = Shows hearts stopped and at least game going values.

3NT = To play. Usually with a fit and both opponents' suits stopped.

4 of Other Minor or **4 Hearts** = Splinter, forcing raise and five or more trumps.