



Major Oriented No Trump Killer

Listed below are certain features of other conventional defense methods, which are employed against an opening by by the opposing side of 1 No Trump. The concept can be used for various ranges, although the general foundation is based on 12-14 points, or the *weak No Trump opening bid*, which is mainly employed by the Acol bidding system.

Any partnership agreement to employ the foundation of this concept for other No Trump ranges is purely an individual partnership agreement.

The Necessity of the Concept

The following reasons suggest that the Major Oriented No Trump Killer, also known colloquially as MONK, could be more suitable to apply than other conventional methods. Additional reasons may plague the partnership when employing certain conventional defense methods and added to this list if a situation arises, in which there is no clear, definitive, and unambiguous call.

The 2 Clubs over an opposing No Trump bid showing a one-suited hand can present a major flaw. The bid has no preemptive value and is easily countered such as perhaps doubling for Stayman (*Stolen Bid*) and also *transfer bids*).

When the responder bids something, the advancer who might otherwise be happy to compete, does not know the suit of the overcaller, and cannot therefore show support that he might have.

A double for penalty, even against a *weak No Trump*, seldom gains a large penalty and thus a better use can be found for this call.

The 2 Diamonds bid promising both Major suits cannot consistently discover the optimum contract or fit for a 5-4 distribution in both Major suits, when partner shows no preference.

Both the 2 Hearts and 2 Spades bids do not distinguish between 5-card and 6-card holdings, which is important for competitive Law decisions.

The overcaller may not be able to show Clubs at the two level.

Major Oriented No Trump Killer - MONK

The concept of the conventional defense method of Major Oriented No Trump addresses the above listed issues successfully. Major Oriented No Trump focuses on the Major suits. Major Oriented No Trump allows the player to:

1. distinguish between two suited Major suits, even those holding with a 5-4,
2. address balanced to semi-balanced distribution such as 5-3-3-2 in a Major,
3. show a Major suit with a 6-card plus length,
4. show a Major suit with a side Minor suit.

The call of *double* in the Major Oriented No Trump concept also, in certain situations, places a possible pressure on a weak responder.

- 2♣ shows both Major suits with a distribution of 5-4 or 5-5, or even better. 2♣ is far preferable to 2♦ for this purpose since partner can bid 2♦ (or double a 2♦ by the partner of the opener) to show no preference and also equal length in both Major suits. If there is a preference, then the advancer bids it outright. This principle ensures that the partnership will indeed find the best fit when the overcaller is 5-4 (when partner is 3-3, then the partner bids 2♦.
- 2♦ promises a 5-card Major suit with a side 4-card plus Minor suit. The responses are similar to the Multi 2♦ responses. The partnership employs the principle of *pass or correct*, and will generally respond 2♥, which also allows the principle of *pass or correct* to 2♠. Correcting to 2♠ is also *pass or correct* (and promises an interest in Hearts.) The bid of 2 No Trump inquires about the unspecified Minor suit. The bid of 3♥ is preemptive in both Major suits. All other bids are natural.
- The bids of 2♥ and 2♠ are natural and promise at least a length of 6-cards plus.

Additional holdings with long Minor suit(s), containing more than average values, and with distribution of 5-3-3-2 Major suit hands are not addressed with the information as provided above.

The concept of the conventional defense method of Major Oriented No Trump employs the call of *double* to communicate information about these holdings. Partner generally *advances* with a bid of 2♣, which can either be passed or corrected. This means that the overcaller will pass with Clubs, or bid 2♦ with long Diamonds, or bid 2♥ or 2♠ with a 5-3-3-2 shape.

With an appropriate strong(er) holding the partner can *convert the double* to a penalty double. If the overcaller has a very strong holding, then the overcaller communicates this via a continuation of 2 No Trump or his suit at the three-level. In the case that the responder bids in front of the advancer, then any subsequent double by overcaller promises a strong holding.

It is the nature of the *double* applied within the concept of Major Oriented No Trump, that rather provides a questionable uncertainty whether the advancer might convert to a penalty double. In the case that the responder is weak in values, then the responder may decide to defend instead of competing.

Note: Much of this description is based on the write-up found on bridgebuff.com and other additional explanations are from other sources.