

Cappelletti/Hamilton

Presented by Mike Savage

This convention is a defensive bid after the opponents have opened 1NT. It can be used over strong 1NT and over weak 1NT where leaving in your partner's Dbl might be *very* profitable.

1NT Dbl = Over a strong 1NT, this is for *penalty*. Classically, it is based on a good, long suit to lead, usually with controls in at least two other suits. When you have a hand with 15-18 HCP with no long suit, some players might choose to double. However, most top players will pick **Pass** as their bid of choice unless they have 19/20+ HCP and have a partner they can trust to pass their double even when he may have *zero* HCP. Over a weak 1NT (top of their range is 14 HCP or less), **Dbl** normally shows 14/15+ HCP and is usually balanced.

2C = Shows a 1-suited hand. Partner is expected to bid **2D** unless he has a very good heart or spade suit of his own. In that case, he may bid his own suit.

2D = Forced response, allowing partner to show his suit at the lowest level.

Pass = Diamonds is his suit.

2H or **2S** = This is his suit.

3C = This is his suit and shows a better hand than an immediate **3C**.

After partner has shown a 1-suiter and the next hand bids at the 2-level,

Dbl by you shows a good offensive hand with support for the unbid suits.

2D = Shows both majors; usually will be 5-5 but might be 5-4 with good suits.

2H = Shows hearts and a minor; should be 5-5 but just could be 5-4 with 5 hearts.

2NT = Asks which minor. Over the minor response, if responder returns to hearts, that shows a fit in hearts and responder had some game interest.

2S = Shows spades and a minor; should be 5-5 but just could be 5-4 with 5 spades.

2NT = Responses are the same as over **2NT** above but with a spade fit.

2NT = Shows clubs and diamonds with at least 5-5 and good suits.

My Recommended Positional Variation of the meanings of Dbl and 2C.

When you are a passed hand and the bidding goes P (you) 1NT-P-P to you, or P (you) P-P 1NT, how could you have a penalty double? Also, if your first-seat opponent opens a strong 1NT and it goes pass-pass to you, how often would you really want to double for penalties? No matter how many HCP you might have, the strong no-trump opener sits behind you and your partner wouldn't know what suit to lead.

So, give up the penalty double in the pass-out seat after a strong 1NT, or always by a passed hand, and use it to show a 1-suited hand. This then frees up **2C** to show both minors (instead of having to bid **2NT** & risk the 3-level). The other **Hamilton/Cappelletti** bids would stay the same, allowing *all* balancing bids to occur at the 2-level. In the pass-out seat over a weak 1NT, **Dbl** = the top of their range or more, often balanced, and **2C** still shows a 1-suiter.

By a passed hand or in the pass-out seat after a strong 1NT opening:

Dbl = Shows a 1-suited hand and forces partner to bid **2C**.

2C = Shows both minors and can be passed or corrected to **2D**.

2D = Shows the majors (no change).

2H = Shows hearts and a minor (no change).

2S = Shows spades and a minor (no change).