

1N Takeout



Overall Structure – Part 1

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I have played a version of the 1N Takeout (NTO) for over 40 years with good results. NTOs are part of a system called Overall Structure, which we will explore in the coming months. After RHO opens one of a suit, 1N is alerted as showing 8 to 16. I suggest you be more conservative vulnerable with 10-16. The NTO promises three cards in every unbid suit, but not 4333 unless 14-16 HCP over a third seat opening. Single suited hands should overcall with less than 17 or double otherwise. The NTO should be used with the Power Double described last month.

What do you currently bid in second seat with the following hands after RHO opens 1♦?

[A] ♠K10xx ♥K10xx ♦xx ♣Qxx

[B] ♠Axx ♥QJxx ♦x ♣Kxxxx

[C] ♠KQxx ♥AQx ♦xxx ♣Axx

[D] ♠xxxxx ♥AJxx ♦x ♣Kxx

With most partners you would pass all of these hands, except doubling with [C]. The NTO allows you to safely bid 1N with all four. Pass [A] and [D] vulnerable. Although there are several bids to memorize, the benefit is being able to compete more often.

Advancer's bids after 1 suit – 1N; PASS – ?

PASS A balanced hand with 7-10 and a stopper

2 Suit To play: 0-9 and 4+ cards

Q-bid After one of a minor, it asks for NTO's 4 card major; a rebid invites.

After one of major, it asks for a stopper inviting 3N.

2N Minors (over 1 major) or 4 major/5 minor (over 1 minor)

Jump Q-bid Asks NTO to bid 3N with stopper

3 Suit Preemptive with a good 5 or any 6 card suit

3N /4 Suit To play

Advancer's bids after 1 suit – 1N; DBL – ?

PASS (ALERT) Denies a 5 card suit and/or 4 cards in the highest unbid suit. NTO will bid a 4 card suit or RDBL to show a 5 card suit.

RDBL (ALERT) Shows 4 cards in the highest unbid suit. NTO will bid highest suit with 4 or runout.

2 Suit To play: 5+ cards

Q-bid Minors with good shape – at least 5-5

2N 7+-9 with at least Qxx in opener's suit

Advancer's bids after 1 suit – 1NT; 2 suit – ?

PASS Nothing to say

DBL (ALERT) Responsive asking partner to bid

2 Suit To play

2N (ALERT) Minor takeout

3 Suit NF unless a jump which is preemptive unless VUL vs. NVUL

The 1N Takeout involves advanced treatments and can be used with all convention charts. Be sure to mark your convention card and alert properly. Thoroughly discuss applicable auctions, including passed hand bids, before playing these treatments with your regular partner.

Next month in Part 3, we will look at two-suited bids. ♣