

Landy - a defence to 1NT

Question: When is it most important to overcall after an opponent opens 1NT?

Answer: When you have majors.

If you have one long major it is simple - you bid it; but what if you have both majors? The solution is to use the overcall of 2♣ - normally not a particularly useful - in a conventional way.

The 2♣ Overcall of 1NT- Landy

Shows 5-4 or longer in the majors, and 8+ points. Liable to be better in 2nd position and worse in 4th position.

Use judgement - honours (and intermediate cards) in ♠/♥ are more valuable than in ♦/♣.

Eg	♠ A9842	♠ AJ104	but not	♠ Q532
	♥ KQ75	♥ QJ942		♥ J7432
	♦ 4	♦ 874		♦ KQ
	♣ 976	♣ 8		♣ 74

Responding to Landy

Pass Very rare but possible with six + good ♣s and poor ♠/♥.

2♦ *Asks partner to bid his five card ♠/♥. Usually you will have equal length (unless you have a game-invitational hand with 3-2 in the majors).*

2♥ *Less than 12 points. More ♥s than ♠s*

2♠ *Less than 12 points. More ♠s than ♥s*

2NT 12-14 points. Natural, invitational.

3♣ Artificial game force showing a good 15+ points - asking partner to bid his five card ♠/♥.

3♦ Natural, non-forcing

3♥ 12-14 points. Natural, invitational - showing four + cards.

3♠ 12-14 points. Natural, invitational - showing four + cards.

The bids in ***bold and italics*** are the most important by far.

1NT-2♣-P-?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(e)	(f)
♠ Q86	♠ J52	♠ J7	♠ A642	♠ Q73
♥ 1063	♥ 93	♥ 106	♥ K3	♥ K4
♦ A74	♦ AK632	♦ AQ107	♦ AJ52	♦ AJ73
♣ KJ42	♣ J62	♣ AQ952	♣ 964	♣ A842

(a) 2♦. Partner will bid his five-card major and you will pass.

(b) 2♠. More ♠s than ♥s in a non-invitational hand.

(c) 2NT. Natural, invitational. Usually denies three cards in either major.

(d) 3♠. Natural, invitational.

2♦. Your best bet is to ask partner to bid his five-card major. If he bids 2♠, you are probably worth 4♠, failing that 3♠ (invitational). If he bids 2♥ then you should probably pass but might try 2NT (invitational).

Defending against Landy

Partner	Oppo.	You
1NT	2♣	?

Double Shows the balance of points (8+) and a desire to penalise.
2♦,2♥,2♠, 3♣ To play. When bidding 2♥/♠ bear in mind that your opponent has 4+ trumps.
2NT Natural, invitational (generally it will be better to double with such hands).
3♦,3♥,3♠ Natural bids, forcing to game, showing five + cards.
NB: Transfers OFF after Landy.

What do I do with a natural 2♣ overcall?

Either overcall 3♣ - passing SQOT - or Pass. It is a small price to pay...