

**Esther Discusses "The *Truscott (Jordan)* 2NT!  
Response Bridge Convention: Partner Opens a  
Major, Your RHO Makes a *Takeout/'Demand'* DOUBLE,  
And You Can Support Partner's Bid Major"**

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To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

As intrepid readers of the "Esther Bridge Lessons" will doubtless be aware, there are numerous *not-for-penalty DOUBLES* (e.g., the "lead-directing DOUBLE", the "support DOUBLE", the "they-stole-my-bid DOUBLE").<sup>2</sup> As I have argued in my bridge lessons, newer bridge players do not DOUBLE *nearly as often* as they should. As I noted in my "**7 Not-for-Penalty DOUBLES**" lesson:

"Back in the days when we used to play 'human' (in-person) bridge, before the pandemic, in the Savannah Bridge Center, before the Savannah Bridge Center burned down, there used to be an annual or semi-annual game in which Clubs across the country played the same Boards, and for which a printed booklet was prepared ahead of time in which a famous bridge player, Larry Cohen, commented on each hand in the 24 Boards, and indicated what each player should bid on each hand. Larry Cohen, according to Wikipedia, 'is an American bridge player, writer and teacher. He is best known as an

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<sup>1</sup> As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, [https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA\\_1\\_24.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf), Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons", see "**7 Not-for-Penalty DOUBLES**":  
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/double.pdf>

advocate for the ‘**Law of Total Tricks**’ as a guide in the bidding. He has won 25 North American Bridge Championships (NABC) events...’ In the booklet for a recent competition in this venue, Cohen included the suggested bid of DOUBLE on roughly **1** in every **5** of the *randomly-generated* Boards. The implication of this pattern on 24 randomly-generated Boards is that your Partnership bidding in every game should probably include **2 to 4** bids of DOUBLE! If you are a less experienced player, *you probably are not making enough not-for-penalty DOUBLES!!!*”

One common “Not-for-Penalty DOUBLE” is the “Takeout/ ‘Demand’ DOUBLE”. By Partnership agreement the “Takeout/ ‘Demand’ DOUBLE” says, “Partner, I (1) hold ~**13** HCPs, (2) I am ‘short’ in the Opponent’s bid Suit, and (3) I hold 4 cards in any unbid Major and no 5-card Major.” This DOUBLE “demands” that Partner must bid his “longest and strongest” Suit as long as Partner’s RHO PASSES.

When your Partner opens either **1H** or **1S**, and your RHO DOUBLES, what can you bid? One option is the “**Truscott 2NT!** **Response Bridge Convention**”.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Was This Bridge Convention Invented by Truscott or by Jordan?**

Some bridge historians attribute this bridge response convention to Robert “Bobby” Jordan. Others attribute the convention to Alan Truscott.

**Robert F. Jordan** (1927–2004) was an American bridge player. In the 1960s he played on 3 North America or USP open teams that were runners-up to Italy in world bridge championships.

**Alan Truscott** (1925–2005) was a British-American bridge player, writer, and editor. For 41 years he wrote the daily bridge column for the New York Times. From 1964 to 2002 he was the Executive Editor of The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge.

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<sup>3</sup>See the article “**Jordan/Truscott 2NT (Two No-Trump)**” on Jeff Tang’s excellent “**Bridge Bum**” website: [https://www.bridgebum.com/jordan\\_2nt.php](https://www.bridgebum.com/jordan_2nt.php)  
“!” = “Alert!”, because this is an “artificial” bid.

Alan Truscott's New York Times article, "The Name of a Convention May Not be the Right One" (April 20, 1985, Section 1, p. 13), may be useful in sorting out who should be credited with inventing this convention:

"When somebody's name is attached to a convention, it should not be assumed that the inventor is getting well-deserved credit. He may be, but quite often the historical record is blurred.

It is now standard in tournament play to use a jump to two no-trump following an opposing take-out double as a limit raise: four or more cards in the opener's suit and about 10 high-card points. This idea was first introduced by this writer and described by him in a Bridge World article in November 1954.

A few years later one of the top-ranked players of the 60's, Robert Jordan, mentioned the idea to Tom Sanders, who will be the 1986 president of the American Contract Bridge League. Sanders spread the word and called it 'Jordan,' an error that has been widely duplicated."

For unknown reasons this convention for some time was widely known as Jordan, presumably after Robert Jordan. But in the early 1970's The Bridge World, founded in 1929 by Ely Culbertson and the oldest continuously published magazine about contract bridge, reportedly wrote, "Bobby denies any knowledge. Maybe it was named after the river."

### **Truscott 2NT! Response Convention**

Presuming that Partner opens 1**H** or 1**S**,<sup>4</sup> and your RHO bids DOUBLE, you as Responder, when your Partnership is playing the Truscott Convention, can make the following response bids:

1. **2NT!**: "Partner, I hold (1) **4** cards in your bid Major, and (2) **10+** HCPs"; or
2. **3** of your bid Major: "Partner, I hold (1) **4** cards in your bid Major and (2) **5-9** HCPs"; or
3. **REDOUBLE**: "Partner, I hold (1) balanced' shape and (2) **10-12** HCPs".

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<sup>4</sup> Some Partnerships play the Truscott 2NT! response bid also over Minor openings.

### **Opener's Rebids**

- 3C:** (1) **13+** HCPs and, (2) depending on Partnership agreement:
- 4+** Clubs, or
  - "Help Suit Game Try" showing **3-4** Clubs and asking Partner to bid Game if Responder/Partner holds "strong" Clubs; or
  - "Short Suit Game Try" showing a singleton and asking Responder to bid Game if Responder does not hold wasted Club values.
- 3D:** (1) **13+** HCPs and, (2) depending on Partnership agreement:
- 4+** Diamonds; or
  - "Help Suit Game Try" showing **3-4** Diamonds and asking Partner to bid Game if Responder/Partner holds "strong" Diamonds; or
  - "Short Suit Game Try" showing a singleton and asking Responder to bid Game if Responder does not hold wasted Club values.
- 3H:** If Opener originally bid **1H** then this is a "drop dead" signoff bid. If Opener originally bid **1S** then this response bid is "natural" and shows (1) **5+** Hearts and (2) Game-invitational HCPs. This bid is "forcing" for **1** Round.
- 3S:** If Opener originally bid **1S** then this is a "drop dead" signoff bid. If Opener originally bid **1H** then this response bid is "natural" and shows (1) **4+** Spades and (2) **14+** HCPs. Because Opener has bypassed bidding **3H** this rebid is "forcing" to a Game bid.

### **Responder's Rebids**

If Opener has "signed off" in **3H** or **3S**, the Responder can PASS when holding a "minimum" Hand. If instead the Opener bids a new Suit, the Responder can "sign off" with **10-12** HCPs. With **12+** HCPs but no slam interest, the Responder can "sign off" in either **4H** or **4S**.