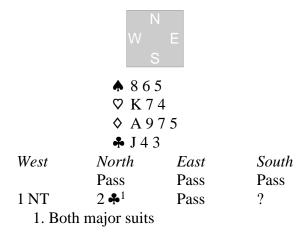
Majors over Their One NT -- Problem

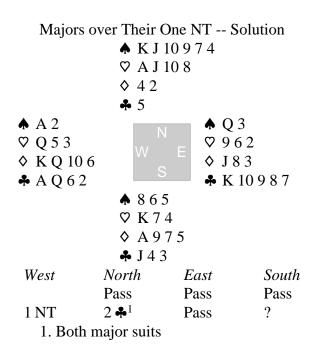
Board 8North Deals
None Vul



People play many different methods over a 1 NT opening by an opponent. For a decade, my favorite partner and I played Ripstra, better minor for the majors.

Here, partner's bid says nothing about clubs. What would you do?





The correct answer should be 2 \\$. As I self-alerted on BBO, this means, "U pick". Intervening over 1 NT with both majors is too important to restrict yourself to 5-5. If partner has a longer major here, you need to find it!

Playing old-fashioned Cappelletti, partner could overcall $2 \diamond$ to show both majors. I would probably guess $2 \heartsuit$ as South and land in the soup. Of course, North would be nuts to bid $2 \diamondsuit$ playing that system, instead of treating the hand as a spade 1-suiter. However, turn the $\spadesuit 9$ into a small diamond, and some would wheel out a Cappelletti $2 \diamondsuit$ overcall.

Experts have recognized for decades that it's superior to play modified Cappelletti, where $2 \clubsuit$ shows both majors and $2 \diamondsuit$ shows one long major suit. However, until 2015, that $2 \diamondsuit$ bid was not permitted by the ACBL General Convention Chart. (I once complained about a NABC champion playing that in a Sectional, and she was given an administrative penalty of 1 matchpoint.) Nowadays, the Basic+ chart permits $2 \diamondsuit$ to show a 1-suiter in either major. Another point: typical offensive methods over interference at $2 \clubsuit$ are "systems on, double is Stayman" (mostly useless here) - better to play double shows the ability to penalize at least one major.

In the old Landy defense to 1 NT, $2 \clubsuit$ is for the majors and other suits are natural. Few play that way now, but the name has given rise to the name Multi-Landy for modified Cappelleti, since the $2 \diamondsuit$ bid is known as Multi. The major suit bids promise at least five cards in the bid suit and at least four cards in an unspecified minor.

The Cappelletti double is for penalty, a treatment I find deplorable against a strong 1 NT opening. LHO may send it back with a half dozen points; otherwise, LHO or CHO may have a suit to bid. Even against a weak NT, the penalty double may not serve you well. For this reason, Multi-Landy generally uses the double to show a minor suit of at least five cards, along with a 4-card major. David Oakley wrote a whole book about it: *Multi-Landy: The Killer Defense Versus One Notrump*.

On this deal, my partner was not permitted to open $2 \spadesuit$: we require a suit headed by two of the top three honors, or A-J-10. In other words, partner should have a reasonable hope of running the suit holding Qx or better. Not everybody would show both suits on the North hand, but $2 \diamondsuit$ was reasonable. We played $2 \spadesuit$ making three, losing two spades and a trick in each minor, for a 63% score.

We were playing modified reverse Cappelletti. Our overcall of a major suit is natural, and 2 ♦ shows both an unspecified 5+ card major and an unspecified minor. This is OK in an Open event, but not Basic+ (which we never play). I prefer Multi-Landy, but this method is good enough - it worked this time.