

Fifth Chair



Opening 1NT vs 1M with a 5 card Major

Opening 1NT with a 5-card major is a matter of style, system, and partnership. With some people it is just NOT done, with some hearts are okay, but NEVER with 5 spades; still others say only with a weak major and a strong doubleton, and so on. Personally, I open 1nt holding a 5-card major any time I feel that I will be poorly placed to proceed in the auction if I open one of a major.

I am more prone to open 1nt with "slow" cards and 1 of a major with quick tricks; however, some of my partners say that if the hand has 5-3-3-2 dist and 15-17 hcp, it is a notrump opener.

In addition, you sometimes have a hand that you know needs to be played from your side of the table, because of tenaces (finessing situations).