

## ASPTRO

This is probably the most popular convention locally for overcalling with a two suited hand when RHO has opened 1NT.

### OVERCALLER:

- 2♣ promises 4/5 or 5/4 in hearts and another.
- 2♦ promises 4/5 or 5/4 in spades and another.

The inference is that you hand is not strong enough to double or a shape that makes double unsuitable.

If you hold 4/5 in the majors you should anchor to the four card suit.

I.e; with 4 spades and five hearts you would bid 2♦.

If you hold 5/5 in the majors then anchor to hearts.

### RESPONDER:

If you hold four cards in the promised major then raise to the appropriate level.

4♥/♠ with a game going hand or 3♥/♠ with an invitational hand and 2♥/♠ with less.

There are three conventional responses:

- Two of the neutral suit (2♦ reply to 2♣, 2♥ to 2♦) asks partner if he has a five card major and he bids the major to show five and the other suit if not. N.B; if your bid (2♦/♥) is the other suit he can now pass.
- 2NT would say not interested in the major, bid your other suit.
- Bidding three of the asking suit (3♦/♥) is a game force.

If you bid any other suit it is natural and you are saying 'Please pass'.

What do you do with three cards in the promised major?

You could bid the neutral suit to check if partner has five, but you need to judge if you would be happy to play in his other suit if that is his reply and remember he can pass if that is the other suit. Bid two of his major if that looks the better option.

E.g: ♠ 8765

♥ J87

♦ A9872

♣ 9

Now if LHO opens 1NT and partner overcalls 2♣ (H plus another) it would be wise to reply 2♥. If you reply 2♦ (is hearts a five carder?) he is likely say 3♣.

Examples:  
After RHO  
opens 1NT:

♠ A54 ♥ KQ87 ♦ KQ876 ♣ 8	Overcall 2♣ (H + another). If partner replies 2♦ pass. If partner replies 2NT bid 3♦.
♠ A9876 ♥ KQ87 ♦ A87 ♣ 8	Overcall 2♣ (H + another). If partner replies 2♦ bid 2♠. If partner replies 2NT bid 3♠.
♠ A987 ♥ KQ876 ♦ A87 ♣ 8	Overcall 2♦ (S + another) If partner replies 2NT bid 3H. If partner replies 2H then pass.
♠ A94 ♥ KQ876 ♦ KQ87 ♣ 8	Overcall 2♣. If partner replies 2♦ bid 2♥. If partner replies 2NT bid 3♦.