

Truscott

Rationale

The modern style seeks to bid aggressively when a fit is found. The goal is to make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to judge how high they should be bidding without being exposed to too high a penalty. Truscott is a convention applied by *responder* after we have opened the bidding with one of a suit and the next hand doubles. 1B – (X) – ?

• Basically, the actions are more aggressive than those we would take without the double:-

1B	(X)	XX	shows 10+ HCP, no fit
		1NT	natural
		2B!	4-6 TP
		3B!	7-9 TP
		2NT!	good raise to 3B or higher
		4B	pre-emptive

changes of suit are natural & forcing

- Following the redouble, all doubles are penalties.
- The usual meaning of a 2NT response is lost. It is irrelevant whether it is usually a limit NT bid (10 – 12 HCP) or Jacoby.
- Some care needs to be taken with the redouble. There is little point in chasing a non-vul low level penalty if we are giving up a vul game. Hence, the natural meaning attached to changes of suit.
- Beware of goading them into game with too much aggression. You'll need to know what to do when they bid it!

• **Opener's actions after Truscott 2NT.** Remember, the 2NT is a raise based mainly on high cards:-

- 1.. 3B is bid with an absolute minimum
- 2.. 4B is bid with extra values or a 5 loser.
- 3..3NT is not out of the question with poor trumps and spread high cards. Remember, responder didn't promise a balanced hand.
- 4.. Do not Pass!

• **Bidding after the redouble**

- 1.. The doubler's partner should bid if it doesn't take up much space. Everyone knows that he's broke! See Lesson 13.
- 2.. Opener should pass unless he can double RHO's bid for penalties or his hand is extreme – 7 card suit, 5-5 etc and 10 – 11 HCP and not suited for defence.
- 3.. Opener's pass of RHO's bid is forcing. Suppose partner doubles (penalties). Under what circumstances can opener pull the double? If he does, it should show a *strong* distributional hand where he believes game chances offer a better score than defending. Opener can't be weak for this – He had the chance to make a weak bid at his previous bid.

• Opener's actions after 1B – (P) – P – (X)
These are not Truscott bids but are included here for completeness.

- 1.. *Pass*. Nothing more or less than what I promised.
- 2.. *2B*. Pre-emptive. Extra length in B.
- 3.. *1NT*. 18 – 20 HCP balanced, no shortage.
- 4.. *New suit*. Confirms both suits are genuine offering partner a real choice.
- 5.. *Redouble*. Extra values but not suited for 1NT

♠K53	♠64	1H	(X)	2H!
♥AKT83	♥Q42			The Truscott weak
♦K6	♦Q972			raise. Opener will
♣654	♣8732			pass.

♠K53	♠64	1H	(X)	3H!
♥AKT83	♥Q542			The Truscott weak
♦K6	♦A42			jump raise. Opener
♣654	♣T983			will pass.

♠K53	♠A642	1H	(X)	2NT!	(P)
♥AKT83	♥Q96	3H		all pass	

♦K6 ♦A983
♣654 ♣87
OK, 4H might make. If trumps are led at every chance, 4H is one off.

♠K53	♠A642	1H	(X)	2NT!	(P)
♥AKT83	♥Q96	3H	(P)	4H	
♦K6	♦A983			Standard Truscott	
♣654	♣K7			Game Sequence	

♠K53	♠4	1H	(X)	4H	(4S)
♥AKT83	♥97652	P	(P)	?	
♦K6	♦A973				
♣654	♣T98				

Happy now? You've got them to a contract that you may not defeat. Opener play's HA and there is a singleton in dummy. How will you get partner to shift to DK? Your card should be suit preference See Lesson 1. Maybe he will then find DK shift when dummy tracks with poor diamonds. DK will be an aggressive action, well justified at teams See Lesson 32. Of course, South might hold SA, making your defence a little different and the DK more difficult to find. From West's point of view, we may be setting this contract by a trick in each suit.

♠J5	♠64	1H	(X)	2H!	(P)
♥AKT853	♥Q42	3H!	(?)		
♦K6	♦Q972				
♣654	♣8732				

The Truscott weak raise. Opener is NOT inviting game! He is showing an extra trump. To invite game, he needs to change suit. See Lesson 26. maybe they'll find their spade game and maybe they won't. Note that 3H also must be alerted since EW know that it shows an extra heart, not extra strength.

♠K76	♠543	1H	(X)	2C ¹	(P)
♥AQ764	♥J7	3C ²		all pass	
♦92	♦K6				
♣K64	♣AQ532				

¹This doesn't look a hand to defend, so no XX
²Opener isn't permitted to pass. Since responder declined to redouble yet has 10+ HCP, it's hard to see how 2C can be only a 4 card suit. They have a diamond contract their way.
"For a more detailed treatment, see Ron Klinger's Guide to Better Bridge"