

Cardiff Bridge Tutors

How to do the Helvic Wriggle.



Escape from 1NT Doubled!

What is the Helvic Wriggle?

Most of us are nervous of being left in a One No Trump contract. It is even worse when the opponents produce the Double card!

The Helvic Wriggle is a mechanism to allow you to escape from the double.

The main aim of the Helvic Wriggle is to try to encourage the opponents to bid rather than to find a winning contract. If they do not enter the bidding then you try to find a contract where you may not be doubled.

It is not a way of finding a winning contract.

Whenever the opposition enter the bidding after you have used the Helvic Wriggle then you stop bidding.

How to use the Helvic Wriggle.

Here is the start of a Helvic Wriggle.

West	North	East	South
1NT	X	XX	

East Redoubles!

The hope is that South will make a bid and if they do then the Wriggle would have worked.

West	North	East	South
1NT	X	XX	2♦

Here South bids 2♦ and West/East gladly pass.

However, most opponents will deduce that they hold the majority of points and South will pass.

What happens then?

West	North	East	South
1NT	X	XX	Pass
2♣			

West makes an artificial 2♣ bid, asking East to bid their best suit.

If that suit was ♣s they would pass. The East/West partnership would not bid again.

Assuming that East had a long suit of their own they would bid it.

West	North	East	South
1NT	X	XX	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	

Here East has a good suit of ♠s and West will pass this bid.

Remember, as soon as the opposition enter the bidding then you pass!

What if the Double was in the Fourth Seat?

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	Pass	X

West now bids 2♣ asking East for a long suit.

West	North	East	South
1NT	X	XX	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	

Here East has good suit of ♦s and that is the contract that you will play in.

Remember.

1. You are trying to escape from a bad contract not find a good one.
2. As soon as the opposition enter the bidding then the Wriggle has worked and you pass.
3. The Opener always asks their Partner to nominate their best suit by bidding 2♣s.

Examples.

Here are some examples.

<p> ♠ AK2 ♥ 864 ♦ Q432 ♣ K82 ♠ Q1065 ♠ 743 ♥ Q5 ♥ AK2 ♦ 876 ♦ KJ109 ♣ Q1064 ♣ AJ7 ♠ J98 ♥ J10973 ♦ A5 ♣ 953 </p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West(6)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North(12)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East(16)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South(6)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Rdbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>East doubles and South redoubles, hoping that West will enter the bidding. When this doesn't happen North bids 2♣ asking for South's best suit. They leave the bidding at 2♥.</i></p>	West(6)	North(12)	East(16)	South(6)		1NT	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass			
West(6)	North(12)	East(16)	South(6)														
	1NT	Dbl	Rdbl														
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥														
All Pass																	

<p> ♠ 743 ♥ AK2 ♦ AJ109 ♣ A75 ♠ J98 ♠ AK2 ♥ J10973 ♥ 864 ♦ 85 ♦ Q432 ♣ J93 ♣ K82 ♠ Q1065 ♥ Q5 ♦ K76 ♣ Q1064 </p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West(3)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North(16)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East(12)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South(9)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In this example the Double is made in the fourth seat and so East bids 2♣ asking West for their best suit. They leave the bidding at 2♥.</i></p>	West(3)	North(16)	East(12)	South(9)			1NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass		
West(3)	North(16)	East(12)	South(9)														
		1NT	Pass														
Pass	Dbl	2♣	Pass														
2♥	All Pass																

<p> ♠ 9 ♥ J1097432 ♦ 5 ♣ 9532 ♠ J74 ♠ Q1065 ♥ AKQ ♥ 5 ♦ J1098 ♦ AK762 ♣ AJ7 ♣ Q104 ♠ AK832 ♥ 86 ♦ Q43 ♣ K86 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West(16)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North(1)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East(11)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South(12)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Rdbl</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td colspan="3">Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>After West's Double is redoubled then East sees that their partnership has a chance for game and bids their ♦ suit.</i></p> <p><i>The Helvic Wriggle has worked and N/S have escaped from a punitive contract.</i></p>	West(16)	North(1)	East(11)	South(12)				1NT	Dbl	Rdbl	2♦	Pass	4♦	Pass		
West(16)	North(1)	East(11)	South(12)														
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