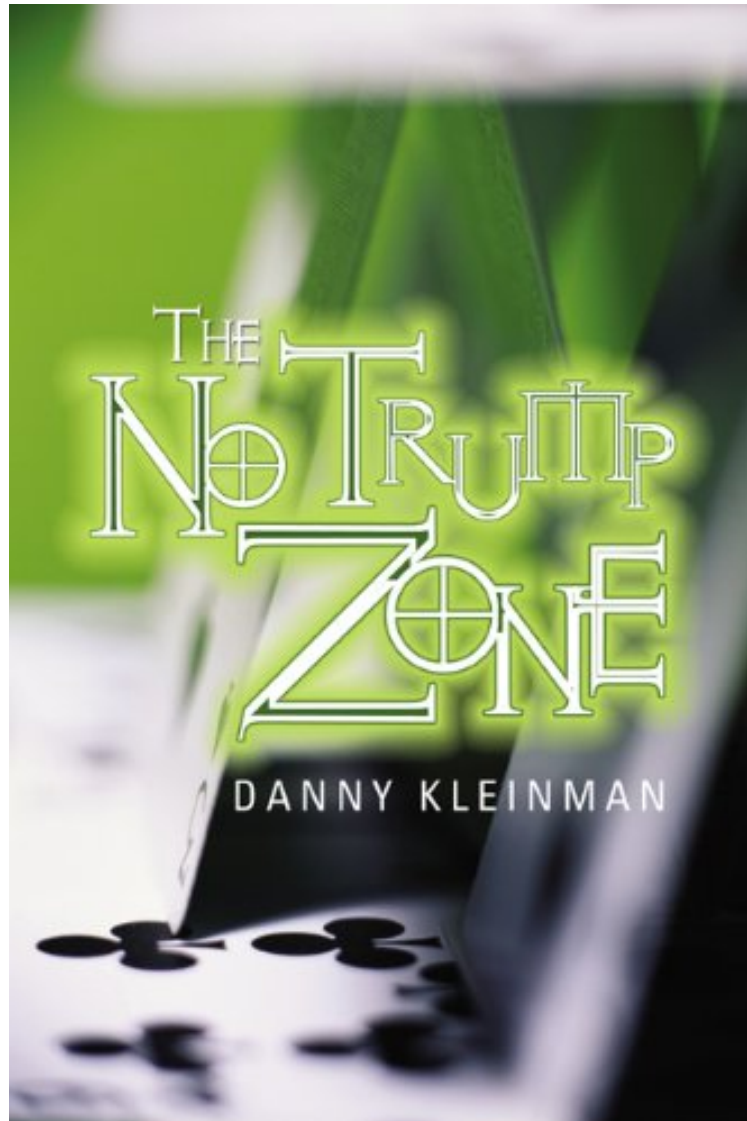


(Download free ebook) The Notrump Zone

The Notrump Zone

Danny Kleinman

*ePub / *DOC / audiobook / ebooks / Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1236904 in Books 2004-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.98 x .61 x 6.12l, .80 #File Name: 1894154703217 pages | File size: 17.Mb

Danny Kleinman : The No Trump Zone before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The No Trump Zone:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The No Trump Zone Will Improve Your Bridge Game By G. Green
The is a brilliant book about no trump bidding. It includes hand evaluation and much more. Your game will improve a lot after reading and absorbing the insights in this book.
13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. The No Trump Zone--not for the faint of heart By Jock Millenson
As its title suggests, this is a book all about no trump bidding at contract bridge. So far as I can ascertain, it is the first such comprehensive attempt since Charles Solomon's

classic No Trump Bidding, published in 1947, now obsolete, and long out of print. The author is a west-coast American expert, so the book is largely oriented to sequences stemming from the strong (15-17 point) 1NT opening, and for that reason is likely mainly to interest the N. American audience, as the European weak (12-14 point) NT openings demand a somewhat different logic in both offense and defense. Much of the material in this book is sound, basic (yet not always so widely known) information of value to anyone playing club duplicate bridge or serious rubber bridge. At the same time, there are also quite a few surprises to be found within its 217 pages, as the author challenges many received doctrines about NT bidding, beginning with hand evaluation. Chap. 1 reminds us that the 4321 point count gives only a very rough guide to the suitability of a balanced hand for a 1NT opening. We must upgrade a hand with good spots--10s, 9s and even 8s--and downgrade a hand with poor spots and doubleton honours. A persuasive case is made for 15-18 being a better range than the currently fashionable 15-17, as many 18pt hands are actually too weak to open one of a suit and safely rebid 2NT. Transfer bidding, with its rationale of making the strong hand declarer, is well described. Likewise, when and when not to bid Stayman holding a flat 4-3-3-3 hand with a four card major. It may come as a shock to inveterate transfer bidders to learn that not all strong NT hands should declare the NT or major game contracts. When there are mostly Aces and Spades in the strong hand it is clearly better for responder--who will have the tenances--to be declarer and have the lead come up to those tenances. Strangely, and yet characteristically, the author does not carry his point to its logical conclusion--namely, to offer a method for the strong NT hand to decline a transfer and pass the bidding back to partner to make a natural bid, and so allow the weaker hand to play the final contract. What Kleinman is saying is that Jacoby transfers are a wonderful invention, but they are not to be accepted indiscriminately. There is an important chapter on how and when to compete when opponents have opened in NT. The author, who has a mathematics background, gives an excellent description of the "bidding space" occupied by various calls, and shows why a 1NT call is so pre-emptive; and conversely why it is important to be able to interfere with your opponents NT sequences, whenever it is reasonably safe to do so. Kleinman discusses a half dozen popular different defenses to 1NT openings, including a couple of his own devising, pointing out the flaws and defects in all of them, and offering some fixes. The reader is led to conclude that despite the many defenses around, there really is still no one definitive solution. Actually, I believe that the author has given us the two key hints to a final solution for the definitive NT defense: (1) Different defenses are needed in the two seats--direct and balancing. (This is a crucial point that could have been given considerably more explication.) (2) Since the probability of a single suited overcall is almost three times as frequent as any of the possible six two-suited overcalls, a defense can be constructed in which all four single suited overcalls are shown as well as five of the six two suiters, thereby avoiding the first round ambiguity that is present in existing defenses that purport to handle (eventually) all 10 of these possible hands. The trade off is simply the loss of one of the six possible two suiters which, because of the probabilities involved, means a loss of less than 5% of the suitable hands. This negligible loss is more than compensated for by the considerable gain in precision and saving of bidding space. In a way, leaving open the solutions to many of the problems that inevitable arise in trying to construct perfect and complete sequences in NT bidding is one of the books strengths. The reader is time and again given valuable principles by the author, and then invited to carry on to create his or her own solutions. I like this because it encourages independent thinking and personal creativity. At the same time, it does require work. In fact, as the subtitle to Chap. 3, (which occupies fully 1/3 of the entire book) suggests, this book is not for the faint of heart. This long chapter is mostly about compressed transfers, cascading relays, puppets, marionettes, and retransfers--extremely complex, and invariably highly artificial and memory taxing branching sequences. I expect this material will only be of interest to a few specialised expert partnerships willing to invest the time and energy to learn and remember such sequences. Chap. 3's complexity, and the memory burden required to master even a portion of it, should not, however, deter the general reader from mining the many gems to be obtained elsewhere in this challenging and ultimately rewarding book. Just because there is so much good information on so many aspects of NT bidding scattered in different places in the volume, *The No Trump Zone* is a reference book. As such the conspicuous absence of an alphabetised index is puzzling. As I worked through the book I created my own index so I could go back to the various topics as they recurred throughout. In a way, the author leaving the reader to do this job is emblematic of the book as a whole, so perhaps the lack of an index is actually a blessing in disguise. It's merely part of the work you will have to do to really make this material your own. To whet your appetite for some of the useful things you are going to find in the book, here's a short list: 1) Why systems should be off after a NT overcall. 2) Drawbacks of Puppet Stayman. 3) When and when not to superaccept a transfer. 4) Is the information in a bid in the bid you are about to make more valuable to your side or to the opponents! 5) When and when not to balance against opponent's 1NT. 6) Serious defects arising when using Stayman to invite 2NT when you lack a 4-card major. 7) Extreme danger when bidding a "sandwich" NT with even the upper end of your normal 15-17 range. 8) Bridging the gap between your 1NT and 2NT openings with a Mexican 2-Diamond bid. 9) Smolen swaps revisited. As the dust jacket says, get this book if you are prepared to think. There will be no pat formulas, rules or laws on offer. But you will come away with a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the simple 1NT and 2NT bids and their follow-ons, and with the conceptual tools both to better your own NT bidding and to improve your judgment at the table.

15Dec056
of 6 people found the following review helpful. Detailed discussion of everything to do with NT structure By B.

EinhornThe first chapter alone is worth the price of the book. It covers the consequence of a particular NT zone. People say 10-12 is obstructive to the opponents, which is true. What are the hidden costs you you? How does it affect your other opening bids? How does it integrate into your system in terms of a later bid of 1NT or 2NT? The author analyzes a variety of NT ranges and discusss their strengths and weaknesses in depth.This is invaluable for system designers as the author surely covers issues you had not thought about.What is the consequence of opening a particular hand NT or not? Why are some hands better played in NT and some in suit contracts? The author presents you with a number of hands and asks you to dynamically evaluate them.The later sections are on various NT "engines" (meaning response structures such as transfers and relays). These conventions are complex and need both partners in agreement. I'm not convinced the extra complexity is worth the slight improvement.This is a valuable book for serious and advanced players. There is a lot of food for thought here, even if you don't agree with the author. Because the majority of the book is on the authors own conventions which you are unlikely to use, I don't recommend this book for anyone who isn't an advanced intermediate level or above.

Notrump openings, and the constructive auctions that follow them, are two of the most neglected areas in bridge literature. Following on from his popular articles in the ACBL Bulletin, Kleinman discusses the principles behind notrump bids and rebids in a variety of situations, emphasising the ideas and concepts rather than attempting to teach a series of rigid rules. A must for any duplicate player.

About the AuthorDanny Kleinman of Los Angeles is a prolific bridge writer, theorist, professional player, and teacher, who is a regular contributor to several bridge magazines.