WRIGGLING

What do you do when your opponents double partner's opening 1NT?

The Common Sense Approach

(Note that the method below is not one of the high-level 'wriggles' used by many serious partnerships - see footer)

All systems (Stayman, transfers, etc.) are '**off**'.

Weak Hand

With seven or less points your partnership cannot count on holding half the points in the pack, so you escape to a safer contract if you can.

With a five-card or longer suit **bid it at the two-level**. This is a weak bid and is not encouraging in any way. Partner will pass.

♠ K 7 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ T 9 5 4 3	**You LHO Pard RHO** 1NT x ?		Only five points. You have a five-card suit - bid it. Bid 2♣ - to play. Partner will pass.

Note that Stayman and transfers no longer apply after the double.
2♣ means 2♣.

Stronger Hands

With eight or more points (or thereabouts) your side has at least half the points in the pack. There must be a good chance of making the contract.
Redouble - you might make a cheap game in 1NTxx on just seven tricks.

♠ K 9 7 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ A 5 4 3	**You LHO Pard RHO** 1NT x ?		Nine points. Redouble, with every hope of making the redoubled contract.

Usually your opponents will look for an escape from the redoubled contract.
If so, double for penalties if you hold four or more cards in their suit, and hope that partner can double for penalties otherwise.

♠ K 9 7 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ A 5 4 3	**You LHO Pard RHO** 1NT x xx - - 2♠ ?		Your side owns this deal. You have four cards in their suit. Double - for penalties. It won't always work but the odds are in your favour.

And if you have seven or less points and no five-card suit **just pass**.

Extension

The methods above mean that you might have had to pass with no points and no five-card suit.

The solution is to play a **forcing pass**.

If you pass and LHO also passes it will be partner's turn.
He should **redouble** as a matter of course.

This is an **SOS redouble** and simply means 'rescue me'.
In response bid four-card suits 'up the line' in search of at least a 4-3 fit.

♠ K 9 7 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ T 5 4 3	**You LHO Pard RHO** 1NT x - - xx - ?		Partner is looking for an escape. Bid 2♣, your lowest four-card suit. Partner will usually pass. If he bids 2♦ then pass on a 4-3 fit. If he bids 2♥ then convert to 2♠.