

## Overcalling With Two Suited Hands

♠ A 8 2  
 ♥ 3 2  
 ♦ Q J 9  
 ♣ K 8 7 6 5  
 ♠ 10 9 7 3      ♠ K Q J 4  
 ♥ K J 10 7 4    ♥ A Q 9 8 6  
 ♦ 10 8            ♦ 5 4 3  
 ♣ Q 4            ♣ 2  
 ♠ 6 5  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ A K 7 6 2  
 ♣ A J 10 9 3

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	2N <sup>(1)</sup>

3♥      5♣      All pass  
**1 The Unusual No Trump, showing at least 5/5 in the minors**

With two five card suits of good quality South has more than enough to show this hand type with the jump to 2N. North has a great hand in support – five good trumps (including a top honour), fitting cards in the other minor and major suit ace to boot. A leap to 5♣ is justified. If South were lighter this might not make but then 4♥ may have been making for East West. The bid may work in two ways – either it makes or it is a good sacrifice against the opponents' game.

The hands fit so well that South will make twelve tricks. West leads a heart and South ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn and declarer plays the winning diamonds. On the fourth and fifth rounds dummy's two spades are thrown. This allows declarer to ruff his spade loser. Five trumps, five diamonds, a top spade and a spade ruff.

♠ K J 8 4 3 2  
 ♥ Q 10  
 ♦ 5 4 3  
 ♣ J 8  
 ♠ 7 6      ♠ 10 9  
 ♥ 3        ♥ 9 8 6 2  
 ♦ K Q 8 7 6    ♦ J 2  
 ♣ K 10 9 5 2    ♣ A Q 7 6 3  
 ♠ A Q 5  
 ♥ A K J 7 5 4  
 ♦ A 10 9  
 ♣ 4

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
2N <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	5♣	X

All pass

**1 The Unusual No Trump (as above)**

Here both West and East combine to use the vulnerability to their advantage. West would have been circumspect about bidding 2N if vulnerable and East may not have taken the advance sacrifice in 5♣ if vulnerable. East doesn't really think 5♣ will make (though, of course, West could have a much bigger hand) but he puts maximum pressure on South. It is difficult for South to do anything other than double, not least because all he has heard from partner over West's 2N was a pass.

You will see that North South can make twelve tricks in either major (thirteen if East West fail to lead a club). 5♣ will be defeated by two tricks with the defence taking two spades, a heart and a diamond. That's plus 300 to North South, a poor return when plus 1,430 is possible.

<p> ♠ K Q 9 6 5  ♥ A J 10 7 6  ♦ Q 5  ♣ 3 </p> <p> ♠ 8 7      ♠ A J 4  ♥ K 8      ♥ Q 9 3 2  ♦ A 10 6    ♦ J 9 4 3  ♣ K Q 9 8 4 2    ♣ 10 5 </p> <p> ♠ 10 3 2  ♥ 5 4  ♦ K 8 7 2  ♣ A J 7 6 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p><b>1 Michaels cue bid, showing both majors with at least five cards in each suit</b></p> <p>We now have a hand where the overcaller has both <i>majors</i>. When the majors are involved it's possible to overcall with lighter hands because partner is not having to show support above the two level (necessarily when 2N shows the minors on boards 1 &amp; 2, the overcalling side is committed to the 3level). That said, North has a decent hand holding two of the top three honours in one major and three of the top five in the other.</p> <p>When responding to the Michaels bid it's best to think that partner has opened with a one level bid, albeit sometimes a little light. Here South has no interest in game (unless partner has extra values) and contents himself with a quiet 2♠ call.</p> <p>The contract will make eight or nine tricks with declarer possibly restricting his losers to two spades, a heart and a diamond. With these sorts of hands it's good to set up the side suit early so declarer may win the opening club lead and play a heart to ♥10. He ruffs the club return and cashes ♥A. Now he plays ♠K, which East may duck. A heart is ruffed with ♠10 and a second trump played. In this way declarer will come to nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♠
West	North	East	South						
1♣	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♠						

<p> ♠ 3 2  ♥ K 4 2  ♦ K Q J 7 5  ♣ A Q 2 </p> <p> ♠ Q 5      ♠ A K 9 8 4  ♥ Q 9 7 3      ♥ A J 10 6 5  ♦ A 6 4      ♦ 9  ♣ 9 7 6 3      ♣ 10 8 </p> <p> ♠ J 10 7 6  ♥ 8  ♦ 10 8 3 2  ♣ K J 5 4 </p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♦<sup>(1)</sup></td> <td>3♦<sup>(2)</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>X<sup>(3)</sup></td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>1 Michaels cue bid, at least 5/5 in the majors 2 A bit of a stretch but it pays, generally, to show some support, even if weakish, in competitive auctions 3 Showing extras</b></p> <p>Given that he is vulnerable, East has a decent hand for his intervention. South may make life awkward by raising the diamond suit. West hold four decent hearts, a minor suit ace and a useful secondary honour in partner's other known suit. Bidding 3♥ is more than reasonable and bidding 4♥ is not outrageous. North can double 3♥ to show a good hand but South has little with which to either double 4♥ or to continue to 5♦ (yes, East is worth his raise to game once partner freely bids at the 3level).</p> <p>North will lead ♦K, won by West who runs ♥Q. He can repeat the heart finesse to pick up the king and play on spades, ruffing the fifth round good. That means two clubs can be discarded from the West hand but declarer will still have to give up two clubs. Eleven tricks made.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	3♥	X <sup>(3)</sup>	4♥	All pass				
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♦	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>														
3♥	X <sup>(3)</sup>	4♥	All pass														
<p> ♠ KQ4  ♥ 52  ♦ KQ9764  ♣ A5 </p> <p> ♠ A1098      ♠ 32  ♥ KJ8      ♥ AQ964  ♦ A83      ♦ 2  ♣ QJ4      ♣ K10932 </p> <p> ♠ J765  ♥ 1073  ♦ J105  ♣ 876 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2N<sup>(1)</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦<sup>(2)</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>1 The Unusual No Trump. As the opponents have bid a minor, the bid shows the other minor and one of the majors (at least 5/5 in the two suits - here clubs and hearts.)</b></p> <p>When East shows clubs and a major, West knows that he wants to be in game but which one? He can ask for partner's major by cue bidding the opponents' suit. It works simply with the overcaller bidding his major. Over East's 3♥ West raises to game.</p> <p>South leads a top-of-a-sequence ♦J, won with ♦A in dummy. Trumps are drawn and ♣A knocked out. Declarer has one spade, five trumps, a diamond and four clubs. That's eleven tricks. Put another way, the defence takes two tricks – a spade and a club.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	2N <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
	1♦	2N <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass														
3♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	3♥	Pass														
4♥	All pass																

<p>♠ J542 ♥ 83 ♦ KQ62 ♣ J43</p> <p>♠ 10763 ♥ AJ2 ♦ 543 ♣ A75</p> <p>♠ AK8 ♥ 764 ♦ 8 ♣ KQ10962</p> <p>♠ Q9 ♥ KQ1095 ♦ AJ1097 ♣ 8</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>2N<sup>(1)</sup></td></tr></table> <p>Pass <sup>(2)</sup> 3♦ All pass</p> <p><b>1 Unusual, showing 5+diamonds and 5+major 2 Might double to show values</b></p> <p>This time South has the two suited hand with which to overcall. With East bidding 1♣, South's jump to 2N shows diamonds (the other minor) and one of the majors. Here, North would like to play in spades but that might not be partner's suit. If he bids 3♣ to ask for partner's major, South will show hearts and that will force North to bid 4♦. Instead North should realise that his side has a fit in diamonds and not go looking for the major suit fit that isn't there. He bids 3♦ and that may buy the contract.</p> <p>Declarer can draw trumps and, with the hearts, breaking 3-3, set up the heart suit. He'll lose two spades, a heart and a club to make the contract.</p> <p>Now it's just possible that East West will bid on to 4♣ but that's difficult after the auction above. Had South overcalled a simple 1♥ that would have been more likely as West would have had an easier entry to the auction (with a 1♠ bid) and East would have been able to rebid the clubs. West may then have supported the club suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	2N <sup>(1)</sup>								
West	North	East	South														
		1♣	2N <sup>(1)</sup>														
<p>♠ J 9 5 ♥ J 10 9 6 5 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 9 5 3</p> <p>♠ A ♥ A K Q 8 3 ♦ K Q J 9 8 6 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ 10 4 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A 5 3 2 ♣ 10 8 6 4</p> <p>♠ K Q 8 7 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ 7 4 ♣ A K J 7</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♠<sup>(1)</sup></td><td>Pass<sup>(2)</sup></td><td>2N<sup>(3)</sup></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♦</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p><b>1 Michaels cue bid. As it's over a major, it shows 5+hearts and 5+cards in one of the minors 2 Might double to show some spade support but insufficient values to bid 3♠ 3 Asking for partner's minor</b></p> <p>This time West is able to make a Michaels cue bid showing a major and a minor. Moreover, he has a rock crusher. When East asks for partner's minor, West knows East is not interested in a heart game (else he would have raised hearts). He jumps to what he thinks he can make. Now the spotlight falls on East who may find it just too tough to bid 6♦. A pity as West will lose just a club. The hearts break badly but the trumps are 2-1. That means that both heart losers (♥8 &amp; ♥3) can be ruffed peacefully. Another difficult-to-bid slam hand.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass <sup>(2)</sup>	2N <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	5♦	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
			1♠														
2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass <sup>(2)</sup>	2N <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass														
5♦	All pass																

<p>♠ K 10 8 5 4 ♥ 4 ♦ Q J 10 5 4 ♣ Q J</p> <p>♠ 6 3 ♥ K Q 9 8 2 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ A K 9</p> <p>♠ J 9 7 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ 8 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ A Q 2 ♥ A J 5 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ 10 7 6 4</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♥<sup>(1)</sup></td> <td>Pass<sup>(2)</sup></td> <td>3♠<sup>(3)</sup></td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass  <b>1 Michaels cue bid showing 5+spades and 5+cards in one of the minors</b>  <b>2 Might double to show moderate heart support (similar situation to hand 7)</b>  <b>3 Spade support, game invitational (3+spades)</b></p> <p>Again we have an overcalling hand that shows a major and a minor, where the major is known from the outset. South has a fit for partner's spades and bids as he would over a 1♠ opening, by jumping to 3♠ to show an invitational raise of spades. Since partner's has promised 5spades, this bid, as here, can be made holding just 3card support. The eight card fit is assured. North has a minimum hand for his 2♥ call so passes.</p> <p>Declarer should make 3♠ on the nose, losing two diamonds and two clubs. It's a simple matter of drawing trumps and setting up the diamonds by knocking out ♦A and ♦K.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♥	2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass <sup>(2)</sup>	3♠ <sup>(3)</sup>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>						
1♥	2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass <sup>(2)</sup>	3♠ <sup>(3)</sup>						