






Fourth Suit Forcing & Bidding to the Level of Fit

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Fourth Suit Forcing

Purpose:	To find out whether partner has stops in the fourth suit not yet bid, so a contract can be played in No Trumps
When it is used:	The Opener and Responder have bid three different suits and opposition have not bid. Fourth suit forcing is used by the Responder in her second bid.
Why it is used:	Unlikely either partner has a balanced hand, but combination of hands may be suitable for No Trumps if, and only if, the fourth suit not yet bid is covered with preferably two stop cards.
What Responder bids:	If Responder has stops in the fourth suit, she bids the appropriate level of No Trumps. If Responder does not have stops in the fourth suit, she bids that suit (and Opening Partner alerts).
Rebid by Opener:	If Opener has stops in the fourth suit, she bids the appropriate level of No Trumps. Otherwise she must rebid one of the other three suits.

Bidding to the level of fit after partner has overcalled

Applicable when:	<p>You have less than 10 points</p> <p>You have 3 or more cards in the overcall suit</p>
How it works:	<p>Assume partner has: 5 cards in suit to overcall at the 1 level 6 cards in suit to overcall at the 2 level</p>
	<p>Add the number of cards you have in that suit to the assumed number that partner has.</p> <p>The answer is the number of tricks you should bid to make.</p>
	<p>Example: Partner has overcalled 1  and you have 4  s</p> <p>You can bid 3  (4 + 5 = 9)</p>
Warning:	<p>Do not raise your partner to: higher than the 3 level in a minor suit or higher than game (i.e. the 4 level) in a major suit</p>