



Suit Overcalls

21 April 2019

Context

- ♣ **We have three ways of competing after the Opposition has opened the bidding with a suit:**
 - ♦ **Suit overcalling**
 - ♦ **Doubling**
 - ♦ **No Trump overcalling**
- ♠ **Today we look at **Suit Overcalling****
- ♥ **We shall begin with competing from the Direct position (immediately to the left of the opening bidder)**

What do I need for a suit overcall?

♣ There are two conditions to satisfy before you can overcall with a trump bid:

- ♦ The strength of your hand as measured in HCPs
- ♦ The quality of your holding is in the suit you wish to bid

The quality of your holding in the suit you wish to overcall with is measured using:

The **Suit Quality Overcall Test (SQOT)**

Suit Quality Overcall Test (**SQOT**)

SQOT = Number of cards you hold in the suit
 + Number of honours you hold in the suit

Include 10 as an honour for this calculation

Examples:

<p>♠953 ♥KQ532 ♦106 ♣J52</p>	<p>♠KQ1096 ♥A953 ♦J7 ♣82</p>	<p>♠KQ9743 ♥A82 ♦643 ♣7</p>	<p>♠KQ1096 ♥A953 ♦J7 ♣82</p>																								
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Requirements for a suit overcall

♣ Overcalling at the 1 level:

♦ 8+ HCPs

♦ 7+ SQOT

♥ Overcalling at the 2 level:

♠ 10+ HCPs with 6 cards; 12+ with 5 cards




♠ 8+ SQOT

♣ Otherwise, consider whether a 1 NT overcall or a **X** is appropriate. If not, **Pass**

♦ Overcall at the lowest level you can.

♠ A lot of partnerships use a jump overcall to show weakness

Responding to your Partner's trump overcall with < 10 HCPs

Applicable when:	You have less than 10 HCPs You have 3 or more cards in the overcall suit
How it works:	Assume partner has: 5 cards in suit to overcall at the 1 level 6 cards in suit to overcall at the 2 level
	Add the number of cards you have in that suit to the assumed number that partner has. The answer is the number of tricks you should bid to make.
	Example: Partner has overcalled 1  and you have 4  s You can bid 3  (4 + 5 = 9)
Footnote:	Raise the bid to the full extent indicated by applying the above process. One exception could be to limit the response bid in a Major suit to the game (i.e. 4) level.

Responding to your Partner's trump overcall with 10+ HCPs

- ◆ If we have 10+ HCPs and 3+ cards in the suit Partner has overcalled with, we have 2 choices:
 - ♥ With good control of the Opposition's opening suit, we can bid No Trumps
 - ♠ Otherwise, we can bid the Opposition's opening suit at the lowest available level

This is known as an **Unassuming Cue Bid**

- ♣ It tells my Partner I have both a fit in the suit and enough points to be considering a game, rather than just being obstructive to the Opposition

Responding to your Partner's suit overcall

- ♣ When should you bid a new suit of your own after your Partner has overcalled?
- ♦ **Answer: Very rarely**
- ♠ Partner probably has 5 cards at the 1 level or 6 cards at the 2 level and has honours in the suit to satisfy the SQOT test
- ♥ **You know nothing about your Partner's holding in your longest suit**
- ♣ You may have a concern that you do not have any cards in your Partner's suit
- ♦ **However, you should not bid a new suit unless you have at least 2 cards in your Partner's bid suit - known as a tolerance.**
- ♠ Do you really want to take the bidding higher in a new suit?

Example 1

You are South with this hand:

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

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♦

What is your bid? _____

Example 2

You are South with this hand:

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

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♦

What is your bid? _____

Example 3

You are South with this hand:

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

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♥

What is your bid? _____

Example 4

You are South with this hand:

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

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♥

What is your bid? _____



Thank you