

**SQOT - Suit Quality Overall Test**

The number of cards in suit (5+) added to the number of Honours (AKQJT) in that suit, should equal the level of the overcall you make. Jack (J) or 10 (T) only count if you also hold a higher honour (A, K, or Q) in that suit.

A suit overcall at the 1-level on minimum values, 8-10 hcp, then the SQOT should be at least 7. If your overcall is at the 2-level, 10+ hcp, the SQOT should be 8 minimum.

A Q 9 7 3    5 card suit + 2 honours    SQOT  $5 + 2 = 7$     overcall at 1-level

K Q 10 8 5    5 card suit + 3 honours    SQOT  $5 + 3 = 8$     overcall at 2-level,  
but 1-level if you can

J 9 8 7 5 2    6 card suit + 1 honour    SQOT  $6 + 0 = 6$     (Jack no higher honour)

The SQOT doesn't replace overall hand evaluation (points, shape), but works alongside it, especially for weak hands, and to suggest a lead to partner.

**Level of the Fit**

This is best used when you have a weak hand (0-9 points) but 3+ card support for your partner's suit, especially when the opponents are actively bidding. You may make it difficult for them to find their best contract, and even if you win the contract, and go down in it, the sacrifice may result in a better score for your side.

Focus more on the number of trumps, than on your high-card points.

Partner overcalls 1♠ (showing 5+ spades) and you have 3 spades.

Support your partner to the Level of the Fit.  $5 + 3 = 8$  (the 2-level). Bid 2♠.

Partner overcalls 1♥ and you have 4 hearts  $5 + 4 = 9$  (the 3-level). Bid 3♥.

Partner overcalls 1♠ and you have 5 spades  $5 + 5 = 10$  (the 4-level). Bid 4♠.

Bidding to the Level of the Fit is a very effective spoiling strategy, but you must be careful of the vulnerability, and the shape of your hand. If you are very flat, and vulnerable, may be safer to bid one fewer than the Level of the Fit.

**UCB - Unassuming Cue Bid**

Your partner has overcalled. He may have as few as 8 hcp or as many as 18 hcp. If you have 3+ card support for his suit and good points (10+), you may Cue Bid the opponents suit to show your strength. If you support partner by bidding to the Level of the Fit, you are telling him how many trumps you have in support, but not your high card strength. If you make a UCB of the opponents' suit, this is a 'force' for partner to tell you if his hand is weak or strong. If his overcall was weak he rebids his suit. If strong, he may: bid a new 4-card suit, or a suit with a feature, or with stop(s) in opponents suit bid NT at the lowest level, or jump bid in the overcall suit.