

Overcalls & Advances Review

Reference: “Bidding in the 21st Century” - Chapter 7

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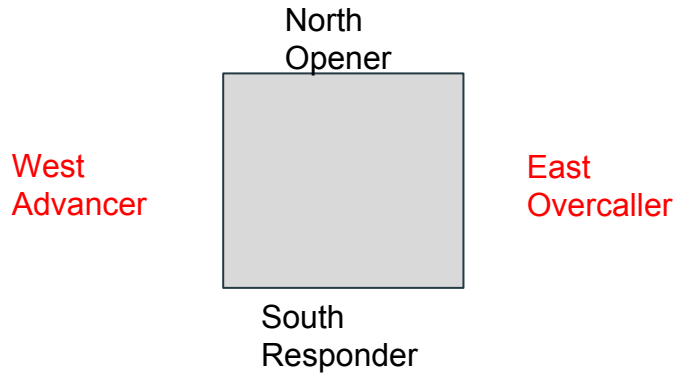
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Agenda

- Questions?
- Overcalls made simple
- Advancer bids made simple
- Bid and Play lots of hands

What is an Overcall?

- Review table “positions”



- Overcaller bids “over” the opener’s bid - ie, the “Overcaller”
- Partner of the Overcaller is called the “Advancer”.

Overcall bids - made simple

- Definition: The bid made after the opponent “opens” the bidding process
- To bid as the Overcaller...
 - At the 1 level (Ex: Opponent bids 1 ♦, you bid 1 ♥)
 - 8 HCPs with most of the points being in the suit that you’re bidding.....and at least 5 cards in that suit!
 - At the 2 level (Ex: Opponents bids 1 ♠, you bid 2 ♥)
 - 10/11+ HCPs with majority of the points being in the suit that you’re bidding.....and at least 5 cards in that suit!

The Simple Overcall

Important factors to think about when you are overcalling in a suit....

- What is my “trick taking” ability (more important than points)
- Would I be happy if my partner leads that suit to me in defense?

Consider these 2 hands. Your right hand opponent (RHO) opens 1 ♥

Hand A

♠ J x x x x

♥ Q x x

♦ K x x

♣ A 10

11 total points

Hand B

♠ K Q J 10 x

♥ x x x

♦ A x x

♣ x x

11 total points

What are the Advantages & Disadvantages of Overcalling?

- **Advantages**

- To give Partner a signal for a good opening lead
- To obstruct the Opponent's' bidding - push them higher up on the bidding ladder
- To compete for a part score or, less likely, a game contract for your side.
(Remember: Opponent has already opened and has between 13 to 21 points! How many points could your partner have if you have 8 to 16 total points? Pay special attention to the Responder's bid.)
- Can “scare” opponents into NOT bidding enough

- **Disadvantages**

- You might be left in a contract that can be defeated
- Provides information to your opponents

Overcall examples:

Opponent on your RIGHT opens 1 ♥ in all of the following examples: What should you bid in the “Overcaller” position?

1. ♠ A Q J 10 8
♥ 7 3
♦ A 9 5
♣ 10 4 2

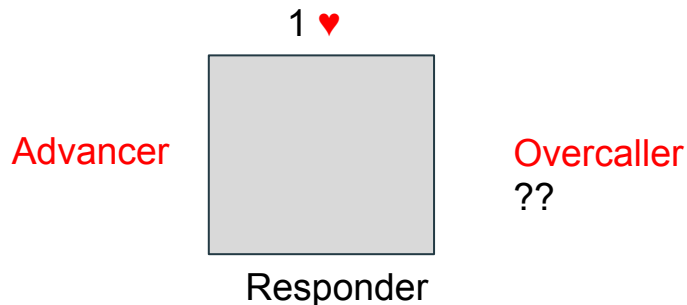
Answer: 1 ♠

2. ♠ K 8 4 2
♥ 8 7 3
♦ 5
♣ A K Q 10 6

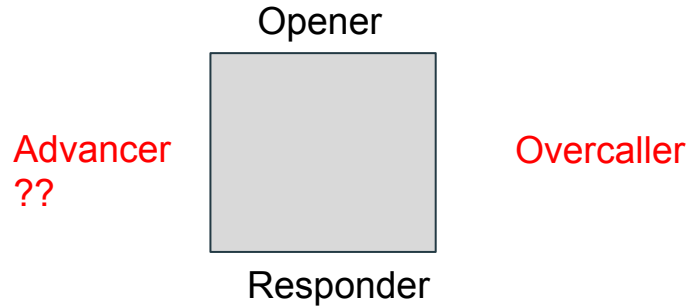
Answer: 2 ♣

3. ♠ 10 3
♥ 3
♦ A Q J 7 3
♣ A K 9 4 2

Answer: 2 ♦



What is the role of the Advancer?



- Similar to the role of the “Responder” but at slightly higher hand values
- Remember....Overcaller could have as few as 8 points

Bidding guidelines for the Advancer

| | |
|--|---|
| Less than 8 points | PASS |
| 8 - 9 points | Raise one level with at least 3 of partner's suit |
| Cue bid | 10+ points and support for partner's suit |
| No support of partner's suit but a good suit of your own | Bid your suit (10+ pts) |
| With control in Opponents suit | Consider No Trump (10+ pts) |

What's a Cue Bid? How do you bid a Cue bid?

- Bid the Opponent's suit
- It is a "Forcing" bid
- Promises a limit raise or better in "Overcaller's" suit

- **Cuebid's purpose:**
 - Asks the Overcaller about quality of the overcall
 - With minimum, Overcaller rebids suit
 - Any other bid by Overcaller shows opening hand
 - Don't use cuebid if you know you have a Golden game....just bid it

Advancing after a One level Overcall:

Left hand opponent bids 1 ♣ and your partner overcalls 1 ♠. What would you bid with the following hands?

1. ♠ A 8 7
♥ 10 9
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ J 7 5 2

Answer: 2 ♠

Advancer
???

Opener - 1 ♣



Overcaller - 1 ♠

Resp - Pass

2. ♠ J 6 3 2
♥ 9
♦ K Q 8 7
♣ Q 8 7 6

Answer: 2 ♣ CUEBID!

3. ♠ K 10 7 5 3
♥
♦ A J 8 2
♣ Q 10 7 3

Answer: 4 ♠

Advancing after a Two level Overcall.

Left hand opponent bids 1 ♠ and your partner overcalls 2 ♥. What would you bid with the following hands?

1. ♠ K 10 7 3
♥ J 4
♦ Q J 6 2
♣ 7 4 2

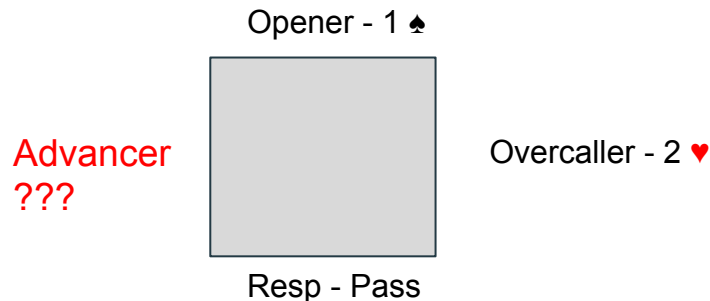
Answer: PASS

2. ♠ A 8
♥ K J 5
♦ Q 10 6 2
♣ J 5 4 2

Answer: 2 ♠ Cuebid!

3. ♠ J 3
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ A K J 8
♣ 10 4 2

Answer: 4 ♥



Advancing after a One NT Overcall

Remember: Overcaller is promising 15 - 18 pts

Respond in the same manner as if Opener was bidding 1 NT!

Left hand opponent bids 1 ♦ and your partner overcalls 1 NT. Responder Passes. What would you bid with the following hands?

1. ♠ 4
♥ 9 7 6 5 3 2
♦ Q J 7
♣ 6 4 2

Answer: 2 ♦ - "Transfer" to ♥

2. ♠ K J 3
♥ Q 9 6
♦ A J 3
♣ 7 5 4 2

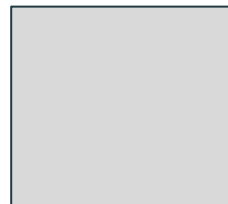
Answer: 3 NT

3. ♠ 8 7 5 3
♥ K 9 6 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 7 5

Answer: PASS

Advancer
???

Opener - 1 ♦



Resp - Pass

Overcaller - 1 NT