

Overall 1-level opening suit bid, with a Double.

When opponents open the bidding, and your hand has reasonable 'merit', you are strongly encouraged to enter the auction with a **competitive-bid**. Why you should do this, *with a Take-out Double*, comes from the following reasons;

- ❖ You want to steal the contract from your opponents.
- ❖ You want partner to bid their best suit (i.e., *take-out* the opponent's bid).

What 'merit' does your hand require, to overcall with a take-out double?

- ❖ **Shape**; You should have a shortage in the opponent's suit (max. 2-cards). You should also have 3+card (potential) support in the other 3 suits.
- ❖ **Hand Strength**; You should have a hand with opening or near opening strength. Your hcp should be in the other 3 suits with 'redundant' points in the opponent's suit discounted.

Alternatively ...

- ❖ You have a hand too strong to bid a suit (17+ hcp & quality 5+card suit) or too strong to bid 1NT (19+hcp & balanced with 2 stoppers). You plan to make a re-bid to clarify you have such a hand.

As this double could show un-limited strength, it is a **forcing-bid**, so you should have a prepared re-bid for all circumstances!

Examples RHO has opened 1♥.

♠ A 9 7 6
♥ 8
♦ K J 9 3
♣ A J 8 4

13 hcp & a singleton ♥-suit.
[Double for take-out]. *You have support for any suit partner may bid.*

♠ K Q J 9 2
♥ 4
♦ Q J 3
♣ A 9 8 5

13 hcp & a singleton ♥-suit.
Quality ♠-suit.
Here you **[Overcall 1♠]**. *Prefer major (fit) over minor!*

♠ K 6
♥ 10 2
♦ A J 10 9 3
♣ K Q J 2

14 hcp, but no support for a ♠-suit take-out.
Here you **[Overcall 2♦]**.

♠ K Q J 8
♥ A Q 10 2
♦ A J 10
♣ K Q 8

A 2NT opening hand!
[Double]. *You will re-bid NT, and revise message; "19+ hcp and balanced".*

♠ Q 10 3
♥ K J 7
♦ A 10
♣ K J 9

14 hcp & a 1NT opening hand! 3-card ♥-suit, no 5-card suit, too weak for 1NT overcall.
[Pass].

♠ 8 4 2
♥ Q J
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ Q J 9 3

12 hcp and a 2-card ♥-suit.
But, reduce hcp by 3 points - (discounted ♥QJ).
[Pass].

♠ Q J 7 4
♥ Q
♦ A Q J
♣ K 9 8 4 2

15-2 hcp & a singleton ♥-suit
[Double for take-out]. *You have support for any suit partner may bid.*

♠ A K J 9 8 5
♥ K Q 9 3
♦ A J 10
♣ void

18 hcp and a strong ♠-suit.
[Double]. *You will re-bid ♠-suit, & revise message: "strong suit & 17+ hcp".*

Message to Partner

Entering the auction with a take-out double, is generally stating;

“Partner, I have an opening hand, with a shortage in opponent’s suit and an interest in competing in the auction. What is your best suit?”

This is a forcing bid as, alternatively, I may have a very strong hand which I will disclose on my re-bid.”

Partner, is obliged to respond, even with a hand that contains 0 hcp.

However, this obligation no longer applies if opponents make an interference bid ~ *over-caller can still make a rebid*. Nevertheless, partner should still endeavour to compete when holding 6+hcp. Partner’s responses are covered elsewhere ([follow link](#)).

Note; *In competitive bidding partner will prioritise responding with an unbid major. E.g., bidding their 4-card major rather than a 5-card minor.*