

## Overcall 1-level opening suit bid, with a No Trump.

When opponents open the bidding, and your hand has considerable 'merit', you are strongly encouraged to enter the auction with a **competitive-bid**. Why you should do this, *with a No Trump bid*, comes from the following reasons;

- ❖ You want to steal the contract from your opponents
- ❖ You have a strong balanced hand.
- ❖ To find a game contract if partner can support you.
- ❖ You are 'happy' to play in No Trumps.

What 'merit' does your hand require, to overcall with a No Trumps bid?

- ❖ **Shape**; You **must** have a balanced hand. *As per a 1NT opening bid*
- ❖ **Hand Strength**; You should have 16-19 hcp. *For stronger balanced hands you need to make a **forcing bid** (i.e., Double) and then re-bid NT.*
- ❖ **Stoppers**; You **must** hold 2 stoppers in in the opponent's bid suit. You can expect opponents to lead this suit!

**Examples**

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

RHO has opened 1♥.  
 You have 16 hcp and 2 stoppers in ♥-suit.  
**[Overcall 1NT].**

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

RHO has opened 1♥.  
 You have 17 hcp. But only 1 stop in ♥-suit.  
 No 5-card suit and cannot double!  
**[PASS]**

♠ A J 7 3  
 ♥ Q J 10 3  
 ♦ A K 9 3  
 ♣ K Q J

RHO has opened 1♣.  
 You have 21 hcp and 2 stoppers in ♣-suit.  
 Here you **[Double]** and plan to re-bid NT (to show 2NT opening hand).

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

RHO has opened 1♣.  
 You have 16 hcp but hand is not balanced.  
 You have a 5-card ♥-suit. While SQ is poor, you have good hcp.  
 Following rules - **[PASS]**. However, some players may risk an [Overcall 1♥]  
 ~ disruptive but might get partner's support or may be penalised!

## Message to partner

*Entering the auction with a 1NT overcall, is generally stating;*

*“Partner, I am making this bid because I have a balanced NT hand and interest in competing in the auction.*

*I am promising 16-19 hcp with 2 stoppers in opponents’ suit*

*My bid is also a **limit bid** and am unlikely to re-bid unless encouraged or forced!”*

Partner, with ‘knowledge’ of all players hands (from their bids) can now decide how to best **respond to your 1NT overcall**. This is also covered elsewhere ([follow link](#))

**Note;** *By partnership agreement, partner can invoke **Stayman** and **Transfers** in response.*

## Protective position

By partnership agreement, in the fourth seat (the protective position) a 1NT bid over opponent’s 1-level suit opening, shows 11-14 hcp and not necessarily a stopper in the opponents’ suit.

It is bid on the assumption that your partner will have some values as opener’s partner has passed. Partner will respond as to a 1NT opening.