

## Overall 1-level opening suit bid, with a new Suit.

When opponents open the bidding, and your hand has some 'merit', you are encouraged to enter the auction with a **competitive-bid**. Why you should do this, *with a suit bid*, comes from one or more of the following reasons;

- ❖ You have a good suit that you want partner to lead.
- ❖ To find a game contract if you have a good hand.
- ❖ To obstruct your opponents, by using up bidding space.
- ❖ You want to steal the contract from your opponents.

What 'merit' does your hand require, to overcall with a new suit?

- ❖ **Suit length**; You **must always** hold a 5-card suit (or better). Partner can choose to raise with 3-card support, confident of an 8-card fit.
- ❖ **Quality of suit**; Your **Suit-quality**  $\geq 7$ , preferably with 2 *good* honours.
- ❖ **Hand Strength**; For a 1-level suit overcall you should have 8+ hcp. For a 2-level suit overcall you should have 12+ hcp, or an 'opening hand'. **However**, you can compensate for a lower HCP with a better SQ & shape **and vice-versa**
- ❖ **Shape**; Prefer an unbalanced hand to a balanced hand. Singletons are better than doubletons. Voids, even better.

## Examples

♠ 6 3  
 ♥ 5 2  
 ♦ A K J 10 8 6  
 ♣ 6 3 2

RHO has opened 1♥.  
 You have 8 hcp and a 6-card ♦-suit with SQ=10.  
 You want to play in ♦s or secure a ♦-ruff for partner.  
**[Overcall 2♦ & plan to re-bid your ♦-suit if required].**

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

RHO has opened 1♥.  
 You have an 'opening hand' (1NT) and a 5-card ♦-suit. SQ=7.  
 Your hcp is min. and SQ is lacking.  
**[PASS]**

♠ Q 8 7 3  
 ♥ K 9 6 5 3  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ Q J 2

RHO has opened 1♣.  
 You have 8 hcp and a 5-card ♥-suit. However, SQ is poor and you don't really want a ♥-lead from partner.  
**[PASS]**

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

RHO has opened 1♣.  
 Same 5-card ♥-suit and SQ, but now with 15 hcp. With more hcp than opponents (possibly) you need to compete. If partner can muster a response, you may even consider game.  
**[Overcall 1♥]**

## Message to partner

*Entering the auction with a simple suit-over-suit overcall, is generally stating;*

*“Partner, I am making this bid because I have some interest in competing in the auction”.*

*You are promising a 5-card suit (or better) but not a specific hcp range.*

**LTC**; partner can assume you have 8/9 losers (1-level), 7 losers (2-level)

*By inference you are denying;*

- ❖ A **1NT overcall** ~ 16+hcp and balanced with guards in their suit.
- ❖ A **take-out double** (forcing) ~ opening hcp, shortage in their suit, willing to play in any un-bid suit.
- ❖ A **jump-suit overcall** ~ as per partnership agreement
- ❖ A **two-suited (5-5) overcall** ~ if you play (say) Michael’s Cue Bid.

*These topics are covered elsewhere (follow links).*

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

**More examples** (RHO has opened 1♥)

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

**[Overcall 1♠]**

Strong hand. If partner supports ~ consider game invite.

♠ Q 7  
♥ 10 6 5  
♦ K Q J 4 2  
♣ A Q 2

**[Overcall 2♦]**

1NT hand with max. hcp and a 5-card ♦-suit. SQ=8.

♠ K Q 10 5 2  
♥ 6  
♦ 8 7 2  
♣ A 9 7 3

**[Overcall 1♠]**

If partner supports ~ Pass, but consider a re-bid at 3-level to go 1-off!

♠ 8 5  
♥ A 2  
♦ K 10 2  
♣ K Q J 9 8 7

**[Overcall 2♣]**

13 hcp and good 6-card suit.

♠ K Q 10 9 5  
♥ A 8 6 4 2  
♦ 5  
♣ Q 6

**[Overcall 1♠]**

Don't be put off by your ♥-suit. It will pay dividends if opponents raise or re-bid 2♥.

♠ K Q J 10  
♥ A Q  
♦ K 5 4  
♣ J 10 7 3

16 hcp but no 5-card suit. Hand is best described as balanced with ♥-guards.

**[Overcall 1NT]**

♠ A J 6 3 2  
♥ 3  
♦ Q 8 6 3  
♣ A Q 7

13 hcp, but minimal 5-card suit. Let partner choose a suit?

**[Double for take-out]**

♠ K 9 7 4 2  
♥ 9 6 4  
♦ K 6  
♣ Q 8 2

8 hcp but poor 5-card suit.

**[Pass]**