

## Supporting Partner's overcall ...when partner has **bid 1NT** over a 1-level suit opening.

Partner has entered the auction with a **competitive-bid** after opponents have opened the bidding with a 1-level suit bid. Partner's NT over-call is to show a strong balanced hand.

*Message from partner.*

- ❖ *I have a balanced hand with 16-18 hcp*
- ❖ *I have 2 guards in the opponent's suit.*

Your response is to consider partner's 1NT bid as if it was an opening bid, but with 4 hcp more than a weak 1NT opening.

With 0-6 hcp and a balanced hand, **[Pass]** is to play in 1NT, else:

- **Stayman** and **Transfer** conventions are available (adjust hcp values)
- Invite or bid game with a balanced hand, with the appropriate hcp.
- Note, your opponent's strength will be in opener's hand ~ *i.e., perhaps controlling partner's (as declarer) entries to dummy (your hand).*

**Note**; partner's NT holding may have a reduced hcp value, when the over-call is made in the passout position (partnership agreement).

**Examples** playing South

| W  | N   | E  | S   |
|----|-----|----|-----|
| 1♦ | 1NT | NB | ??? |

♠ A 9 7 3  
♥ 7 4 3  
♦ 10 8 6 5 2  
♣ 10

4 hcp, no interest  
in game.  
**[Pass]**

♠ K Q 8 4  
♥ Q J 7 3  
♦ 9 8 2  
♣ 6 5

8 hcp & both majors?  
**[Bid 2♣]** – *Stayman*. Re-bid 2NT  
(invitational) if no major match.

♠ Q 6 4  
♥ 9 7  
♦ Q J 6 2  
♣ A 8 7 3

9 hcp balanced.  
**[Bid 3NT]**

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

2 hcp  
**[Weak take-out]** –  
into ♣-suit.

♠ Q 7 6  
♥ K J 8 4 2  
♦ Q 9  
♣ J 10 5

9 hcp  
**[Bid 2♦]** – *Transfer*.  
Rebid 3NT (5-card ♥-suit,  
partner to choose 3NT/4♥).

♠ K Q 10 9 7 3  
♥ J 4  
♦ 10 7 2  
♣ J 8 3

7 hcp  
**[Bid 2♥]** – *Transfer*. Re-bid 3♠.  
(6-card ♠-suit, invitational).

♠ J 9 7 2  
♥ 7  
♦ 8 5 3  
♣ A J 6 5 4

6 hcp, no interest in  
game.  
**[Pass]**

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

11 hcp, balanced.  
**[Bid 3NT]** Partner has guards  
in more-suit.