

Overcalls - by Ed L'Heureux

1	♠ QJ652	Dir: N				
	♥ J4	Vul: None				
	♦ A1062					
	♣ AJ					
♠ A93	♠ 84					
♥ 8652	♥ A1073					
♦ QJ3	♦ K9					
♣ 872	♣ KQ1095					
	♠ K107	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13	♥ KQ9	N	-	2	-	-
7 12	♦ 8754	S	-	2	-	-
8	♣ 643	E	2	-	2	-
		W	2	-	2	-

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1S	2C	2S	3C
P	P	P	

Discussion:

N: Standard 1S opening bid.

E: With 11+ points & 5 clubs: overcalls 2C.

S: Same bid as without the overcall, 2S.

W: Expects N/S to make 2S. They have 8 trump & about 20 points. Can “see” 18+ (7 & 11+) & 8 clubs for E/W. Advances to 3C, probably down 1. but better to give N/S score = 50 than 110.

N: Expects 3S to be down 1. A minus 50 N/S would be worse than minus 50 E/W. So passes.

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2	♠ Q93	Dlr: E																															
	♥ 8	Vul: N-S																															
	♦ 9532																																
	♣ KQ942																																
♠ J875	♠ AK64																																
♥ Q1042	♥ J73																																
♦ KQ8	♦ J4																																
♣ 83	♣ A1075																																
7	♠ 102	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	-	-	-	S	1	2	-	-	-	E	-	-	1	2	1	W	-	-	1	2	1
	♣			♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	1			2	-	-	-																										
S	1			2	-	-	-																										
E	-	-	1	2	1																												
W	-	-	1	2	1																												
8 13	♥ AK965																																
12	♦ A1076																																
	♣ J6																																

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1C	1H	1S
P	2S	& 3 passes	

Discussion:

E/W: 1C-1S-2S, same as without the overcall.

S: 8+ points & good heart suit, overcalls 1H.

N: Does not have support for partner's hearts. Cannot raise hearts. Should not bid a new suit (eg clubs here) without support for partner. (If East were to pass & partner has no clubs, partner would have to bid 2H, turning bad into worse.)

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3		<p>♠ AQ32</p> <p>♥ Q7</p> <p>♦ KJ64</p> <p>♣ KQ7</p>	<p>Dlr: S</p> <p>Vul: E-W</p>
<p>♠ K1076</p> <p>♥ K103</p> <p>♦ Q852</p> <p>♣ A9</p>		<p>♠ J94</p> <p>♥ A84</p> <p>♦ 109</p> <p>♣ 106532</p>	
<p>17</p> <p>12</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>	<p>♠ 85</p> <p>♥ J9652</p> <p>♦ A73</p> <p>♣ J84</p>	<p>♣♦♥♠NT</p> <p>N 1 2 2 1 2</p> <p>S 1 2 2 1 2</p> <p>E - - - - -</p> <p>W - - - - -</p>	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		P	1D
1NT	P	2D	P
2H	P	P	P

Discussion:

W: 12 points, no major, bids best minor, 1D.

N: 1NT shows 15-18 points & diamonds stopped at least once, probably twice.

E: Too weak to bid anything.

S: Stayman & transfers apply after a 1NT overcall, just like after a 1NT opening bid. South with a weak hand and 5 hearts bids 2D to transfer N into 2H, then passes. The South hand is more valuable in 2H than in 1NT.

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4		<p>♠ AJ652</p> <p>♥ J4</p> <p>♦ K742</p> <p>♣ J10</p>	<p>Dlr: W</p> <p>Vul: Both</p>
<p>♠ Q4</p> <p>♥ AQ732</p> <p>♦ 109</p> <p>♣ KQ97</p>		<p>♠ 983</p> <p>♥ 865</p> <p>♦ QJ63</p> <p>♣ A82</p>	
<p>10</p> <p>13</p> <p>7</p> <p>10</p>	<p>♠ K107</p> <p>♥ K109</p> <p>♦ A85</p> <p>♣ 6543</p>	<p>♣♦♥♠NT</p> <p>N - 1 - 2 1</p> <p>S - 1 - 2 1</p> <p>E 1 - 2 - -</p> <p>W 1 - 2 - -</p>	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1H
1S	2H	2S	3H and 3 passes

Discussion:

E/W: West opens 1H. East bids 2H, 6-9 points & heart support, same as without the overcall.

N/S: North can overcall at the 1 level (1S) with 8+ points. South has enough to raise this to 2S.

W: Knows E/W have about 20 points (13 + 6-9) & 8 hearts, so can make 2H. But N/S have about 20 points & 8 spades, probably making 2S. West bids 3H, so N/S will get score=100, not 110.

N: Also knows Law of Total Tricks. Does not bid 3S. Happier with +100 than -100.

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5		♠ K42 ♥ 842 ♦ 7432 ♣ AQ2	<i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i>
♠ Q9765 ♥ 106 ♦ AQ5 ♣ KJ4		♠ J3 ♥ Q95 ♦ KJ109 ♣ 10863	
9 12 7 12	♠ A108 ♥ AKJ73 ♦ 86 ♣ 975	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT N 1 1 3 - 3 S 1 1 3 - 3 E - - - - - W - - - - -	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
P	P	1H	P
2H	P	P	P

Discussion:

South: Standard opening bid, 1 of a major.

West: 12 points & 5 spades, but the spade suit is not good enough to overcall. The suit should have 2 or 3 of the top 5. A suit headed by only the Q is not enough.

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6		♠ A93 ♥ KQ852 ♦ J3 ♣ 872	<i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: E-W</i>
♠ 107 ♥ A96 ♦ Q8754 ♣ 643		♠ QJ652 ♥ J43 ♦ A102 ♣ AJ	
10 6 13 11	♠ K84 ♥ 107 ♦ K96 ♣ KQ1095	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT N 3 - 2 - 1 S 3 - 2 - 1 E - 1 - - - W - 1 - - -	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1S	2C	P
2H	P	P?/3C?	and 3 passes

Discussion:

S: 2C overcall shows 11+ & good 5 card suit.

W: Weak hand. No spade support. Pass.

N: Good 5 card heart suit. Good hand: 10 HCP. Can suggest playing in the major (2H) because of 3 club cards. OK if partner bids 3C.

S: Has only 2 H, so bids 3C. Some might pass 2H with 2 card support. New suit is not forcing after an overcall. Law of Total Tricks suggests only 1H or 2C would make, but both 2H & 3C can make. Law is a guideline, not exact science.

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7	♠ Q106	Dlr: S																															
	♥ Q95	Vul: Both																															
	♦ 1097																																
	♣ AJ43																																
♠ 32	♠ AKJ85																																
♥ J74	♥ 108																																
♦ 843	♦ AJ62																																
♣ KQ765	♣ 98																																
	♠ 974																																
9	♥ AK632																																
6 13	♦ KQ5																																
12	♣ 102																																
		<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	1	1	-	2	-	W	1	1	-	2	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	-	2	-	-																												
S	-	-	2	-	-																												
E	1	1	-	2	-																												
W	1	1	-	2	-																												

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1H	P
2H	2S	P	P
P?/3H?			

Discussion:

N/S: Normal 1H-2H start to the auction.

W: Good suit, but too weak to overcall.

E: Full opener. Good spade suit. Enough to bid 2S rather than let N/S make an easy 2H contract. May go down 2-3 if partner totally broke. If so, N/S have enough for game. Down 3, vulnerable is -500, still less than N/S 4H = 620.

N/S: S is min, should pass. N at 9 is max of 6-9. Might bid 3H. But not clear E can make 2S.

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8		♠ 1084 ♥ J2 ♦ Q82 ♣ AKQ32	Dlr: W Vul: None																										
♠ QJ975 ♥ KQ5 ♦ A97 ♣ 107			♠ K6 ♥ 10963 ♦ J63 ♣ J954																										
12 12 5 11	♠ A32 ♥ A874 ♦ K1054 ♣ 86	<table><tr><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	-	2	S	2	2	-	2	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																									
N	2	2	-	2																									
S	2	2	-	2																									
E	-	-	-	-																									
W	-	-	-	-																									

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1S
2C	P	2NT	P
P	P		

Discussion:

N: 2C overcall shows 11+ & good 5 card suit.

E: Less than 6-9. No support for partner. Pass.

S: Only 2 small clubs. Can see 22+ combined points (11 & 11+). Has a spade stopper. Takes a chance that 2NT will be better than 2C. (Usually need 23 combined points to make 2NT.)

Bidding NT indicates lack of support for partner's suit with high cards in the other suits.

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9		<p>♠ 76 ♥ QJ4 ♦ Q985 ♣ A872</p>		<p><i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: E-W</i></p>																															
<p>♠ AJ102 ♥ A65 ♦ KJ2 ♣ 963</p>			<p>♠ 95 ♥ 10872 ♦ A1063 ♣ J105</p>																																
<p>9 13 5 13</p>		<p>♠ KQ843 ♥ K93 ♦ 74 ♣ KQ4</p>		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	1	-	1	1	S	1	1	-	1	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	1	1	-	1	1																														
S	1	1	-	1	1																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																														

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
P	P	1S	P
1NT	P	P	P

Discussion:

S: Typical 1S opening bid.

W: Full opener, but no suit. Cannot overcall a suit. Too weak to overcall 1NT. Should pass.

N: Has 6-9 but no spade support. Bids 1NT.

S: No second suit to bid. Passes the 1NT.

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10		<p>♠ J73 ♥ J8 ♦ AQ86 ♣ 7632</p>		<p><i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: Both</i></p>																															
<p>♠ Q542 ♥ AK653 ♦ 43 ♣ K9</p>			<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q10972 ♦ J75 ♣ A1084</p>																																
<p>8 12 7 13</p>		<p>♠ AK1086 ♥ 4 ♦ K1092 ♣ QJ5</p>		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	1	-	2	-	S	1	1	-	2	-	E	-	-	4	-	1	W	-	-	4	-	1	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	1	1	-	2	-																														
S	1	1	-	2	-																														
E	-	-	4	-	1																														
W	-	-	4	-	1																														

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	P	1S	2H
2S	4H	and 3 passes	

Discussion:

W: 2H overcall shows 11+ & good 5 card suit.

N: Same 2S response as with no overcall.

E: Knows E/W have 10 combined hearts and about half the points (7 & 11+ = 18+ HCP). Law of Total Tricks says they can usually make 4H. The singleton spade makes this more likely. Without a singleton, E might compete only to 3H. (If East had fewer points and thus N/S had more points, East could make the same bid, as a preempt to talk N/S out of bidding 4S.)

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11		♠ J1043 ♥ J632 ♦ Q65 ♣ 54	<i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: None</i>																															
♠ 875 ♥ A104 ♦ AJ4 ♣ AQ72			♠ A962 ♥ Q985 ♦ 87 ♣ K106																															
4 15 9 12		♠ KQ ♥ K7 ♦ K10932 ♣ J983	<table><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	-	3	3	2	W	2	-	3	3	2
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																													
N	-	-	-	-	-																													
S	-	-	-	-	-																													
E	2	-	3	3	2																													
W	2	-	3	3	2																													

N	E	S	W
		1D	1NT
P	2C	P	2D
P	2NT	and 3 passes	

Discussion:

W: 1NT overcall shows 15-18 & diamonds stopped at least once, probably twice.

E: Bids 2C = Stayman. Has 4 cards in both majors. Has required 8+ points to ask if partner has a 4 card major. Stayman & transfers are used after a 1NT overcall.

E/W: W bids 2D, no 4-card major. E invites with 2NT. W is minimum, so passes.

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12	♠ K102	Dir: W	
	♥ AKJ92	Vul: N-S	
	♦ 82		
	♣ 543		
♠ AJ74	♠ Q63		
♥ 1053	♥ Q7		
♦ AQ	♦ K9765		
♣ J762	♣ K98		
11	♠ 985		
12 10	♥ 864		
7	♦ J1043		
	♣ AQ10		

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	2	-	2
S	-	-	2	-	2
E	1	1	-	1	-
W	1	1	-	1	-

N	E	S	W
			1C
1H	2D	2H	P?/3D? and all pass

Discussion:

W: Opens 1C. No 5 card major. Bids best minor.

N: Overcalls 1H. Well above minimum for this.

E: Can bid at the 2 level with 10+ points and a 5 card suit. Bids 2D.

S: Advances to 2H . Has 6-9 & 3 hearts.

W: Stuck for a second bid. Can see a combined 22+ points (12 & 10+), but should not bid 2NT with no heart stopper. Might count AQ doubleton as worthy as 3 small diamonds & bid 3D. E/W not vul. 3D down 2 = -100 versus N/S 2H = 110.