

Dealing With a Two- Level (or higher) Overcall

Two-Level Overcalls Can Cause Problems

- When partner opens the bidding and an opponent makes a two-level or higher overcall, what are your options.
 - You can pass. Even if you would have bid at the one-level, had that bid been available, you should pass if your hand is weak.
 - Two-level suit responses show 10+ points and 5+ cards in the suit.
 - You can support your partner's suit with fewer points if you have enough cards in that suit.
 - You can use a negative double.
 - With a good hand and support for partner's suit, you can cue bid the opponent's suit.
 - You can make a penalty pass.

The Negative Double

- When you use a negative double you must keep in mind the level to which you are forcing partner to respond.
1. Imagine the bidding 1 ♠... (2 ♣),,, dble
 2. But if the bidding is 1 ♠... (2 ♥),,, dble

Hand 1

♠ 4 2

♥ K J 9 7

♦ K 10 9 3

♣ 8 4 3

Hand 2

♠ 4 2

♥ 9 7 4

♦ A Q 10 9

♣ K Q 4 3

The Penalty Pass

1 ♥... (2 ♦)... pass

Hand 3

♠ A 4 2

♥ 10 7

♦ Q 10 9 7

♣ K Q 4 3

Hand 4

♠ K 2

♥ 9 7

♦ K 10 9 6 3

♣ A 8 4 3

When You Can Support Partner

1 ♥ ... (2 ♦) ... 2 ♥

Hand 5

♠ 9 4 2

♥ K J 7

♦ 9 4

♣ K 8 7 4 3

Hand 6

♠ K 8 5 2

♥ Q 9 7

♦ 6 3

♣ Q 8 4 3

Bid 2 ♠ With 10+ Points and 5+ Cards in the Suit

1 ♥ ... (2 ♦) ... 2 ♠

Hand 7

♠ K J 9 4 2

♥ A 7

♦ 9 4

♣ Q 10 8 7

Hand 8

♠ A K 8 5 2

♥ 7

♦ 6 3 2

♣ A J 10 3

Bid 2 nt With 11 or 12 and a Stopper

1 ♥ ... (2 ♦) ... 2 nt

Hand 9

♠ A 4 2

♥ J 7

♦ K 9 4

♣ K J 7 4 3

Hand 10

♠ K 8 5

♥ 7 3

♦ K 10 6 3

♣ A Q 4 3

Bid 3 ♣ With 10+ Points and a Good Suit

1 ♥ ... (2 ♦) ... 3 ♣

Hand 11

♠ A 4 2

♥ J 7

♦ 4 2

♣ A K Q 7 4 3

Hand 12

♠ A Q J

♥ 7

♦ 8 6 4 3

♣ A Q J 4 3

Bid 3 ♦ With a Limit Raise or Better

1 ♥ ... (2 ♦) ... 3 ♦

Hand 13

♠ A 4 2
♥ Q J 7
♦ 4 2
♣ A J 10 4 3

Hand 14

♠ A 3 2
♥ K 9 7 5
♦ 3 2
♣ K J 4 3

Hand 15

♠ A 8 2
♥ K 9 7 5
♦ 3
♣ A Q J 4 3

Bid 3 ♥ With 4 Trump but a Weak Hand

1 ♥ ... (2 ♦) ... 3 ♥

Hand 16

♠ A 4

♥ Q 10 7 5

♦ 4 2

♣ 9 8 7 4 3

Hand 17

♠ 4

♥ A 9 7 4

♦ 5 3 2

♣ J 9 7 4 3

Bid 3 nt With 13-15 Points and a Solid Stopper

1 ♥... (2 ♦)... 3 nt

Hand 18

♠ A 9 4

♥ 7 5

♦ K J 2

♣ A J 7 4 3

Hand 19

♠ A K 4

♥ J 4

♦ A Q 3 2

♣ J 10 9 7

Consider This Bidding

1 ♠ ... (3 ♣) ... pass

Hand 20

♠ 4

♥ K 8 3

♦ K 10 9 2

♣ Q 10 7 4 3

Hand 21

♠ 9 4

♥ Q 6 4

♦ K 8 3 2

♣ J 10 9 7

You Can Still Use the Negative Double

1 ♠ ... (3 ♣) ... dble

Hand 22

♠ 4 3

♥ K 10 8 3

♦ K Q 10 7 2

♣ K 7 4

Hand 23

♠ 9 4

♥ A K 6 4

♦ A J 3 2

♣ 10 9 7

Suppose They Make a Two-Suited Bid

1 ♥ ...(2 ♥)...Dble – is penalty oriented.

Hand 24

♠ A J 10

♥ 8 3

♦ K 10 8 7 2

♣ K 7 4

Hand 25

♠ A Q 9 4

♥ 6 4

♦ A J 3 2

♣ 10 9 7

Michaels cue

Suppose They Make a Two-Suited Bid

1 ♥ ...(2 nt)...Dble – is penalty oriented.

Hand 24

♠ J 10 7

♥ 8 3

♦ K 10 8 7

♣ K Q 7 4

Hand 25

♠ 9 4

♥ Q 6 4

♦ A J 3 2

♣ K 10 9 7

Unusual no trump

Suppose They Make a Two-Suited Bid

1 ♥ ... (2 ♥) ... 2 ♠ – cue bid a known suit.

Hand 24

♠ J 10

♥ A 8 3

♦ K 10 8 7 2

♣ A 7 4

Hand 25

♠ 9 4

♥ K J 7 4

♦ A J 3 2

♣ A 9 7

Michaels cue

When Partner Opens a Preempt

2♥ ... (2♠) ... 4♥

Hand 24

♠ 10

♥ A 10 3

♦ K Q 8 7 2

♣ A K J 4

Hand 25

♠ 9 4

♥ K J 7 4

♦ A K 3 2

♣ A Q 7

When Partner Opens a Preempt

2♥ ... (2♠) ... 3♥ or 4♥ With a weak hand
bid to the level of the total number of trump

Hand 24

♠ 10

♥ A 10 3

♦ Q 8 7 5 2

♣ A J 4 3

Hand 25

♠ 9 4

♥ K J 7 4

♦ K 3 2

♣ Q J 7