Responding to Partner's Overcall

30 Minute Mini Lesson

A Word About Overcalls

- At the one level, an overcall should be a:
 - 5-card, or longer, suit
 - the hand strength should be between 7 and 17 HCPs.
- At the two level, an overcall should be:
 - A very good 5-card suit
 - A reasonable 6 card or longer suit
 - A hand with strength between 10 and 17 HCPs.

Consider These Hands

RHO 1

- **4** 4 2
- **KQJ107**
- **1053**
- ♣ K 4 3

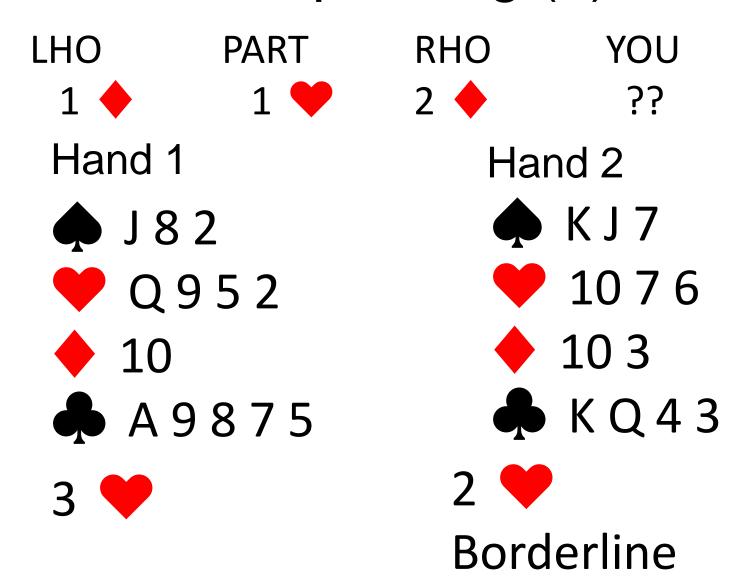
RHO 1

- **4** 4 2
- KQJ107
- **1053**
- ♣ K 4 3

Responding

- When partner makes an overcall, you do not need a lot of points to bid if you have a fit.
- The idea is to get in the opponents' way as much as possible.
- Don't let them have the auction all to themselves.

Responding (1)



Responding (2)

LHO	PART	RHO	YOU
1 🔷	1 💙	Dble	. 55
Hand 3		Hand 4	
8 2			K J 7 5
Q 952		1076	
10 7 2		10 3	
A 9 8 7		♣ KQ43	
2		2	

Responding (3)

LHO PART
1 1

RHO YOU ??

Hand 3

Hand 4







Borderline

Responding(4)

LHO RHO YOU PART 1 1 55 1 nt Hand 3 Hand 4 **4** J 8 2 **♠** K873 **Q** 10 5 2 **1076 ♦** K872 **Q 9** 8 **♣** KJ43 2 Pass??

Responding(5)

LHO **RHO** YOU **PART** 1 1 💙 55 1 nt Hand 3 Hand 4 ♠ AJ82 **♠** K873 **K** 10 5 2 **1076** J 8 7 **Q** 3 ♣ KJ43 **9** 8 2 **Pass**

A Jump Raise Response

- Two ways to play jump raises, over an overcall.
 - As a preemptive raise
 - As a invitational limit raise.
- Modern bidders today prefer the jump raise to be preemptive. Using the <u>Law of Total Tricks</u>.

The Preemptive Jump Raise

- The jump raise of partner's overcall always has at least four cards in partner's suit.
- We use a cue bid as a limit raise <u>or</u> better..

Responding(6)

LHO PART RH
1 ♣ 1 ♥ Pa
Hand 5
♠ Q J 6
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ J 10 8 7 3

P 9

3

RHO YOU

Pass ??

Hand 6

♠ KJ3

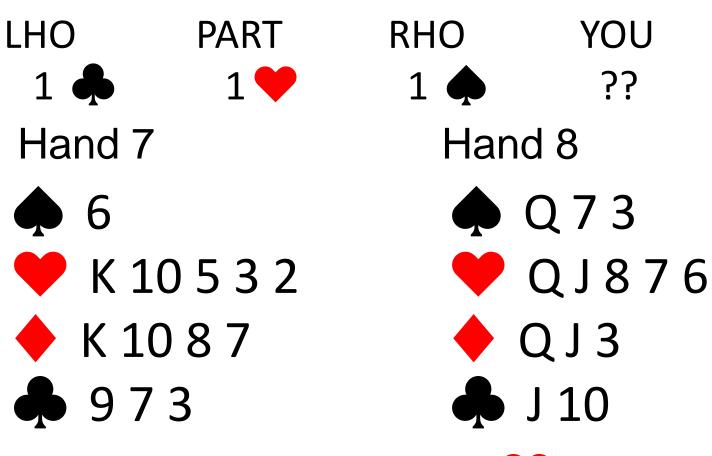
Q 7 6

♦ KQ63

♣ K83

2

Responding(7)



4 Use the Law 2 Junk values bad Distribution

Responding(8)

LHO 1 **PART**

RHO

YOU

2

pass

55

Hand 21



♠ K 9 7



Q 8 7 4 3



♦ KQ95



11 points-4



Bidding a New Suit

- Is a new suit forcing? Partnership decision.
- The best way to play a new suit over partner's overcall is:
 - Constructive
 - Encouraging
 - But not forcing.

One Important Caveat

- Never bid a new suit because you don't like the one partner bid.
- If you are the original overcaller, never bid over partner's new suit because you don't like the one partner bid.
- If you bid a new suit or bid over partner's new suit, do it
 - Because you have the values to do so.
 - Because you have more values than partner might expect.

Responding(9)

LHO RHO YOU **PART** 1 1 55 Pass Hand 9 Hand 10 • K Q 10 75 Q 10 7 6 5 3 **J** 2 A J 10 8 J93 **4** J 7 4 **7** 3 1 Pass

Responding(9)

LHO RHO YOU **PART** 1 1 33 Hand 12 Hand 11 • A 10 7 • AQ52 **J** 2 **9** J 6 AQJ853 → J 9 3 2 **7** 3 **KJ10** 2 1 nt

What Does A Cue Bid Show

- A cue bid of the opponent's suit shows:
 - 3-card or better support for partner's overcall suit.
 - A limit raise (11 hcp) or better.

Responding(10)

LHO **PART** RHO YOU 1 1 55 Pass

Hand 14 Hand 13

A J • A K 2

Q 10 7 4 Q J 6

AQJ83 ♦ KJ932

7 3 **9** 5

2 2

Responding(11)

LHO RHO YOU **PART** 1 1 55 Hand 15 Hand 14 • A 4 • A Q 2 **Q** 10 7 4 V Q J J 8 3 QJ93 **Q** 7 3 2 ♣ KQ72 3 V Not good 3 nt enough to cue bid

Overcallers' Rebid After a Cue Bid

- With a minimum overcall (7-10 points) simply rebid the suit at the cheapest level.
- With 11-13 points invite game or bid a new suit below you overcall suit.
- With 14+ points bid game.

Overcaller's Rebid



Overcaller's Rebid



A Two Level Overcall

- When partner makes a two level overcall, partner's hand should be close to openingbid strength.
- You can raise partner to the 3 level with a little less.
 - With 8 or less points, pass.
 - With 9 or 10 points raise to the 3 level.
 - With 11 or more points bid game.

Responding(12)

LHO PART RHO YOU

1 ♠ 2 ♥ pass ??

Hand 19 Hand 20

♠ Q 9 7
♠ Q 2

→ J 10 9 3

→ K J 9 3

♣ KJ5 ♣ J752

7 points -pass 10 points -3