



Overcalls after a weak 2 opening

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The various overcalls are:

- With an unbalanced hand call your long suit or double.
- With a balanced hand call 2NT but you also need between 15 and 17HCP and two stoppers in the opening suit!

Careful! You can only use a Michael after a one level opening.

S	W	N	E
			2♥
Pass			

K♠	9♠	7♠	4♠	Q♥	J♥	K♣	7♣	6♣	K♦	8♦	4♦	2♦
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Problem E1257 PASS. Your hand is too weak to double. No aces and the hearts honors are worthless!

S	W	N	E
			2♥
2 NT			

9♠	4♠	K♥	Q♥	9♥	J♣	10♣	4♣	A♦	K♦	Q♦	10♦	9♦
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Problem E1270 2NT The important thing here is to have heart stoppers. It doesn't matter if you don't have a spade stopper. Your Partner will usually take care of that!



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Double

To double you need:

- a three-suited distribution,
- with your high cards in those suits!

An overcall in a suit needs:

- a strong suit of at least 5 cards at the two level (ie 2 spades over a 2 heart opening), and more like 6 cards at the three level.
- One exception to keep in mind : after a 2♥ opening, the bid of 3♠ is propositional game - you have to have a strong ♠ with 6 cards and a 2nd zone hand..

S	W	N	E
			2♥
3♣			



Problem E1253 3♣ Don't double with a diamond void in spite of the 4 spades. Bid your strong 6-card suit.

S	W	N	E
			2♥
X			



Problem E1256 A nearly perfect takeout double for the other 3 suits!



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With two-suiters (2 suits of at least 5 cards with the high cards concentrated in those suits):

- 4 clubs = the other major and clubs
- 4 diamonds = the other major and diamonds
- Cue bid = the minors at least 5-4
- 4NT = the minors at least 6-5

S	W	N	E
			2♥
4♦			



Problem E1278 4 diamonds It's up to your Partner to choose between spades and hearts.

S	W	N	E
			2♥
4 NT			



Problem E5145 4NT with a violent minor two suiter. If your side goes down at the 5 level, you will often notice that your opponents would have won game in a major suit...



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The NT overcall

- 2NT shows 15-17HCP and two stoppers in the opening suit. (At level one we recommend 16-18HCP). If you only have 15HCP you need extra value, for example high cards backed up by solid intermediate cards.
- 3NT indicates:
 - either a strong balanced hand with solid stoppers
 - or an independent minor suit with a strong stopper.

S	W	N	E
			2♥
2 NT			

9♠	4♠	K♥	Q♥	9♥	J♣	10♣	4♣	A♦	K♦	Q♦	10♦	9♦
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Problem E1270 [2NT](#) The important thing here is to have heart stoppers. It doesn't matter if you don't have a spade stopper. Your Partner will usually take care of that!