



Fourth seat overcalls in a suit

The main characteristics of fourth seat overcalls: (Careful! These are not wake up bids as the respondent has made a bid!)

- It is the same as in second seat, when overcalling in a suit.
- The double promises 4 cards in the unbid suits. Be strict about this as your Partner has passed.
- In fourth seat the cue bids take on a different meaning.

Careful! Your Partner who has already passed might have ... absolutely nothing! Take the vulnerabilities into account.

S	W	N	E
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
2 ♠			

A ♠	Q ♠	J ♠	10 ♠	8 ♠	7 ♥	4 ♥	2 ♥	7 ♣	A ♦	10 ♦	4 ♦	2 ♦
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Problème 1718

2 ♠ In fourth seat as in second, don't miss the opportunity of bidding a strong 5-card suit. You probably won't be able to do it later.

S	W	N	E
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
2 ♠			

K ♠	J ♠	10 ♠	8 ♠	4 ♠	3 ♠	7 ♥	5 ♥	2 ♥	6 ♣	Q ♦	10 ♦	9 ♦
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Problème 4320

2 ♠ You would have opened a weak two spades. Thanks to your 3 hearts, you know your Partner holds a maximum of 2 cards in that suit. Interesting, isn't it?



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The double

It promises a minimum of 12HCP, short in the opponents' suit and 4 cards in the unannounced suits.

- Take good stock of your hand as your Partner who has already passed might have zero points!
- With a strong hand, always begin by doubling, even with a good suit.

S	W	N	E
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
X			

A	10	8	4	7	4	Q	10	8	3	A	Q	8
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Exercice E3223

Only 12HCP but all well placed in the other three suits. Appreciate your two tens and even the three eights. Not all the side cards are useless!

S	W	N	E
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass			

K	5	4	Q	6	K	5	4	3	K	Q	7	4
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problème E3224

PASS in spite of the 13HCP for two main reasons: you don't have four spades and the queen of hearts is not worth much.



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With a two-suiter

If two suits have been called,

- the cue bid of the opening suit shows a two-suiter with 5-5 in the other two suits.
- 2NT shows a violent two-suiter with 6-5 in the other two suits.

If only one suit has been called (eg 1 heart - 2 hearts)

- the cue bid of the opening major shows the other major and the clubs.
- The jump to 4 clubs shows the other major and the diamonds.
- 2NT shows the two lowest ranking suits (except a fourth seat reopening bid)

S	W	N	E
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
2 ♣			

A	10	7	6	4	7	4	4	A	Q	J	10	9
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

Exercise E1079 Cue bidding the opener always describes 5-5 in the other two suits. It requires roughly opening strength.



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The 1NT overcall

You need roughly the same hand as for a 1NT opening. It promises:

- more like 16-17HCP. Avoid this bid with 15HCP and no extra strength.
- and strength in the opponents' suit.

Careful ! Never forget that your Partner might have zero points! If your overcall is too weak you will be sanctioned by a penalty double.

S	W	N	E
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 NT			



Exercise E3810 "a sandwich 1NT" needs a good hand. Indeed, if the opponent doubles, you have to survive the shock ...