



## Pre-empt: weak three and weak four bids

**Pre-empt openings are very difficult for the opponents because they have to overcall at a high level.**

To open 3 clubs, diamonds, hearts or spades you need:

- 6 to 9HCP
- and 7 cards in that suit including two high honors (ace, king or queen)

Be Careful ! Don't open 3 in a suit if you have 2 aces; 1 ace and a void or if you have 4 in a major. These rules only apply in 1st or 2nd seat. In 3rd or 4th seat you can do all of the above !

S	W	N	E
1 ♦			

  

10 ♠	4 ♠	A ♥	Q ♥	10 ♥	2 ♣	K ♦	Q ♦	10 ♦	9 ♦	8 ♦	7 ♦	4 ♦
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Problem E1312 : 9HCP is the maximum for a pre-empt opening, therefore 11HCP is too many!

S	W	N	E
3 ♦			

  

7 ♠	9 ♥	4 ♥	10 ♣	6 ♣	4 ♣	A ♦	K ♦	J ♦	9 ♦	8 ♦	7 ♦	6 ♦
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Problem E1311: This pre-empt opening is precise:  
7 strong diamonds,  
6-9HCP (here, it's 8HCP).



## Pre-empt: weak three and weak four bids

### Pre-empt openings at level 4 in a suit need:

- A strong 8-card suit
- Between 6 and 9HCP
- And no defensive trick

S		W		N		E	
4 ♠							

A	Q	10	9	6	5	4	3	4	4	J	10	3
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem E2475: It's the number of spades that determines the level of your pre-empt bid

- with 6 cards = 2 spades
- with 7 cards = 3 spades
- with 8 cards = 4 spades. Easy, isn't it?

S		W		N		E	
4♥							

K♥	Q♥	10♥	9♥	8♥	5♥	4♥	3♥	5♣	4♣	3♣	6♦	3♦
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Problem E2476: If you have a strong 8-card heart suit, even with nothing else alongside, don't hesitate even a second to open 4 hearts. It's then up to the opponents to plunge in at 4 spades and take all the risks.



## Pre-empt: weak three and weak four bids

### To open 3NT you need:

- about 10HCP,
- an established minor suit of 7 cards (and not 8!)
- and ...nothing else alongside , meaning no ace or king!

Careful!

Don't open 3NT with an ace or a void in addition to the established minor.

Example

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S		W		N		E	
4 ♦							

10	7	9	7	4	A	K	Q	10	9	8	7	3
♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E5164: Don't open 3NT with an established 8-card suit.

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