



The responder after an overcall

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With a fit in the opener's major:

make a support bid at level 2, 3 or 4 according to your strength, or make a forcing bid with 11HCP or more (jump shift, cue bid, jump fit)

Without a fit:

- pass with less than 5HCP;
- bid NT with at least one stopper in the overcaller's suit;
- sputnik double with four cards in the unbid suits and at least 7-8HCP.
- To change suits at the two level you need 11HCP and at least five cards. Single jumps are preempts (at your level).
- Without a possible major fit, cue bid with 11HCP or more to ask if Partner has a stopper in the overcall suit.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	1 ♠
Pass			

Q	J	7	8	5	4	10	8	3	2	J	7	5
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem E4888 **PASS** with 4HCP completely ineffective.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	2 ♦
2 ♥			

10	4	3	K	9	7	K	J	10	6	2	4	3
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦

Problem E4889 2 ♥ little support with 7HCP and three trumps.



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With a fit in the opener's major.

In competitive auctions and with a hand limited to 10-11HCP, you have to give immediate support and at the right level.

- with three trumps and more than 5-6HCP, minimum support
- with four trumps and more than 8-9HCP. game proposal at the three level
- four trumps and 10-11HCP. go to game
- 11HCP or more, four trumps and a well-distributed hand, make a forcing bid: cue bid the overcaller's suit, a jump shift or a jump fit.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	2 ♦
3 ♥			



Problem E4890 3 ♥ Game proposal with nine useful HCP.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	2 ♦
4 ♥			



Problem E4891 4 ♥ Game support with 11HCP in a strong hand 4432.



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Looking for a major fit

Two bids make it possible to find a major fit: the sputnik double and the jump shift.

The sputnik double: with 7-8HCP (at the one level) takeout for an unnamed suit

The jump shift:

- at the two level you need 11HCP and five cards. A single jump is preempt. A double jump is a jump fit.

S	W	N	E
		1♦	1♠
X			



Problem E1571 **double** With a minimum of 7-8HCP (no maximum) and 4 cards in an unbid major, use the very efficient sputnik double.

S	W	N	E
		1♦	2♣
2♥			



Problem E1254 2♥ Jump shift at the two level with 11HCP or more and five cards in that suit.



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With no possible major fit: NT

NT bids show at least one stopper in the overcalled suit at the one level (more if you go higher) and:

- for 1NT, 8-10HCP and at least one stopper in the overcalled suit;
- for 2NT, 11HCP, a balanced hand and two stoppers in the overcalled suit;
- for 3NT, 12-14HCP, a balanced hand and two stoppers in the overcalled suit.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♦	2 ♥
3 NT	Pass		

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

Problem E1476 **3NT** A 3NT bid guarantees above all good stoppers in hearts...it's up to the Partner to deal with the spades!

S	W	N	E
		1 ♦	2 ♣
2 NT			

Q	9	5	K	10	A	J	10	8	J	10	9	8
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E1497, **2NT** which promises a balanced hand of about 11HCP, with good club stoppers and no four-card major.