



The responder after an overcall

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.



Problem E4888 PASS with 4HCP completely ineffective.



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





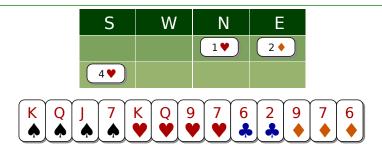
With a fit in the opener's major.

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.



Problem E4890 3 ♥ Game proposal with nine useful HCP.



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





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.



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



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





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.



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



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