



1NT overcalls

The 1NT overcall

You need roughly the same points and distribution as for a 1NT opening. It promises:
15-17HCP, but avoid this bid with only 15HCP and no extra strength.
and a stopper in the opponents' suit.

Careful! Never forget that your Partner might have ... absolutely nothing! A overcall which is too weak will provoke a penalty double by your opponents.

S	W	N	E
			1 ♦
1 NT			

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

Exercise E1056 The perfect hand for a 1NT overcall: 16HCP, a balanced hand and a diamond stopper.

S	W	N	E
			1 ♦
Pass			

K	5	A	8	4	2	A	K	J	9	7	5	3
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Exercise E3707 PASS with only 15HCP and no diamond stopper. There's no doubt about it!



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Examples of 1NT overcalls

S	W	N	E
			1 ♠
1 NT			

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

Exercise E3939 1NT best describes this regular hand with 16HCP.

S	W	N	E
			1 ♠
1 NT			

A	J	9	8	K	6	6	3	A	K	Q	10	3
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

Exercise E3919 All the ingredients are there for a great 1NT overcall: 17HCP, spade stoppers and a long diamond suit.



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The following bids: responses to a 1NT overcall

Without a four-card major:

- with less than 8HCP: PASS
- as from 8HCP: 3NT

With a major of at least 4 cards:

- with less than 8HCP: PASS
 - as from 8HCP: 2 clubs Stayman or Texas (with a major of at least 5 cards).
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