

Beginner Bridge

Pe-emptive Opening Bids



Recap on Overcalls and SQOT



Suit Quality Overcall Test (SQOT)

- **SQOT** = number of cards in the suit + number of honours in the suit ("**10**" counts as an honour)



- ♠ K J 8 6 4 SQOT = 7 (5 + 2)
- ♠ J 9 8 6 4 2 SQOT = 7 (6 + 1)
- ♠ A K J 10 6 SQOT = 9 (5 + 4)



Requirements for making an overcall

- 8+ HCP for a 1 level overcall
- 10+ HCP for a 2 level overcall
- Good 'quality' in the overcall suit

[Overcalls AR](#)



These hands are (just) worth a 2-Level suit overcall :

♠ A J ♥ 9 ♦ 10 4 ♣ K Q 8 7 6 3

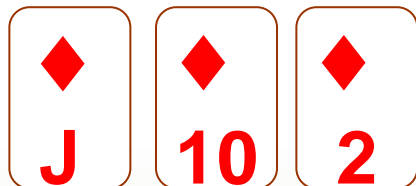
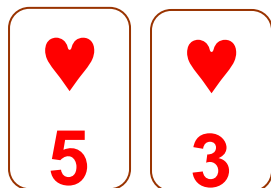
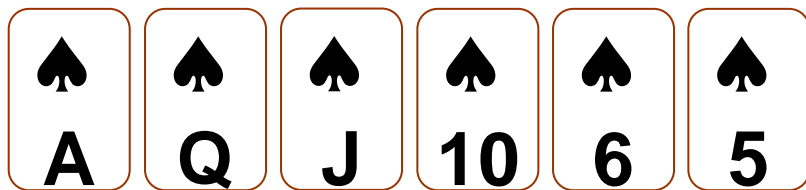
10 HCP; SQOT = 8

♠ A J ♥ 9 ♦ Q 4 ♣ K 9 8 7 6 3 2

10 HCP; SQOT = 8



Do you open the bidding with this hand?



Hopeless in Defence

Playing in 2♠ we can make 5 tricks on our own

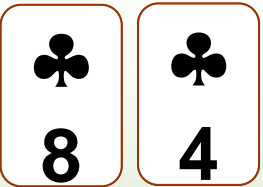
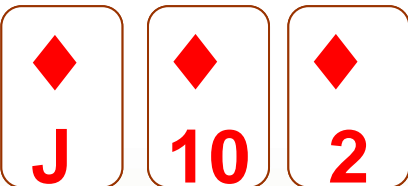
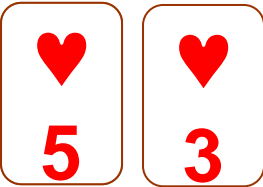
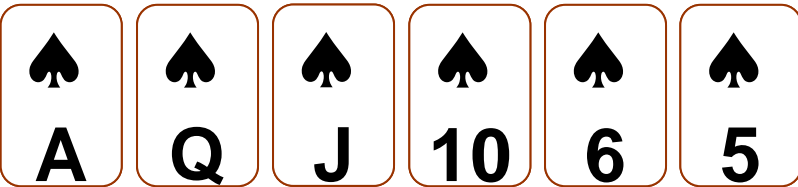
We would definitely overcall with this hand, but by then the opponents are 'talking'

We need to get our retaliation in first - we need to **pre-empt** our opponents



Making a Pre-emptive Bid

Bid 2♠!



You are North and open a Weak 2♠

West

♠ 9 8

♥ A J 5 3 2

♦ K Q 8 6 2

♣ 2

East

♠ 7 2

♥ K Q 9 4

♦ J 7 5 4 3

♣ A 4

East - West can make 4♥
but will they bid it?



Weak 2 Opening bids

- 2♦ ⇒ 6-10 HCP & 6 diamonds (SQOT= 8)
- 2♥ ⇒ 6-10 HCP & 6 hearts (SQOT= 8)
- 2♠ ⇒ 6-10 points & 6 spades (SQOT= 8)

You will **rarely** bid again ... you have **JUST** one shot

You must announce your bid: say "Weak"

NOTE THAT 2♣ is NOT used to show this type of hand
The 2♣ opener is a SPECIAL bid showing a STRONG hand



Pre-emptive Openings ... 2-level



Open 2♠

6-10 points
GOOD 6-card suit
SQOT = 9



Pre-emptive Openings – 2-level



PASS

6-10 points

BAD 6-card suit
SQOT = 7



RESPONSES TO 2-level openers

- **PASS** \Rightarrow 0-15 points, 0-2 card support
- **3+ level Raise** \Rightarrow 0-15 points, 3+ card support
"Bid to the level of your fit"
This is NOT an invitation to game. It is just extending partner's preempt
- **GAME** \Rightarrow 16+ points, 2+ card support



RESPONSES TO 2-level openers

Partner opens 2♥ and you have this hand

Bid 4♥

Your side have 10 hearts.
Bid to the level of the fit.

Your opponents have at least 25 HCP and will make 4♠ if you let them find their fit . Obstruct!

♠ 7

♥ 8 7 4 2

♦ Q 8 7 6 2

♣ K 9 4 3



RESPONSES TO 2-level openers

Partner opens 2♥ and you
have this hand

Bid 3♥!

Bid to the level of your fit.
Your opponents may well be able
to make 3♠. Obstruct!!

♠ 7

♥ Q 4 3

♦ K 7 6 2

♣ A J 4 3



RESPONSES TO 2-level openers

Partner opens 2♥ and you
have this hand

Bid 3NT!

♠ K 6 2

♥ K 9 3

♦ A K 6

♣ A 9 4 3

You have entries to establish partner's
hearts. At least five heart tricks
You have a good stop in every suit.



RESPONSES TO 2-level openers

Partner opens 2♥ and you have this hand

Bid 4♥!

Bid to MAKE.
You have a fit and 17 points including shortage.

♠ 8 2

♥ Q 10

♦ A K 6 2

♣ A K 4 3 2



RESPONSES TO 2-level openers

Partner opens 2♥ and you have this hand

♠ 5 4 2

♥ -

♦ Q 8 5 4

♣ K Q 8 5 4 2

Don't rescue!!

You are too weak to bid 3♣

A new suit shows interest in a game contract. Partner must bid again!!

Choices: 3♥; 4♣



RESPONSES TO 2-level openers

Partner opens 2♥ and you have this hand

♠ K Q 9 5 4 2

♥ -

♦ A K

♣ K 3


Bid 2♠

Partner must bid again.

Choices: 3♥; 3♠; (weak)

4♥; 4♠







N Robot Remove

WEST	NORTH	EAST	wasgij
	2♦	Pass	3♦

West now has to guess what to do. Have you 3 points or 12 points???



W Robot Remove



E Robot Remove



S wasgij

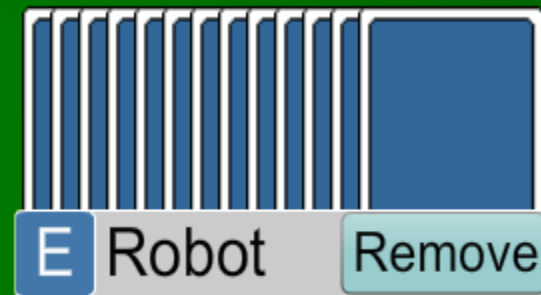


What does West do?
 PASS?
 5 Hearts?
 Double?
 They have to GUESS



W wasgij

WEST	NORTH	EAST	wasgij
	2♠	Dbl	4♠
Put West to the guess We have a 10-card FIT Bid to GAME			



Weak 3 Opening bids

- $3\clubsuit \Rightarrow$ 6-10 HCP & 7 clubs (SQOT= 9)
- $3\diamond \Rightarrow$ 6-10 HCP & 7 diamonds (SQOT= 9)
- $3\heartsuit \Rightarrow$ 6-10 HCP & 7 hearts (SQOT= 9)
- $3\spadesuit \Rightarrow$ 6-10 HCP & 7 spades (SQOT= 9)

Once you have pre-empted do not bid again!
Partner is now in charge!

These bids are **DESTRUCTIVE** ... we want to
make it hard for the opposition



RESPONSES TO 3-level openers

Partner opens 3♥ and you
have this hand

Bid 4♥!

Your side have ten hearts.
Bid to the level of the fit.

♠ 7

♥ 8 7 4

♦ Q 8 7 6 2

♣ K 9 4 3

Your opponents have at least 25 HCP and
will make 4♠ if you let them find their
fit . Obstruct, Spoil, Bu***r them up!



RESPONSES TO 3-level openers

- PASS \Rightarrow 0-15 points, 0-2 card support
- 4 level Raise \Rightarrow 0-15 points, 3+ card support
"Bid to the level of your fit"
- GAME \Rightarrow 17+ points, any shape



RESPONSES TO 3-level openers

Partner opens 3♥ and you
have this hand

Bid 4♥!

You have a heart fit and 18
points including shortage
Bid to make.

♠ 7

♥ Q 4

♦ A K 7 6 2

♣ A J 4 3



NEW OPENING BIDS ... 4-level

- 4♥ ⇒ 6 – 10 points with a GOOD 8-card heart suit
- 4♠ ⇒ 6 – 10 points with a GOOD 8-card spade suit

A GOOD suit is a suit with 2+ honours in the suit

These bids are DESTRUCTIVE ... we want to make it hard for the opposition



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE OPPOSITION MAKES THESE WEAK BIDS?

- The same rules apply for X's
- The same rules apply for overcalls
- The same rules apply for bidding NT's



JUST be mindful that you might need
slightly better point counts



Vulnerability

If you miss your contract by 2 tricks and are doubled the penalty is:

Not vulnerable: -300

- good if opps can make game - 400-420 not vulnerable; 600-620 vulnerable)

Vulnerable: -500

- good if opps are vulnerable and can make game (600+)
- bad if opps are not vulnerable and can make game (400-420)



Vulnerability

If vulnerable - be cautious - bid to one less than the level of your fit. With 10 combined cards in opener's suit, bid to make 9 tricks.

If not vulnerable and the opponents are vulnerable - be aggressive if you think they are likely to make game.



Position at the table



North

West

East

2♦

7 HCP

♠ 9 7 6 2

♥ 5

♦ K J 9 5 4 2

♣ K 3

South



North

Pass

West

East

2♦

7 HCP

♠ 9 7 6 2

♥ 5

♦ K J 9 5 4 2

♣ K 3

South



North

Pass

West

Pass

East

2♦

7 HCP

♠ 9 7 6 2

♥ 5

♦ K J 9 5 4 2

♣ K 3

South



North

Pass

West

Pass

East

2♦

7 HCP

♠ 9 7 6 2

♥ 5

♦ K J 9 5 4 2

♣ K 3

Pass

South



Try to avoid preempting partner

- When partner has not had a chance to bid and you have a good 4 card major as well as your long suit -your bid may pre-empt partner if he was planning to open in the major.



North

West

♠ A K 10 8

♥ K 7 4 2

♦ 8

♣ A Q 7 4

?

East

♠ Q 7 6 2

♥ 5

♦ K J 9 5 4 2

♣ J 3

2♦

7 HCP

Pass

South



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