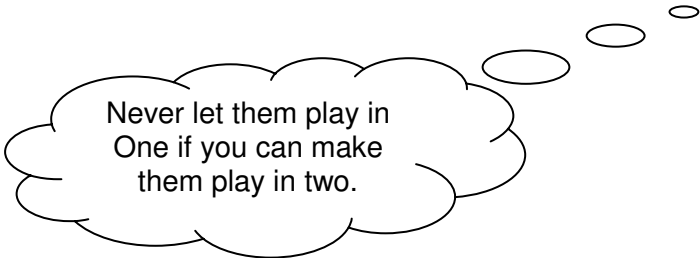


Cardiff Bridge Tutors

How to Bid in the Protective Seat

Overcalls in the fourth seat

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	??



Never let them play in
One if you can make
them play in two.

What is the “Protective Seat”?

It is the fourth seat when a one level opening bid is followed by two passes.

Often their partner, sat in the second seat, has had to pass with a reasonable point holding but the wrong shape to either Double or make a suit overcall.

Equally, they may have a balanced hand but less than 16 points and be unable to bid 1NT.

The person in the fourth seat should try to find a bid that allows their partner to enter the bidding.

Why would you do that?

Let’s look at an example and see what we can deduce.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	??

From the bidding we know:-

West has 12-19 points.

East has less than 6 or they would have bid at least 1NT.

How many points we, as South have.

Let’s say that West has 14 HCP and East 5 then we have 21 and it should be our contract.

<p>♠ A842 ♥ A96 ♦ Q85 ♣ A109</p> <p>♠ K7 ♠ Q10 ♥ Q842 ♥ 73 ♦ AKJ93 ♦ 7642 ♣ J2 ♣ K8543</p> <p>♠ J9653 ♥ KJ105 ♦ 10 ♣ Q76</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable West(14) North(14) East(5) South(7) 1♦ Pass Pass ????</p>
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Poor North has to pass with no five card suit to overcall, the wrong shape to double and with less than 16 points cannot overcall 1NT.

N/S have a ♠ contract but how can they bid it? South has neither the points nor the suit quality to overcall.

South must find a bid that allows the partnership to enter the bidding.

What can the Fourth seat bidder do?

For the moment we'll forget about the example above and consider generally what can be done, we will then look again at examples.

These are options:

- ***One level Overcall***
- ***Two level Overcall***
- ***Bid 1NT***
- ***Double***
- ***Pass***

What does the Fourth seat bidder need?

One level Overcall

7-14 points and a good quality five card suit

Two level Overcall

A good quality six card suit

Bid 1NT

Balanced hand, a stopper in the bid suit and 15+ points

Double

As a normal takeout double but 3 points less.
(We "Borrow a King" from our Partner to allow us to do this and this is explained below).

Pass

Length in the bid suit and a Double might let them find a fit in another suit.

Borrowing a King

In order to try to enter the bidding then the Fourth seat bidder can add 3 points to their hand to see if they can now make a bid.

We call it “**Borrowing a King**” from your Partner but when Partner responds they must remember that you have borrowed a King and reduce their point count by 3!

Summary

- **Borrow a King**
 - Can have 3 points less than normal
- **Overcall**
 - 1 level: 7-14 HCP and good five card suit
 - 2 level: Good six card suit
- **1NT**
 - Balanced with stopper in the suit bid by opponents
- **Double**
 - As a normal Double (shortage in Opponents' suit, tolerate any bid by Partner)
- **Pass**
 - Length in Opponents' suit but a Double may let them find a better suit

Let's complete the example we saw on page 2 and then look at some more examples.

Examples

Example 1 – Overcall or Double?

This is how we left the example on page 2 -

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	??

From the bidding we know:-

West has 12-19 points.

East has less than 6 or they would have bid at least 1NT.

How many points we, as South have.

Let's say that West has 14 HCP and East 5 then we have 21 and it should be our contract.

♠ A842 ♥ A96 ♦ Q85 ♣ A109 ♠ K7 ♠ Q10 ♥ Q842 ♥ 73 ♦ AKJ93 ♦ 7642 ♣ J2 ♣ K8543 ♠ J9653 ♥ KJ105 ♦ 10 ♣ Q76	Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable West(14) North(14) East(5) South(7) 1♦ Pass Pass ???
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Poor North has to pass with no five card suit to overcall, the wrong shape to double and with less than 16 points cannot overcall 1NT.

N/S have a ♠ contract but how can they bid it? South has neither the points nor the suit quality to overcall.

South must find a bid that allows the partnership to enter the bidding.

The choices are to overcall but the ♠ suit is very weak. The alternative would be to Double but if Partner bids ♣s you would need to bid ♠s.

A difficult choice as the overcall overstates the suit quality and the Double overstates the points but some bid is better than no bid!

Perhaps the ♠ overcall is the better choice as it prevents E/W communicating at the one level.

It should be enough to encourage North to support your ♠s even if West bids 2♦.

Example 2- Bidding NT.

<p>♠ 109743 ♥ A64 ♦ AQ42 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ AK ♠ 652 ♥ K82 ♥ QJ53 ♦ K1095 ♦ J8 ♣ 9832 ♣ AK75</p> <p>♠ QJ8 ♥ 1097 ♦ 763 ♣ J1064</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>West(13) North(12) East(11) South(4)</p> <p>1♠ Pass Pass</p> <p>1NT All Pass</p> <p>West borrows a King and up rates their hand to 16 points. With a balanced hand they bid 1NT.</p>
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Example 3 – An overcall.

<p>♠ A10974 ♥ A64 ♦ AQ42 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ K ♠ 6532 ♥ KQJ852 ♥ 973 ♦ K1095 ♦ J8 ♣ Q9 ♣ AK87</p> <p>♠ QJ8 ♥ 10 ♦ 763 ♣ J106532</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>West(14) North(14) East(8) South(4)</p> <p>1♠ Pass Pass</p> <p>2♥ All Pass</p> <p>West has good points and a good six card suit and an overcall of 2♥ is made.</p>
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Example 4 – Pass.

<p>♠ A10974 ♥ A64 ♦ AQ84 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ K86532 ♠ - ♥ KQJ2 ♥ 98753 ♦ 5 ♦ KJ10 ♣ Q9 ♣ AK872</p> <p>♠ QJ ♥ 10 ♦ 97632 ♣ J10653</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>West(11) North(14) East(11) South(4)</p> <p>1♠ All Pass</p> <p>Here West passes as a double would enable N/S to find a better contract as North would show their four card ♦ suit.</p>
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