

Simple Overcalls: 2-Level (11 to 16 HCP)

The opponents will open the bidding ahead of you about half the time, so it is important to have an effective bidding structure when this happens.

2-Level Suit Overcalls -An overcall at the one level serves a variety of purposes:

- Finding our contract – Even when opponents open, sometimes we own the hand.
- Create a better defense – Partner’s overcalled suit if often the best opening lead.
- Interrupt Opponents Auction – Take away some of their bidding tools.

2-Level Overcall Requirements - 11-16 HCP points and a quality 5+ card suit:


- **5 card suits:** At the two level, any 5 card suit should be solid. Honor holdings like AK, AQ, AJ10, KQJ, KQ10, QJ10 or better are good.
- **6 card suits:** Suit quality still needs to be good, but can be a little less than the 5 card suit requirement. KQ, AJ, even QJ honor sequences can work.

Example Hand #1:

<p>♠A 4 2 ♥J 8 3 ♦Q 8 7 ♣J 6 4 3</p>		<p>♠7 6 ♥A 4 2 ♦A K 10 4 3 ♣Q 9 8</p>	
<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦

East with a solid diamond suit can overcall 2♦. West raises with three trumps and 8 HCP similar to if East opened.

Example Hand #2

<p>♠J 5 3 ♥6 2 ♦10 9 7 3 ♣A J 10 2</p>		<p>♠Q 8 2 ♥K J 8 7 3 ♦K J 2 ♣Q 3</p>	
<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
1 ♠ 2 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass

Here East has 11 HCP but their heart suit is not strong enough for a 2-level overcall. Particularly on this deal it is very likely a heart contract is doomed with your third spades getting ruffed and likely South with A or AQ of trump behind your KJ.

Simple Overcalls – 2-Level Worksheet

For the bidding shown, evaluate your hand and decide if you should overcall.

Hand #1

	♠6 2
	♥A 2
	♦A Q J 10 6
	♣9 8 7 3

North's Opening Bid: 1♠ East's HCP _____, East's Bid _____

Hand #2

	♠J 8 2
	♥K Q J 5 3
	♦10 7 5
	♣Q J

North's Opening Bid: 1♣ East's HCP _____, East's Bid _____

Hand #3

	♠K Q J 9 4
	♥A K 9 6 4
	♦10 2
	♣9

North/South Bidding: 1♣ by South raised to 2♣ by North (6-9 HCP)
East's HCP _____, East's Bid _____

Hand #4

	♠A 2
	♥K J 8 6 5 2
	♦A 7
	♣A 10

North's Opening Bid: 1♠ East's HCP _____, East's Bid _____

Answers

Hand #1: 11 HCP, 2♦

Hand #2: 10 HCP, Pass, good suit but short on HCP and way too many losers in the side suits.

Hand #3: 13 HCP, 2♠, even at the two level, this hand should be overcalled spades first and rebid hearts at the three level if necessary.

Hand #4: 16 HCP, 2♥, Your suit is not as solid as you would need for a 5 card suit, but with 6 hearts and 16 great HCP, this is a good overcall.