

1NT Overcall I

Opening notrump bids put the partnership in familiar territory. Responder has an immediate picture of opener's strength and distribution, making it easier to decide both **HOW HIGH** and **WHERE** the partnership belongs. Responder also has tools such as Stayman, Jacoby Transfer and Texas Transfer bids. When the opponents open the bidding, we want to keep our notrump structure intact whenever possible. We can do that with few adjustments.¹

Requirements for a direct 1NT Overcall

- ❖ 15-18 HCP
- ❖ 1+ stoppers in opponent's suit
- ❖ Balanced hand

The differences from an opening 1NT and a 1NT overcall are that Overcaller: (1) may have up to 18 HCP; (2) must have at least one stopper in Opener's suit; and, (3) Partner of Overcaller is not required to announce the point range for the 1NT overcall. Here's some examples:

♠ K 10 3 2	
♥ A Q	
♦ J 10 4	
♣ A K 10 3	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
1 ♠	1 NT

♠ A 10 3	
♥ K 2	
♦ Q J 10 4	
♣ K Q J 10	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
1 ♦	1 NT

♠ 10 3	
♥ A Q 10	
♦ A K Q 8 7	
♣ K 6 5	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
1 ♥	1 NT

Systems On

After Partner makes a 1NT overcall and the next hand passes, the requirements for using Stayman or transfers are the same as if Partner opened.

2NT invitational and 3NT bids, without using Stayman or transfers, in advancing a 1NT overcall, may be made with 1 point less. E.g., Partner overcalled 1NT after a 1♦ opening bid; you hold:

♠ Q 9 6
♥ 10 5 3
♦ K 10 4 3
♣ Q J 3

You would invite game using 2NT with 8 HE; had Partner opened 1NT you would pass.

¹ Taken from the *Bridge Bulletin*, Vol. 11, No. 5 May/June, Better Bridge Column by David Lindop

Quiz 5: 1NT Overcall I

Your Left Hand Opponent (LHO) opens with the bid shown in (...). Write your call in the Bid column.

	(Opponent Opens)	Bid	Your Hand		(Opponent Opens)	Bid	Your Hand
1.	(1♣) –	—	♠ AKQT ♥ J532 ♦ K7 ♣ K85	2.	(1♦) – P	—	♠ KJ32 ♥ KT96 ♦ A65 ♣ KQ3
3.	(1♥) –	—	♠ AQ3 ♥ QT3 ♦ T2 ♣ AKJT4	4.	(1♠) –	—	♠ QT ♥ KQJ9 ♦ AK2 ♣ KJT6
5.	(1♣) –	—	♠ QJ7 ♥ 43 ♦ AK76 ♣ AQJ5	6.	(1♦) – P	—	♠ AT54 ♥ A8 ♦ AJT ♣ A432

Your Partner has overcalled an (opening bid) with 1NT. In the Advance column, write in your call. If your bid is Stayman, in the 2nd Bid column, enter your bids if Partner responds with 2♦ or your lowest 4-card major. If your bid is a transfer, in the 2nd Bid column enter your next bid.

	Advance	2 nd Bid	Your Hand		Advance	2 nd Bid	Your Hand
1.	(1♣) – 1NT – P – ____	—	♠ AQT ♥ J532 ♦ 74 ♣ K854	2.	(1♦) – 1NT – P – ____	—	♠ 97543 ♥ 965 ♦ KJT4 ♣ T
3.	(1♥) – 1NT – P – ____	—	♠ AK32 ♥ 73 ♦ Q97432 ♣ T	4.	(1♠) – 1NT – P – ____	—	♠ QT63 ♥ KQT ♦ 82 ♣ JT98
5.	(1♥) – 1NT – P – ____	—	♠ J754 ♥ J43 ♦ AJ7 ♣ Q83	6.	(1♣) – 1NT – P – ____	—	♠ JT53 ♥ K843 ♦ JT876 ♣ -