

Maximal Overcall Doubles

When do they occur, and why are they needed?

When partner raises your major to two and your RHO bids the suit directly under yours. You no longer have the room to bid a new suit as a game try, and bidding of three of your major is competitive rather than invitational.

What's the solution?

If your hand is worth inviting game, you double. Partner will usually jump to game with a maximum, or sign off in three of your major with a minimum.

However, he will occasionally choose to: pass with length and strength in the enemy suit, or bid 3NT to suggest playing game there.

Here are two examples of auctions featuring Maximal Overcall Doubles.

1. West	West	East	East
♠ A Q 10	1♥ P	2♥ 3♦	♠ J 6 5 3
♥ K J 9 8 6 3	Dbl P	3NT P	♥ 10 5 2
♦ 2	4♥ All Pass		♦ A Q 3
♣ K 4 3			♣ Q J 2

After East raised, West re-evaluated his hand as invitational to game. East had a maximum, and suggested playing 3NT. West corrected to 4♥.

2. West	West	East	East
♠ 10 9 8	P 1♦ 1♠	Dbl	♠ A K Q J 4
♥ A J	2♦ 3♥	Dbl P	♥ 7 2
♦ A 10 4 2	3♠ All Pass		♦ K 3
♣ 9 7 4 3			♣ Q 7 5 2

Note that Maximal Overcall Doubles also apply:

- by the overcalling side;
- when partner uses a cue-bid to raise;
- when both opponents are in the auction.