Suit overcalls and responses

Board 1
North Deals
No-one Vul

	♠ 8 6 4 3 ♥ 10 6 3 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ A 9	
♠ A 10 9 ♥ 8 2 ♦ K 9 8 5 4 ♣ K 6 5	N W E S	♠ K Q 2 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ A 2 ♣ Q J 7 4 3
6 **10 16** **8**	♠ J 7 5 ♥ K Q J 9 5 ♦ J 10 ♣ 10 8 2	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♥	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

3 NT by East
Lead: ♥ K

Holding a good five-card suit, South may overcall with as few as eight points (the minimum). With three card support, North can raise to 2 ♥ over the 2 ♦ response. East's 2 NT show 15-16 points and West can bid game.

East must hold up the A♥ twice, to disrupt the defenders' communication and hope that North has the ♣ A.

Play theme: Holding up in No Trumps

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Suit overcalls and responses

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ Q 10 ♥ A 9 5 3 2 ♦ A 9 7 2 ♣ A 8	
♠ 4 3 2 ♥ K Q ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ K Q J 10 4	N W E S	♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 10 8 7 6 4 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ 9 7
14 **11 3** **12**	♠ A K J 9 8 ♥ J ♦ Q J 10 ♣ 6 5 3 2	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

3 NT by North
Lead: ♣ 9

West's overcall of 2 ♣s shows at least 10 points and a very good suit, with at least five cards and often six.

East leads the ♣ 9, and declarer must hold up the ace for one round. If the opponent's overcall was made on a six-card suit, it is safe for declarer to finesse in diamonds. The finesse fails, but with East out of clubs, the contract is unbeatable.

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Suit overcalls and responses

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ 10 9 ♥ K Q J 10 4 ♦ Q 4 3 2 ♣ A 9	
♠ K 6 ♥ A 6 3 2 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ K 10 8 5	N W E S	♠ A Q J 4 3 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A K 8 6 ♣ Q 7
12 11 16 1	♠ 8 7 5 2 ♥ 9 7 ♦ 7 5 ♣ J 6 4 3 2	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
			Pass
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

3 NT by West
Lead: ♥ K

West's 1 NT response to an overcall shows about 9-11 points. East has enough to bid game 3 NT.

Declarer should hold up the ace on the opening lead. Declarer can count eight top tricks. Based on the bidding, a club lead might look like a good way to secure the ninth trick, but North is nearly certain to hold the Ace. Declarer should look for the diamond finesse for the ninth and tenth tricks.

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Suit Overcalls and Responses

Board 4
North Deals
Both Vul

	♠ 10 3 2 ♥ K Q J 6 ♦ A K 4 ♣ K Q J	
♠ 5 4 ♥ 9 8 7 5 ♦ 10 9 5 3 ♣ A 7 3	N W E S	♠ K Q J 9 8 ♥ 10 4 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ 10 9 5
19 4 9 8	♠ A 7 6 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ 8 6 4 2	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	1 ♥	1 ♠	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

3 NT by South
Lead: ♠ 5

South's 1 NT response shows a spade stop and 6-9 points. North has enough points to bid game.

West leads 5 ♠ and declarer should hold up playing the ace for one round. They should then switch to a clubs, hoping that West will have the ♣ A. By holding up, West will not have a spade to play back to East and the contract should make.

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Suit overcalls and responses

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ 8 2 ♥ A 9 6 3 2 ♦ 10 8 ♣ J 7 6 2	
♠ A 5 4 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ A 10 4 3	N W E S	♠ J 7 6 ♥ K 8 ♦ A Q J 9 6 4 ♣ Q 9
5 14 13 8	♠ K Q 10 9 3 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ K 8 5	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

3 NT by West
Lead: ♠ 8

South's overcall shows 8+points, a good suit with at least five cards.

North lead the ♠ 8, without the overcall, North wouldn't know to lead a spade. Declarer can make the contract by holding-up ace on first round and hoping that North has the ♥ A.

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Suit overcalls and responses

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ A Q J 5 4 3 ♥ 9 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ A 8 4	
♠ 8 2 ♥ J 8 6 5 2 ♦ Q 8 7 6 5 ♣ 10	N W E S	♠ K 9 ♥ 10 4 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ K Q J 9 7 2
12 3 13 12	♠ 10 7 6 ♥ A K Q 7 3 ♦ K 9 ♣ 6 5 3	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		1 ♣	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

4 ♠ by North
Lead: ♣ K

North's 1 ♠ is a non-forcing change of suit overcall. South should raise to two, leaving North to bid the game based on the strength of their suit.

East lead K♣(top of a sequence) and declarer should win the trick and play hearts to throwing away club losers. The ♠ K is likely to be with East based upon the bidding, so do not taking the trump finesse. If East ruff the third round of hearts, the ♠ K will fall under the ace.

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