Overcalls with Long Suits

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

	♠ A K ♥ A Q J 7 6 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ Q 9 6	
♠ 5 4 3 2 ♥ K 8 ♦ A J 10 2 ♣ A K 4	N W E S	♠ Q J 10 9 8 6 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ J 7 5
16 15 6 3	♠ 7 ♥ 10 9 5 4 ♦ K 9 8 7 ♣ 10 8 3 2	

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

4 ♠ by East
Lead: ♥ 10

South makes a jump overcall at the two-level showing 5-9 points and at least two honours in the suit. With four-card support, North should bid 4 ♠.

On the lead of the ♥ 10, declarer will ruff the second round for the suit and draw trumps. The only way to attempt make the contract is for declarer to discard a club on the diamonds. So long as South covers the ♦ Q with the ♦ K, cover an honour with an honour, the contact cannot be made.

The play theme for these hands: covering an honour with an honour.

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Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ A K 7 4 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ A 9 3 2 ♣ K J	
♠ Q 9 8 6 ♥ 5 3 ♦ 10 8 7 5 ♣ 10 9 5	N W E S	♠ 5 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ K J 4 ♣ A Q 7 6 4 2
16 2 14 8	♠ J 10 2 ♥ K Q 10 9 8 7 ♦ Q 6 ♣ 8 3	

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

4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ 10

South makes a jump overcall in hearts which North raises to game.

West leads the ♣ 10, and the defence take two clubs with the top trump to follow. South's best chance to attempt to make the contract is to draw trumps and take the spade finesse, hoping to discard a diamond on the third. Provided West covers an honour with an honour, declarer will not be able to set up the fourth round of the suit.

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Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ Q 10 9 8 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ K 8 6 5 3 ♣ J	
♠ 4 3 ♥ K Q J 10 9 8 7 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ 9	N W E S	♠ J 7 6 5 2 ♥ — ♦ A 10 ♣ K 10 8 4 3 2
6 9 8 17	♠ A K ♥ A 5 2 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ A Q 7 6 5	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
			1 ♣
3 ♥	All pass		

3 ♥ by West
Lead: ♣ J

West has a good seven-card suit, enough to bid 3 ♥. East has a void in hearts, but it is right to pass.

North leads the ♣ J. The defence take a club, two spades and a trump. It is important the North does not cover the ♦ Q otherwise the whole suit will be given away.

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Overcalls with Long Suits

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

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

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
1 ♦	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

2 ♠ by North
Lead: ♦ 10

West opens 1 ♦. North bids 2 ♠ which ends the auction.

The defence take the first three diamond tricks and have a trump and heart to follow. Provided East covers a club honour with an honour, there will be another trick for the defence to break the contract.

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Overcalls with Long Suits

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

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

3 NT by South
Lead: ♠ 9

Over East's jump overcall, South has enough points for game and a spade stop, and so bids 3 NT.

Declarer should duck the opening lead once, and win the spade continuation. The ♣ Q is now played. East must refuse to cover the honours each time they are played. East has more clubs than dummy, and the king will therefore become a master if declarer persists with the suit. East should only cover an honour with an honour if it possible to promote e.g. ♣ 9 or ♣ 10 in that suit in their hands or partner's hand.

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Overcalls with Long Suits

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ 8 ♥ 9 7 6 4 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ A 10 8 6 2	
♠ 6 4 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ 10 8 7 4 ♣ K Q J 4	N W E S	♠ A K ♥ A K 10 3 2 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ 7 5 3
7 **7 17** **9**	♠ Q J 10 9 7 5 3 2 ♥ Q ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 9	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		1 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by South
Lead: ♣ K

West leads the ♣ K. Declarer should immediately take the diamond finesse.

East must not cover the first honour played, otherwise declarer will be able to finesse for the ♦ 10. However, East must cover the second honour.

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