


Responder Bids After 1 ♥ Overcall

Responder Bids a Negative Double

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ K 9 8 ♥ J 6 ♦ Q 7 5 4 ♣ Q 7 6 2		♠ 4 2 ♥ K Q 9 5 2 ♦ J 9 ♣ A J 9 5	
--	---	--	--

♠ Q J 6 5
 ♥ 8 7 4
 ♦ K 8 6
 ♣ K 8 4

	12		
	8	11	
	9		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	1 ♥	Dbl ¹
Pass	1 ♠	All pass	

1. Negative Double (4-♠s), 6+ Points

Contract: 1 ♠ North, 7 Tricks


Lead: ♥ J, Partner's suit

Losers: 1-♠, 2-♥, 2-♦, 2-♣ = 7.

Play: North wins the ♥ A, enters Dummy with ♦ K, finesses ♠s, and eventually plays a little ♣ toward the ♣ K.

Responder Bids a Major, 1st Priority

Board 2
 North Deals

♠ 9 8 4 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ K J 10 2 ♣ 6 5 3		♠ J 3 ♥ K Q J 5 4 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ A J 4	
--	---	--	--

♠ K Q 10 7 5
 ♥ A 8 7 6
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ 10 9

	11		
	4	12	
	13		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠ ¹
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠

1. 5+♠s, 6+ Points

Contract: 4 ♠ South, 10 Tricks


Lead: ♥ 10, Top of sequence - partner's suit

Losers: 1-♠, 3-♥, 1-♦, 1-♣ = 6.

Play: South wins the ♥ A, ruffs a ♥, wins the ♦ A, and ruffs another ♥. South then draws trump.

No ♥ Stopper, No NT bid

Board 3
 North Deals

♠ J 9 8 2 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ 10 9 ♣ 10 9 5 2		♠ K 4 3 ♥ A J 10 7 3 ♦ 7 3 2 ♣ A 8	
--	---	---	--

♠ Q 10 6
 ♥ 8 6 4 2
 ♦ K 8 6
 ♣ K 6 4

	14		
	6	12	
	8		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	All pass		

Contract: 2 ♥ East, 8 Tricks


Lead: 6 ♦, Partner's suit, low from three

Losers: 3-♠, 3-♦, 1-♣ = 7.

Play: East ruffs a ♦ before drawing trump. East leads up to ♠ K (indirect finesse).

Responder Bids 1 NT

Board 4
 North Deals

♠ J 9 8 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ 10 9 5 2		♠ K 4 3 ♥ A J 10 7 3 ♦ 7 3 2 ♣ A 8	
--	---	---	--

♠ Q 10 6
 ♥ K 8 6 4 2
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ K 6 4

	14		
	6	12	
	8		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 N
All pass			

Contract: 1 NT South, 7 Tricks

Lead: ♥ Q, Top of doubleton, partner's suit

Sure Tricks: 1-♠, 1-♦ = 2.

Play: South finesses ♦s twice. The entries are the ♥ K and ♣ K.

Responder Bids After 1♥ Overcall

Responder Invites With 2 NT Bid

Board 5

South Deals

♠ Q 10 6
♥ K 8 6 4
♦ K 8 6
♣ K 6 4

♠ K 4 3
♥ A J 10 7 3
♦ 7 3 2
♣ A 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 8 2
♥ Q 5 2
♦ 10 9
♣ 10 9 5 2

♠ A 7 5
♥ 9
♦ A Q J 5 4
♣ Q J 7 3

	11		
	12 3		
	14		

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

1. 11-12 Points, ♥ Stopper(s)

Contract: 3♦ South, 9 Tricks
Lead: ♦ 2, Passive
Losers: 2-♠, 1-♥, 1-♣ = 4.

Play: South draws trump, leads up to ♥ K, leads up to ♠ Q, and promotes ♣ s.

Stopper(s), Balanced, 13-15 Points

Board 6

North Deals

♠ A 7 5
♥ 9
♦ A Q J 5 4
♣ Q J 7 3

♠ J 9 8 2
♥ 7 5 2
♦ 10 9
♣ 10 9 5 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 4 3
♥ A Q J 4 3
♦ 7 3 2
♣ 8 6

♠ Q 10 6
♥ K 10 8 6
♦ K 8 6
♣ A K 4

	14		
	1 10		
	15		

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	3N ¹
All pass			

1. 13-15 Points, ♥ Stopper(s)

Contract: 3NT South, 9 Tricks
Lead: ♥ 2, Low from three ♥ s
Sure Tricks: 1-♠, 4-♦, 4-♣ = 9.

Play: South wins the 2nd ♥ and wins (♣ s & ♦ s) 11 tricks. No need to lead up to ♠ Q.

Cue Bid, Big Hand

Board 7

North Deals

♠ K 6 5
♥ 6 5
♦ A K 6
♣ K J 8 6 4

♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 10 7 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 4 2
♥ A K Q J 10 7
♦ J 10 8
♣ 2

♠ A Q 3
♥ 9 8
♦ Q 7 4 3
♣ A Q 9 5

	14		
	0 12		
	14		

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	2♥ ¹
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	5♣

All pass
 1. Cue bid, Invitational+
 2. No ♥ Stopper

Contract: 5♣ North, 11 Tricks
Lead: ♥ A, Top of sequence
Losers: 2-♥ = 2.

Play: North draws trump and takes winners.

5+card Club Support

Board 8

South Deals

♠ Q 10 9
♥ 9 3
♦ Q 4 2
♣ A 8 6 4 3

♠ A 6
♥ K Q 10 8 6
♦ A 9 7 5
♣ 10 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 7 4 3
♥ J 4 2
♦ J 10 3
♣ Q 9 7

♠ K 8 5 2
♥ A 7 5
♦ K 8 6
♣ K J 5

	8		
	13 5		
	14		

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♣ ¹	All pass	1♣

1. 6-10 Points, 5+♣ s

Contract: 2♣ South, 8 Tricks
Lead: ♥ 2, Partner's suit
Losers: 2-♠, 1-♥, 2-♦, 2-♣ = 7.

Play: South wins the ♥ A, draws trump finessing the ♣ Q, and finesses East for the ♠ J.

Responder Bids After 1♥ Overcall

Last Option, Bid the Other Minor

Board 9

North Deals

♠ 7 6 5		♠ Q 3 2												
♥ A 5		♥ K Q J 9 6												
♦ A Q 10 4		♦ K 3 2												
♣ K J 6 5		♣ 9 2												
♠ J 10 9 8	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 3 2			
	N													
W		E												
	S													
♥ 10 4 3 2		♥ K Q J 9 6												
♦ 9 7 5		♦ K 3 2												
♣ Q 3		♣ 9 2												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;">♠ A K 4</td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♥ 8 7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♦ J 8 6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣ A 10 8 7 4</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				♠ A K 4			♥ 8 7			♦ J 8 6			♣ A 10 8 7 4	
	♠ A K 4													
	♥ 8 7													
	♦ J 8 6													
	♣ A 10 8 7 4													

14
3 11
12

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣ ¹
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3N ³	All pass	

1. 5+♣s, 10+ Points
2. Cuebid asking for ♥ stopper. 2 opening hands belong in game.
3. Mild ♥ stopper.

Contract: 3♣ South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♠ J, Top of sequence

Losers: 1-♠, 1-♥, 1-♦, 1-♣ = 4.

Play: South wins the ♠ A. draws trum (nine

Bidding Basics

Responding after an opposing 1♥ overcall



BY LARRY COHEN
larryco.com

Like last month, let's start by making sure you are on the ball.

If the opponents overcalled with 1♥, what was your partner's opening bid?

Right, partner has opened a minor and RHO has overcalled 1♥. What are your options as responder?

Pass = Zero to about 7 or 8, or possibly a hand that wants to penalize 1♥. More on that at the end.

Double = Negative. This particular negative double guarantees exactly four spades. Not three, not five. Not two, not six. Exactly four! This is etched in stone. The strength is approximately 6-plus HCP. You can make a negative double with as little as:

♠QJ92 ♥65 ♦8752 ♣K65.

Is there an upper limit? No. You should make a negative double with:

♠AQ98 ♥AJ2 ♦A765 ♣A2.

So, the word "negative" can be a bit confusing. Of course, after doubling with such a hand, you will bid more later on.

1♠ = 6-plus HCP and five-plus spades. To help you remember, be happy when the opponents overcall 1♥. It allows responder to convey right away if he has only four spades with a negative double, or five or more. Bid 1♠ (forcing, of course) with these hands:

♠J8765 ♥AK2 ♦875 ♣54,

♠AQJ1065 ♥AK2 ♦A2 ♣76.

1NT = 6–10 balanced with hearts stopped, fewer than four spades. With either of these, respond 1NT:

♠Q87 ♥Q102 ♦KQ65 ♣1092

♠K2 ♥K1065 ♦Q1054 ♣J65.

2♣ = If the opening bid was 1♣, then this raise shows 6–10, usually with five-plus clubs, and denies four spades. If the opening was 1♦, then this shows five-

plus clubs and 10-plus points (one-round force). Respond 2♣ after 1♣–(1♥) with:

♠A2 ♥J52 ♦Q76 ♣J10876.

Respond 2♣ after 1♦–(1♥) with:

♠54 ♥53 ♦A63 ♣AK9762.

2♦ = If the opening bid was 1♦, then this shows 6–10, usually with four-plus diamonds, and denies four spades. If the opening bid was 1♣, then this shows five-plus diamonds and 10-plus points (one-round force). Respond 2♦ after 1♦–(1♥) with:

♠K65 ♥986 ♦KJ976 ♣64.

Respond 2♦ after 1♣–(1♥) with:

♠Q2 ♥J65 ♦AQ10854 ♣K2.

2♥ = Limit raise or better in the minor opened. Respond 2♥ after 1♣–(1♥) with:

♠A6 ♥A83 ♦A52 ♣A9865.

Respond 2♥ after 1♦–(1♥) with:

♠54 ♥742 ♦AQ102 ♣AJ76.

2♠ = Weak, six spades. Don't make this bid without partnership agreement/discussion.

2NT = 11–12 HCP, invitational, hearts stopped, denies four spades. With either of these, respond 2NT:

♠K65 ♥K32 ♦KJ2 ♣J1054

♠AQ2 ♥Q54 ♦QJ65 ♣J32.

3 level raise = Requires partnership agreement. In modern bridge, this would be preemptive because the cuebid is available to show a limit raise or better.

3 of a new suit = Weak, but don't make such a bid without partnership agreement.

3NT = 13–15 HCP, hearts stopped, denies four spades. With either of these, respond 3NT:

♠K102 ♥QJ84 ♦AQ2 ♣Q105

♠KJ6 ♥KQ2 ♦KQ2 ♣10965.

Trap Pass = With a desire to penalize 1♥, you can pass, hoping that partner reopens with a double for takeout. You can then leave in the double, converting it for penalty. This is most likely to happen if the 1♥ overcaller was vulnerable. You could pass and hope for partner's reopening double with, say,

♠K54 ♥KQ982 ♦A2 ♣984.

Bidding Basics Quiz

What is your response after 1♣–(1♥) with:

1. ♠10876 ♥A2 ♦AQ2 ♣AQJ2

2. ♠AK765 ♥A8654 ♦32 ♣2

3. ♠K2 ♥KQ10 ♦AQ32 ♣J543

4. ♠ – ♥A32 ♦Q654 ♣KQ8754

What is your response after 1♦–(1♥) with:

5. ♠A9876 ♥ – ♦AQ872 ♣A74

6. ♠J65 ♥KJ9 ♦Q32 ♣Q1076

7. ♠K32 ♥A ♦Q542 ♣K10765

8. ♠54 ♥54 ♦AJ765 ♣10765

Solutions on page 50.

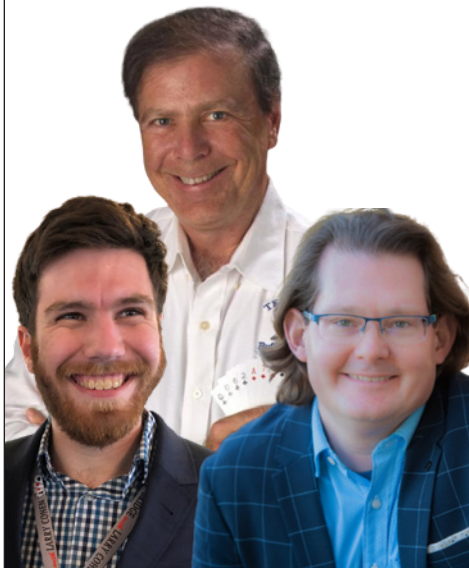


BRIDGE *with*
LARRY COHEN

Bridge Made Simple

Webinars!

- Learn from the BEST!
- Interact LIVE or watch recording later.
- Fun Q&A and Chat!
- Guaranteed to improve your bridge game!
- Includes lesson notes and practice deals or quiz.
- Duplicate Game after some webinars!
- **LEARN and HAVE FUN!**
- Lots of topics.
- Only \$10/\$15!



Larry Cohen, Michael Berkowitz, and Robert Todd

Every Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday
2:00-3:30PM Eastern

Register NOW!

www.Larryco.com

Bidding Basics Quiz Answers

From quiz on page 49.

1. Double. Exactly four spades. You will spring to life later; for now, look for the 4-4 spade fit.
2. 1♠. Five-plus spades. Don't play for penalties (even if they are vulnerable); this hand has too much offensive potential.
3. 3NT. Make sure to reach game.
4. 2♥. Limit raise or better in clubs.
5. 1♠. To start (nice that partner will know you have at least five spades).
6. 1NT. 6-10, hearts stopped, denies four spades.
7. 2♣. Natural, five-plus clubs, 10-plus HCP, one-round force.
8. 3♦. Hopefully, partner knows this is weak in modern bridge.



**ACBL Educational Foundation Seeks
Website Editor for Social Bridge Online.org**

In 2020, ACBLEF launched **www.socialbridgeonline.org** to become a hub for casual bridge players. It currently offers the ability to play social bridge in a less competitive, more user-friendly manner than other online sites.



Social Bridge Online

Bridge with Friends

The editor of the website will carry out our vision to build a community of social bridge players with creative content and services tailored to their interests. The key measures of success will be increased traffic to the site and expansion of the list of followers who share their email address with us. It currently has more than 2000 followers.

Please visit the Educational Foundation website for the full posting details at: **www.ACBLEF.org**. Interested bridge players with website editing experience should send their resumes to **Kristen@ACBLEducationalfoundation.org** by February 28, 2021.

Please share this information with your friends who play social bridge.