

Book Two

WHAT DOES PARTNER HAVE?

VISUALIZING THE WHOLE DEAL

Timothy LeVan

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Introduction

This is a book for experienced Novices and Early Intermediate players. It's a Standard American (not 2/1) bidding review with a unique twist. Like bidding an actual bridge hand, you see only your own hand and everyone else's bids. You practice visualizing what your partner and the opponents hold – from their bids only.

You (always South) open 1♥, LHO doubles, partner redoubles. What does **West** have? **What Does Partner Have?** Are their bids forcing?

Each chapter presents deals arranged progressively from simple to complex.

Here in Book Two, all four players get involved in the bidding, and things get more complex. (In Book One, the opponents always passed). You must now visualize *three* other hands! Stayman and Jacoby transfers are the only conventions used.

Individuals or partnerships seeking to clarify their bidding messages will find this book helpful.

How it Works

Each chapter begins with a **Summary**.

Then **Example Hands** show your South hand, along with the full bidding.

Look at your hand and the full bidding, and visualize the other three hands. Then consult:

What Does Partner Have? West? East? Did you visualize their hands correctly? What did their bids mean? Were they forcing?

Thoughts give additional ideas on the bidding sequence. Progressively, *negative* inferences are noted, based on what everyone *might have* but *did not* bid.

Quiz Questions and Answers are presented at the end of each chapter. **Not Sure?** Consult the suggested deals to review the concept – maybe with your partner!

Chapter One

Summary

THE OVERCALL – not forcing

Good* 5-card Suit, or a 6+ card Suit Overcall, and

7-16 points for 1-level

13-16 points for 2-level

Example Deals #1-4

1NT Overcall

15-18 points balanced hand and

Stopper(s) in Opponents' suit(s)

Example Deals #5-8

Preemptive Jump Overcalls

Good* 6-card suit at 2-level

Good* 7-card suit at 3-level

Good* 8-card suit at 4-level

(*2 of top 3; 3 of top 5 honors)

Example Deals #9-12

Quiz Questions and Answers

Note: the player in Overcall or Double seat (see Chapter 2) may not have a hand suitable to make an Overcall or Double, so must initially Pass. If he passes, however, he may still have 6-16 points, but no initial bid.

Deal #1

Dealer East

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ KQJ75	
	♥ 72	
	♦ A52	
	♣ 1095	

West	North	East	South
		1♥	1♠

East? 5+ hearts (perhaps of bad quality), and 13-21 points.

South? Overcall shows five good* (or 6+ perhaps less stellar) spades and 7-16 points for an overcall on the 1-level. (*2 of top 3; 3 of top 5 honors)

Thoughts

Off and running! We don't know how the full bidding will progress, but South has made a fine and solid overcall.

Deal #2

Dealer East

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ KQ	
	♥ 42	
	♦ KQJ87	
	♣ Q875	

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♦

East? 5+ spades (perhaps of bad quality) and 13-21 points.

South? 2♦ shows 5+ good* (or 6+) diamonds, and 13-16 points – higher points because it's a 2-level overcall. (*2 of top 3; 3 of top 5 honors)

Thoughts

This does not promise six diamonds – it's not *preemptive* because South didn't jump.

Deal #3

Dealer West

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ 72	
	♥ QJ5	
	♦ A752	
	♣ 10954	

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠		

West? 5+ hearts, 13-21 points.

What Does Partner Have? Partner's overcall promises five good* (or 6+) spades and 7-16 points for an overcall on the 1-level. (*2 of top 3; 3 of top 5 honors)

Thoughts

Even though West may open a ratty 5+ card heart suit (as bad as ♥ 65432), South fully trusts partner to hold five *good* spades. We don't overcall ratty suits!

Deal #4

Dealer East

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ 732	
	♥ 4	
	♦ KQJ87	
	♣ Q875	

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
Pass	1♠		

East? 5+ hearts, 13-21 points.

South? Although I have five good diamonds, I don't have 13-16 points to overcall on the 2-level. I pass for now.

West? West does not have 3+ hearts with 6+ points to raise partner's suit, or 4+ spades with 6+ points to respond 1♠, or a balanced 6+ points (without 3 hearts) to respond 1NT.

What Does Partner Have? Partner is now the overcaller, right? Partner promises 5+ *good* (or 6+) spades (although because partner is in the balancing (pass-out) seat, his bid may be lighter than normal).

Thoughts

Now South can get into the bidding (however it unfolds).

Deal #5

Dealer East

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ AQ72	
	♥ KQ75	
	♦ A52	
	♣ 109	

West	North	East	South
		1♥	1NT

East? 5+ (maybe bad) hearts, 13-21 points.

South? An overcall of 1NT shows a balanced 15-18 point hand, and stopper(s) in the opponent's suit.

Thoughts

If West passes, North will respond as though South had opened 1NT (Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, etc.).

Deal #6

Dealer South

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ 9	
	♥ KQ853	
	♦ KQJ	
	♣ Q872	

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1NT			

South? 5+ hearts, 13-21 points.

West? An overcall of 1NT shows a balanced 15-18 point hand, and stopper(s) in the opponent's suit.

Thoughts

Straightforward.

Deal #7

Dealer West

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ AQ2	
	♥ KQ7	
	♦ A52	
	♣ Q1097	

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	1NT

West? 5+ hearts, 13-21 points.

What Does Partner Have? Just because partner passes does not mean she has nothing. She may have 6-16 points but not a suitable hand for an overcall or double.

East? A simple response promises 4+ spades and 6+ points.

South? My 1NT overcall promises 15-18 points, and stopper(s) in *both* opponents' suits.

Thoughts

Now if West passes, Partner will respond as though I had opened 1NT.

Deal #8

Dealer West

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ KQ9	
	♥ KQJ5	
	♦ 73	
	♣ KQ87	

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	1NT

West? 3+ clubs, 13-21 points.

What Does Partner Have? Partner *may* have 6-16 points and no suitable bid.

East? Not 6+ points!

South? Because I'm in the balancing (pass-out) seat, my overcall of 1NT could show a balanced hand of only 11-14 points, and stopper(s) in the opponent's suit.

Thoughts

Because of East's pass, either partner has something, or West has a big (up to 21 points) hand.

Deal #9

Dealer West

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ QJ10987	
	♥ 92	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 9872	

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♦	2♠

West? 3+ clubs, 13-21 points.

What Does Partner Have? No suitable bid.

East? 4+ diamonds, 6+ points.

South? This *preemptive* jump overcall promises six good spades and a maximum of 6 points. Wouldn't I overcall 1♠ with 7+ points?

Thoughts

Strange, but descriptive.

Deal #10

Dealer East

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ 73	
	♥ 85	
	♦ AKQ752	
	♣ 1092	

West	North	East	South
	1♥		3♦

East? 5+ hearts, 13-21 points

South? This *preemptive* jump overcall promises 6+ diamonds and less than an opening hand (not 13 points). With 13+ points, South would have overcalled 2♦.

Thoughts

If East had opened 1♣, South would have simply overcalled 1♦.

Deal #11

Dealer East

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ 9	
	♥ KQJ1098	
	♦ 75	
	♣ Q872	

West	North	East	South
		1♠	3♥

East? 5+ spades, 13-21 points.

South? This *preemptive* jump overcall promises 6+ hearts and fewer than 13 points, because a 2♥ overcall would promise 13+ points. The only way to show this hand is to *preemptively* jump.

Thoughts

If East had opened 1♣ or 1♦, South would have overcalled 1♥.

Deal #12

Dealer West

	North	
West		East
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ AK1097543	
	♦ 109	
	♣ 85	

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	4♥

West? 5+ spades, 13-21 points

What Does Partner Have? No suitable bid.

East? Showing a maximum of two spades and 6-9 points.

South? This *preemptive* jump overcall promises 8+ good hearts, and less than an opening hand (not 13 points).

With 13+ points, South would overcall 2♥.

Thoughts

South would have opened this hand 4♥. This *preemptive* jump overcall describes the same hand.

Chapter One – Quiz Questions The Overall

a. South: ♠ 72 ♥ J9 ♦ Q84 ♣ AKQ1082

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	Pass	???

b. South: ♠ AQJ96 ♥ K63 ♦ 875 ♣ 108

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	???

c. South: ♠ KQ7 ♥ AQJ7 ♦ KQ82 ♣ 92

West	North	East	South
		1♠	???

d. South: ♠ J943 ♥ KQ8 ♦ K73 ♣ AK7

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	???

e. South: ♠ KQ10983 ♥ 107 ♦ 852 ♣ 74

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	???

f. South: ♠ 5 ♥ Q2 ♦ 972 ♣ KQJ10754

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	???

Chapter One – Quiz Answers

The Overcall

- a. **2♣**. Standard 2-level overcall showing 5+ good clubs and 13-16 points (including two length points).
Not Sure? Review Deal #2.
- b. **1♠**. Standard 1-level overcall showing 5+ good spades and 7-16 points.
Not Sure? Review Deals #1, #3 and #4.
- c. **1NT**. Standard 1NT overcall showing 15-18 points and stopper(s) in the opponent's suit.
Not Sure? Review Deals #5, #6 and #8.
- d. **1NT**. Standard 1NT overcall showing 15-18 points and stopper(s) in *both* opponents' suits.
Not Sure? Review Deal #7.
- e. **2♠**. You *could* respond 1♠ with this bare minimum (adding two length points), but 2♠ is more descriptive.
Not Sure? Review Deals #10 and #11.
- f. **3♣**. 2♣ would promise 13-16 points. You have the seventh club (you only promise six), so 3♣ is perfect!
Not Sure? Review Deal #10 and #11.

A BIDDING REVIEW FOR ALL FOUR PLAYERS

A continuation of Book One. You see only your South hand.

Visualize everyone's hands. What do their bids promise? Deny?

Are they forcing? What cards and points are required?

Review a **Bidding Concept**.

Bid **Example Deals**.

Consult **What Does Partner Have?** and **Thoughts**.

Take the **Quizzes** and check your **Answers**.

Were you right? **Not Sure?** Refer to the suggested deals.



Timothy LeVan is owner & founder of the Camp Hill (Pennsylvania) Bridge Club, and an ACBL-accredited club director, teacher, and soon Silver Life Master. He is also accredited by Easybridge!, and Audrey Grant's Better Bridge.

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