

Summary of Suspensor's Opening Bids in 1st and 2nd Seat

Bid Meaning

Pass: all hands of 13+ points. This pass is forcing.

1 ♣: 3 to 5 cards in each major, 8-12 HCP (similar to a weak 1NT)

1 ♦: all hands of 0-7 points

1 ♥: 8-12 points, 0-2 or 6+ Hearts (a suspense bid)

1 ♠: 8-12 points, 0-2 or 6+ Spades (a suspense bid)

Defence

This defence is cobbled together from Peter Gill, Murray Green and Mark Abraham, specialised for TOSR with the overcall structure.

versus Pass: (13+,any)

- *We assume they have opened a natural club. Thus all actions of 1 Diamond or higher are normal overcalls of 1 Club, except that natural notrump bids don't require Club stoppers. A bid of 1 Club is 15+ any and our system is on as normal. Of course this will be a rare sequence. This doesn't matter much, because interference of 1 Club or 1 Diamond has no immediate preemptive value, and like an overcall of 1 Diamond over 1 Club in our system, actually gains them space to show weaker hands.*
- *Their relays are never more than up one step. Their notes say they have exceptions, but I don't see what they are.*

versus Pass - Pass - 1Heart (or higher)

- *Overcall normally - i.e. no Overcall Structure. Responder has shown 7-10, opener has 13+. While it is true partner couldn't make a bid, there may still be a partscore to compete for. Don't bid here on marginal hands or bad suits.*

versus 1Club (8-12, 3 to 5 cards in both Majors)

A scientific defense is to treat 1 Club as a weak NT, which it most commonly is. It can be three-suited or two-suited or one-suited, but these all lose on frequency to the weak notrump shapes.

Bid	Meaning
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Double:	Penalties with 3 plus Clubs, 13 plus points.
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1♦,♥,♠:	Opening bids usually with 5 plus cards.
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1 NT:	One-suiter, < opening strength, correctable responses.
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2♣:	Minor suits
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2♦:	Major suits.
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2♥:	Hearts plus a Minor suit.
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2♠:	Spades plus a Minor suit.
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This defense is based on the Cappelletti defense to a weak 1NT. The vulnerability is crucial -if they're vulnerable and you're not, you tend to double; if you're vulnerable and they're not, you tend to bid your suit. Strong hands tend to start with doubles.

Subsequent doubles are our normal shortage-based doubles.

versus 1C - Pass - 1H/1S

- *Treat these NNF responses as a normal 1 Heart or 1 Spade opening, so the Overcall Structure is on.*

versus 1D (the so-called fertilizer or fert)

Double = 15+ any, others = natural 10-14 (1NT 12-14 with 'system on').

In response to your "overcall" of 1 Heart or 1 Spade, 1NT is forcing for one round, jumps in new suits are forcing, new suits are not forcing. **Alternate:** we open 1 Heart and 1 Spade as our normal canapé openings, but with the suit opened. Step 1 is then relay, but there is no immediate min/max since

we've lost that step. In this alternate we have 2 Clubs as the 10-14 minors option, and no Ekrens.

After the 15+ double, we have our normal transfer continuations. After a double, their system notes indicate that the partner of the fert opener will pass only with 3+Diamonds and will redouble with 0-2 Diamonds and no clear bid (strong hands will probably choose one of these two options). Be prepared to pass the double on occasions :-). **Alternate:** we can play relay responses to the double as if it is a 1 Club.

Against 1D - Pass - Pass

- *Here responder is showing unwillingness to choose another denomination to play in. Fourth hand should act as if the auction has run Pass - Pass - 1Diamond but be aware that neither of the opponents need have any values. The Overcall Structure is available.*

Against 1D - Pass - 1H

- *This is their relay bid showing 18+. Bid only if you would overcall a strong notrump. 2NT is Unusual with 5-5 both minors. Action at the three level is preemptive, as normal. The Overcall Structure is not available.*

Against 1D - Pass - ?? (except Pass or 1H)

- *Their action should be 0-17, natural and non-forcing. Act as if responder has opened the suit he has bid at the one-level. The Overcall Structure is available after a 1S bid, Cappelletti is available after a natural 1NT bid, and normal actions at the two- and three-level. If they make an action that is described similarly to a weak two or a weak anchored two-suiter, then we have X->Rubensohl available. If they make a transfer, cue of the shown suit is takeout, with Rubensohl continuations.*

versus 1H (8-12 0-2 or 6+H)

The Martel defense (invented by one of USA's top experts) is that 2 Hearts by you shows 0-2 or 6+ Hearts and a reasonable or better hand (i.e. a similar meaning to their bid!). They now have to expose their hand-type (i.e. the suspense is over). Responses to 2 Hearts are correctable, i.e. 3 Clubs

says I want to play in 3 Clubs if you don't have Hearts otherwise please correct to 3 Hearts in your 6 card suit partner. Double thus shows 3+ cards in Hearts and opening strength, 1NT is 16-18 with a Heart stopper and an overcall is a normal overcall.

I think this sucks because you'll get 6-2-2-3 hands where opener will pass you in 2 Hearts vulnerable for hurtingness. Alternately treat it as a natural 1 Heart opening and have the normal overcall structure. That could be interesting.

If they raise 1 Heart to 2 Hearts then double should be "penalty or take-out" - i.e. a two-way bid showing either 5+ Hearts or 0-2 Hearts - in the direct seat (1H) pass (2H) x = penalty or takeout. This forces the next hand to declare length or shortage (passing or bidding). This "raise" is short in Hearts, of course.

If they bid a new suit e.g. 1H (pass) 2C then double should be takeout of responder's suit. Opener is heavy odds-on to declare a six card major now if that's what they have.

versus 1S - similar to 1H above.

versus 1NT

- *Overcall normally at the two- or three-level with hands that normally want to.*
- *Double with strength (16+). Future doubles by both hands are normal shortage-oriented.*

versus 2C or 2D

- *These bids show a 4-card major and a 5+card minor. Bid the shown major for takeout of the major (three-card minor suits are OK). Doubles by both hands are normal shortage-oriented*

versus 2H, 2S or 2NT

- *Double with shortage in the suit doubled, overcall normally. Future doubles by both hands are shortage-oriented.*