

Double or Overcall?

Number of High Card Points	18	1NT overall With 16-18 points	Double first then bid your longest suit (No Trumps / jump bids show 19+)			
	17					
	16					
	15	Pass if strength in opponents suit <i>or</i> Double Short in opponents suit (e.g. 4-4-4-1)	Can bid at the 2 level if Suit Quality is SQ8 (from 10 / 11 points)	JUMP OVERCALL with an opening hand with a 6+ card suit (Promises a “good quality suit”)		
	14					
	13					
	12					
	11	PASS when you have no long suit and fewer than 12 points	Bid at the 1 level - shows a good suit SQ7* [Suit quality* test: Number of Honours in suit + length of suit]	PRE-EMPTIVE OVERCALL (weak) 6-9 points and a long suit. 7 cards bid at the 3 level* 8 cards bid at the 4 level * [RULE of 500— Don't risk losing more than 500 points if doubled!]		
	10					
	9					
	8					
	7	PASS when you have fewer than 8 points and no “good” long suit	PASS when you have fewer than 6 points			
	6					
	0-5					
		Up to 4	5	6	7+	

Number of Cards in Suit

Notes about how to use this table.

1. All point ranges and suit lengths are for guidance only.
2. Use the table in conjunction with good Bridge text book
3. 1NT overcall may contain a 5 card suit but use judgement by assessing the distribution of points across all the suits.
4. Use of a Double followed by a jump bid or a No Trump bid is fairly rare. These are for very strong hands.
5. Bidding at the one or two level—the precise dividing line on the table is a matter of judgement.
6. Experienced players may use a different range for the jump overcall. The range of 12-15 is recommended when you start learning Bridge.
7. Enjoy your Bridge!