

31. Failing to incorporate Weak Jump Overcalls

Like a Weak Two opener, a Weak Jump Overcall is a primarily preemptive tool. After the opponents have opened, if you jump overcall at the Two-level, you're showing a weak hand with a decent six-card suit (like a Weak Two opener). If you jump overcall at the Three-level, you're showing a weak hand with a decent seven-card suit (like a Weak Three opener).

Right-hand opponent has opened 1♥. What do you bid with these?

♠ KQ10932	♠ J4	♠ -
♥ 52	♥ J32	♥ 953
♦ 72	♦ AJ9832	♦ 532
♣ Q53	♣ 73	♣ KJ108432

With the first, jump to 2♠, like a Weak 2♠ opener.

With the second, however, you have to pass. To jump to 3♦ would be too much (a Three-level jump would normally show seven cards — or perhaps, if non-vulnerable, ♦KQJ1098). Note, you lack the overall strength of hand for a simple overcall of 2♦.

With the third, jump to 3♣, like a 3♣ opener.

Weak Jump Overcalls happen a lot, way more than the stronger version. They're a very potent weapon in mucking up the opponents ...

What Happened

West led his singleton ♦10. East won ♦Q, cashed ♦A (West discarding) and led ♦2 (a suit-preference signal for the lower-ranking clubs over spades). West ruffed, duly returned ♣8, and East won ♣A and led ♦9. West ruffed again and, with East's ♥A still to score,

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: North-South

♠ 42	♠ 75
♥ Q762	♥ A10
♦ K875	♦ AQ92
♣ QJ5	♣ A9632
♠ QJ10983	
♥ 98	
♦ 10	
♣ 10874	
♠ AK6	
♥ KJ543	
♦ J643	
♣ K	

What Happened

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass(1)	2♥	Pass
Pass(2)	Pass(3)		

(1) "Only three points, partner."

(2) "One, Two, that'll do."

(3) Passing over 1♥ is one thing but West should certainly bid 2♠ now — knowing partner has values from North-South's failure to bid higher.

Contract: 2♥, Opening Lead: ♦10

What Should Have Happened

S	W	N	E
1♥	2♠(1)	3♥(2)	Pass
4♥(3)	Pass	Pass	DbI(4) end

(1) Weak Jump Overcall. Low on points, high on playing strength. Very high on disruptive value.

(2) Stretching a little to show the fit.

(3) Doesn't know whether partner is stretched or is full value, so pots game.

(4) Great defensive prospects if partner is short in a minor suit.

Contract: 4♥ Dbled, Opening Lead: ♦10

that was one down in 2♥. No big deal.

What Should Have Happened

Same defence to 4♥ doubled — three down and East-West +800.

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