

Lesson 33 Examples

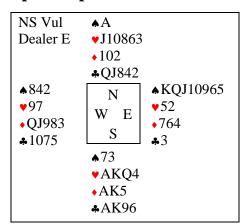
A typical Pre-emptive opener

♦KQJ10965 You have a fine long spade suit, few HCP but lots of playing potential with spades as trump. Poor in points, rich in playing tricks. You would like to play the hand in spades.

•764 What is the best tactic? You can hardly open 1♠ when partner will expect 12+HCP

♣3 A3♠ opener is used to show a 7+ card decent suited hand with relatively few HCP.

A pre-empt in action:



South, having carefully counted his 23HCP, is ready to open with the strongest bid, 24, when - East opens 34!

Suppose South doubles for penalties? He makes just 1 spade 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club. Two down, for 300.

Here he could score 2210 for a Grand Slam in hearts. Or 1460 for the small slam. Even 4 → +3 scores 710. But swop the North and West hands and he might have to settle for +100 from 3 ♠ doubled. His only game is 5 ♠.

This is the purpose of a pre-emptive bid: to make it difficult for the stronger side to bid accurately to their best spot

Some pre-emptive openings

▲72 **∨**KQJ10852

♦94

.84

6 playing tricks in hearts. Open 3♥ non-vulnerable. Vulnerable it is better to pass **♦**AQJ10942

♥K2 **♦**5

.OJ6

6/7 playing tricks in spades But with 13 HCP you open 1 •

♦K2

♥KJ1096543

\ -

\$532

3 v is possible at any vulnerability Non-vulnerable you might open

4♥!

The higher you bid, the more difficult you make it for opponents.



Lesson 33 Examples

Some examples from World Championships:

♠Q **♥**O

♦J85

♣KQ1087653

When RHO passed Soulet (FRA) opened 3* at Game All Lair (USA) opened 4*

▲87

♥AKJ9875

♦10

♣972

Faigenbaum (FRA) opened 3♥ non-vul v vul. Manfield (USA) opened 4♥

♦-**♣**Q1053

v102

♦KJ76432

Rasmussen (NOR) opened 3 nonvul. Muller of Netherlands

opened 4♠

♦AJ98532

Non-vulnerable v Vulnerable Maas (Netherlands) opened 3 Nilsland (Sweden) tried 4 , but that did not work well!

♥875

♣K106

You can see that top players are not very good at counting Playing Tricks!

The pre-emptive overcall

▲64 A non-vulnerable 3 v opener - about 6 playing tricks and not many HCP

▼KJ109752 If RHO opens 1♣ or 1♦ you can still bid 3♥, a *double jump* with exactly the same

♦QJ10 meaning as an opening bid at the 3-level.

◆2 Over 1♠ you could bid 3♥, that is a **weak jump overcall**

♦954

♥052

◆AK107543

-

In a World Championship the Swede Kirchhoff overcalled 1♣ with 3♠, pre-emptive

♦AQ1097643

♥9 **♦**9832

A non-vulnerable 4♠ overcall if RHO opens 1♣, 1♠ or 1♥. Vulnerable you might settle for 3♠



Lesson 33 Examples

Responding to pre-emptive bids

West opens 3♠ non-vulnerable. What should East do?

♦ KQJ9754	1) •10832	2) A A8	3) 🛦 6
♥ 93	♥ Q864	♦ AK652	♥ KQJ4
♦ 5	♦ 9632	◆A63	♦KQJ3
♣ J42	♣ A	♣ Q53	♣ Q965
3♠	??	??	??

- With hand 1) raise to 44, not because you think it will make, but because you have *so little defence*.

 As it happens partner can ruff two clubs in your hand and make 9 tricks, demonstrating the power of the 11-card fit. *Opponents must have game in any other suit*.
- With hand 2) you should also raise to 4, this time because you believe he will make 10 tricks his seven playing tricks plus your <u>3 Quick Tricks</u> in the red suits. The ace of spades ought to ensure that he has no losers in trump.
- With hand 3) you should Pass. You have no help for partner in trump, no aces, only 2 Quick Tricks.

 There will be at least 4 tricks to lose.

 Some players are tempted to bid 3NT with this sort of hand but that is a Bad Idea.

 You will not be able to cash many spade tricks, because you cannot get to dummy, and you do not have 9 tricks in your own hand.

Bidding a new suit when partner has pre-empted

4 72	♦ KQJ1094	♦ K2
♥AKQJ10852	v 2	♥ A65
♦-	◆AK53	♦ 8
♣ A82	♣ Q6	♣AKQJ532
3 ♠ ?	3♣ ?	3 ♦ ?

Bid 4♥, what you think you
can make. Game bids are to
play, no arguments!

3♠(forcing) in case partner
has 2/3 spades and can raise.
Without support he will bid
4♣ and you can pass

3NT. A reasonable shot this time even without support because you have a *running suit* of your own.