

This delayed overcall { called a *balancing bid* } is often used whenever there is a weak take out bid.

e.g	N	E	S	W
	1NT	P	2H	P
	P	?		
		AJxxx		
		xxx		
		KJx		
		Qx		

Now a bid of 2Sp is automatic!! Notice that there was no question of bidding with this hand *before* the weak take out. Of course it may be that the opponents bid on to 3H and if they do then E/W will probably subside being content to have pushed N/S.

There is another common sequence when this *delayed overcall* is used. Look at this auction from East's point of view.

e.g	N	E	S	W
	1D	P	2D	P
	P	?		
		Kx		
		Qxxxx		
		xxx		
		AJx		

East correctly passed over 1D rather than bid an inept 1Hrt overcall. On the second round ( when the opponents are about to play in 2D ) E should bid 2H. Again this delayed bid will allow E/W to play in 2H or possibly push N/S into 3D.

One thing to say about this delayed pushing - West { the partner of the delayed overcaller } must not get too carried away. If East had had a "proper" overcall they would have bid it first time rather than wait to see how high the opponents would bid *before* bidding.

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We have seen that the delayed overcall is used after the opponents have stopped in a weak take out call or when the opponents have stopped in a two level contract after an auction like 1H --2H { or 1C--2C or 1D--2D or 1S--2S }.

Another weapon we have at our disposal after just such auctions is the *delayed take out double*.

e.g	N	E	S	W	
	1Ht	P	2H	P	East has delayed making an initial double but
	P	Dble			comes in after N/S try to stop at the two level.
					East might hold: Axxx -- xx--Qxxx ----KJx
					Again the intention is to push N/S too high or
					steal the contract. W of course bids their best suit.
e.g	N	E	S	W	
	1NT	P	2H	P	
	P	Dble			