

Dealer: N  
Vul: EW

♠ AK3  
♥ QJ972  
♦ Q843  
♣ 3

N	E	S	W
P	1C	?	

What should South call?

## BIDDING 25 – OVERCALL VS TAKEOUT DOUBLE

Dealer: N  
Vul: EW

	♠ QJ8 ♥ A10 ♦ K10765 ♣ 542		
♠ 654 ♥ 865 ♦ J92 ♣ A986	♠ AK3 ♥ QJ972 ♦ Q843 ♣ 3	♠ 10972 ♥ K43 ♦ A ♣ KQJ107	

N	E	S	W
P	1C	?	

Generally, when you have a takeout double shape but a 5 card major, you should overcall the major, unless your hand is strong enough to double and bid the major. If you double instead, it is very hard to get the full length of the major over to partner later.

In a pairs session on the above hand, South doubled and North bid 2♦. A single jump response to a takeout double in basic bridge shows an invite hand. East overbid with 3♣ and South had a problem. If there is a 5-3 heart fit, there could well be a heart game on. Or 3♥ will score better than 3♦.

South overbid with 3♥ (double and bid suggesting a much bigger hand) and North, lacking a club stop, went to 4♥. This should go down with repeated club leads shortening South's trumps. EW must get ♦A, ♥K and a club, and either get a trump because South is shortened to 2 trumps or further clubs when South runs out of trumps.

If South overcalls 1♥ instead, after 2♦ from North and 3C from East, South has an easy 3♦ bid knowing there is no major fit.