

From NEGATIVE DOUBLES The Quintessential Convention

By Marty Bergen

Level of Overcall	HCP Needed
One of a suit	6
Two of a minor	8
Two of a major	9
Three of a suit	10
Four or higher of a suit	10

Now we have some numbers to work with. “Ah, but Marty Bergen doesn’t bow to the point count gods,” I hear you cry. Agreed. There is definitely an element of *points, schmoints* in the air. Read on to learn more.

What’s the Point?

When I talk about points in this section, I am referring basically to HCP. However, good players know that:

Aggressive action is called for when:

- ✓ You are short in the opponent’s suit, and/or
- ✓ You know you have a fit, and/or
- ✓ You have tolerance for opener’s suit, and/or
- ✓ You have ideal distribution in the unbid suit(s), and/or
- ✓ You have prime cards (aces and kings).

Discretion is recommended with:

- ✓ Length in the opponent’s suit, and/or
- ✓ Shortness in partner’s suit, and/or
- ✓ Flawed distribution in the unbid suits, and/or
- ✓ A hand that is dominated by minor honors (queens and jacks).