

Negative Doubles

Chapter 19 - Beginning Bridge Using 2/1

February 13, 2020

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Agenda:

- Questions/Discussion?
- What is a “Negative Double”?
- Partner’s response to a Negative Double
- Responder’s rebid after Negative Double
- Practice hands

Takeout Double - table positions

Opener



Advancer

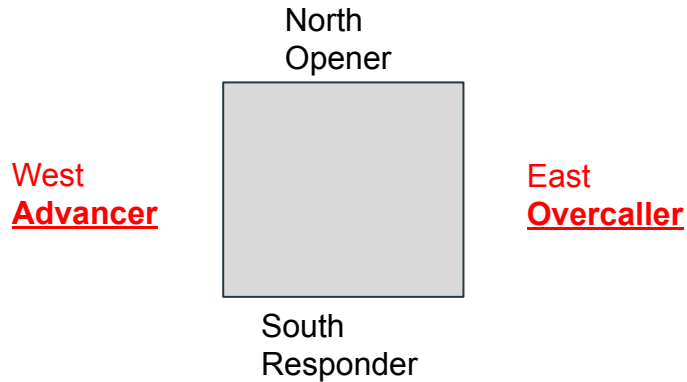
Take-Out Doubler

Responder

- **General requirements to bid a Takeout Double:**
 - Should have opening points or very near opening points
 - Weakness in the opponent's suit
 - Adequate trump support (minimum JXX) in the other three suits
 - There is **No Upper limit** to "Doubler's" total points
 - "Shape" is as important as points

What is an Overcall?

- Table “positions”



- Definition of an Overcall: Assume Opener (North) bids a suit or NT (ex. 1 ♦ or 1 NT)
 - Overcaller bids “over” the opener’s bid - ie, the “Overcall”
 - Partner of the Overcaller is called the “Advancer”.

What do you need to Overcall in a suit?

Bid	Points	Hand attributes
1 of a suit	9+ HCP	Quality 5 card suit
2 of a suit	10+ HCP	Quality 5 card suit - close to opening hand

What do you need to Overcall in NT?

- 15 - 17 HCP - balanced
- Must have at least 1 or preferably 2 stoppers in Opponent's suit
- All systems are ON. (Stayman and Jacoby Transfers)

Welcome to the “Double” bid after Overcaller’s bid!

This is called the “Negative Double”

- It is not for penalty!
- The “Negative Double” says “Partner, I wanted to make a free bid but now that the Overcaller has bid, I can’t really support your suit and but I have some strength to support the other 2 unbid suits.
- The Negative Double is used primarily to help the partnership find a major suit fit.

So what do you do with this hand? Opener (Partner) has bid 1♣ & Overcaller has bid 1♠. What can you do as Responder with this hand?

Your hand - 8 HCP

♠ 8 7 5

♥ K J 8 7

♦ A 10 5

♣ 6 3 2



Your partner
1♣

right hand opponent
1♠

you
?

What do you bid with this type of hand?

♠ 8 7 5

♥ K J 8 7

♦ A 10 5

♣ 6 3 2

What are the requirements to make a Negative Double?

Examples:

Opener bids...	Overcaller bids...	Responder bids "Double". How many HCPs are req for the negative double and what does the Double imply?
1 ♣	1 ♦	Double - 6 HCPs - suggests support for ♥ & ♠... Opener can bid at the 1 level. So, you should have 6+ HCP as the Negative Doubler
1 ♦	1 ♠	Double - 8+ HCPs - suggests support for ♥ & ♣... Opener will have to bid at the 2 level. So, you should have 8+ HCP as the Negative Doubler
1 ♠	2 ♥	Double - 10+ HCPs - suggests support for ♣ & ♦... Opener will have to bid at the 3 level if ♠ are not rebid by Opener. So, you should have 10+ HCP as the Negative Doubler

Additional bidding considerations:

- Negative Double of a 1 ♥ Overcall, promises 4 ♠. If you have 5 ♠, bid 1 ♠.
- If you have 4 cards in one major and 3 cards in the other major, the Negative Double may still be your best bid. Remember, your primary objective is to find a major suit fit.
- With 4 cards in one major and 5 cards in the other major, bid the longer major. **Do not use a Negative Double bid.**

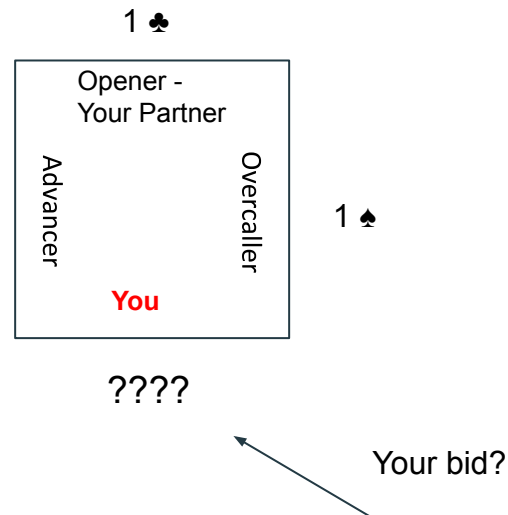
Partner opens 1 ♣. Overcaller bids 1 ♠. What should you bid as South?

1. Your hand
♠ K 4
♥ A Q J 6
♦ K J 8 2
♣ 9 5 4 (14 HCP)

Answer: Double

2. Your hand
♠ 8 4
♥ K Q 9 7 5
♦ Q J 7 2
♣ 10 6 (8 HCP)

Answer: Double



Partner opens 1 ♣. Overcaller bids 1 ♦. What should you bid as South?

3. Your hand

♠ Q J 8 7 3

♥ A J 10 2

♦ 8

♣ 6 4 2 (8 HCP)

Answer: 1 ♠

4. Your hand

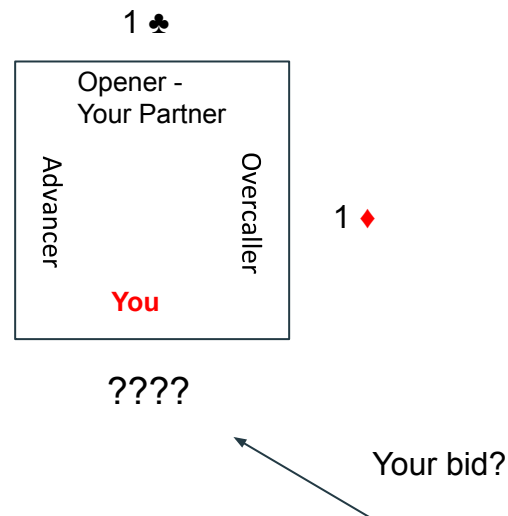
♠ A Q 4

♥ J 10 7 4

♦ 6 2

♣ 8 7 5 4 (7 HCP)

Answer: 1 ♥. Double is possible but usually means you have **4 H and 4 S**. You only have 3 S in hand #4. If Opener happens to have 3 good S, 3 ugly H, 3 D and 4 C, he is likely to bid 1 S as his 2nd bid if you were to Double. That would leave the partnership with only 6 S which is a very poor fit. Bidding 1 H makes this more clear to the Opener that you have 4 H.



Partner (N) opens 1 . Overcaller (E) bids 1 . What should you bid as South?

3. Your hand

♠ K Q 9 3

♥ 8 5 4

♦ 10 8 6 2

♣ Q 4 (7 HCP)

Answer: Double. If you had 5 ♠, you would bid 1 ♠. Your Double says I have 4 ♠.

Partner (N) opens 1 . Overcaller bids 2 . What should you bid as South?

4. Your hand

♠ K Q 10 8 7 4

♥ Q 3

♦ J 8 2

♣ 6 5 (8 HCP)

Answer: Double - will encourage partner to bid. You cannot make a free bid. Opener will likely bid ♥. You can still bid 2 ♠ without getting the bid up too high.

How should Opener respond to partner's Negative Double?

- Rebid the opening suit to show 6+ cards in that suit
- Bid NT if Opener has the Overcaller's suit stopped
- Pick the better of the two unbid suits that Partner (the Negative Doubler) showed with their bid
- Pass - shows a very good holding in the Overcaller's suit

Responder's Rebids after making a Negative Double

- With 6 - 9 points
 - Pass Opener's minimum rebid
 - Give a preference to Opener's original bid
 - Bid a new suit without a jump
- With Invitational strength: 10 - 11 points
 - Bid again to invite opener to game
- With Maximum hand: 12+ points
 - Bid game