

Negative Doubles - by Ed L'Heureux

1		<p>♠ K1073</p> <p>♥ AQ9</p> <p>♦ 72</p> <p>♣ K1043</p>	<p><i>Dlr: N</i></p> <p><i>Vul: None</i></p>
<p>♠ J82</p> <p>♥ K54</p> <p>♦ A103</p> <p>♣ Q985</p>		<p>♠ Q5</p> <p>♥ J82</p> <p>♦ KQ985</p> <p>♣ A62</p>	
<p>12</p> <p>10 12</p> <p>6</p>	<p>♠ A964</p> <p>♥ 10763</p> <p>♦ J64</p> <p>♣ J7</p>	<p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT</p> <p>N - - 1 2 -</p> <p>S - - 1 2 -</p> <p>E 1 2 - - 1</p> <p>W 1 2 - - 1</p>	

N E S W
 1C 1D X 2D
 2S P/3D & 3 passes

Bidding: Key point: South doubles to show both majors & 6+ points. West has diamond support & raises 1D to 2D. North has 4 spades, so bids 2S. South is minimum; does not bid again. E/W might pass 2S or might compete to 3D if they think N/S can make 2S.

Lead: In 2S, E leads KD, top of KQ. In 3D, S leads 7C, low from an honour in partner's first bid suit.

Play: This is a typical competitive auction that you will see at a bridge game. But both sides will find it hard to make their contract.

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2		<p>♠ K75</p> <p>♥ K75</p> <p>♦ 62</p> <p>♣ K10643</p>	<p><i>Dlr: E</i></p> <p><i>Vul: N-S</i></p>
<p>♠ 942</p> <p>♥ 98</p> <p>♦ AQ54</p> <p>♣ Q872</p>		<p>♠ J6</p> <p>♥ AQ643</p> <p>♦ KJ87</p> <p>♣ J5</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>8 12</p> <p>11</p>	<p>♠ AQ1083</p> <p>♥ J102</p> <p>♦ 1093</p> <p>♣ A9</p>	<p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT</p> <p>N 1 - - 2 1</p> <p>S 1 - - 2 1</p> <p>E - 3 1 - -</p> <p>W - 3 1 - -</p>	

N E S W
 1H 1S X
 2S P/3D and 3 passes

Bidding: Key point: West's Neg X shows both minors & 8+ points. (Partner will have to bid at the 2 level). N has an easy raise of 1S to 2S. E might pass this, or might choose to play 3D in the 4-4-diamond fit.

Lead: In 2S, W can lead 9H, top of doubleton in partner's suit. In 3D, S can lead AC followed by 9C, hoping to ruff a club later.

Play: In 2S, on H lead, South loses 2 H, a H ruff & 2 D, making 2S. In 3D, E loses only 2S & 2C, making 3D.

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3	♠ 75	Dlr: S	
	♥ J109	Vul: E-W	
	♦ K987		
	♣ AQ95		
♠ AQ2	♠ 1063		
♥ AK643	♥ Q75		
♦ 652	♦ QJ103		
♣ 104	♣ 763		
10	♠ KJ984		
13	♥ 82		
5	♦ A4		
	♣ KJ82		
12			

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	-	2	-
S	3	-	-	2	-
E	-	1	1	-	1
W	-	1	1	-	1

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1S	2H
X	P	3C	and 3 passes

Bidding: Key point: Neg X by North denies support for opener's spades, shows 4-4 minors, shows 10+ points (since partner must bid 3 of a minor). East is too weak to bid. South bids 3C to play in the 4-4 minor suit fit.

Lead: AH from AK.

Play: Opponents cash AH & KH. You ruff QH. You also lose 2 spades to A&Q behind your K&J. You must cash AD, KD & ruff 2 diamonds in the South hand before pulling trump to avoid a diamond loser.

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4		♠ AK643 ♥ AJ2 ♦ 652 ♣ 104		Dir: W Vul: Both																															
♠ J952 ♥ KQ984 ♦ A4 ♣ K8		♠ 107 ♥ 753 ♦ K987 ♣ AQ95																																	
12		♠ Q8		<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	1	-	S	-	1	-	1	-	E	1	-	2	-	1	W	1	-	2	-	1
	♣	♦	♥			♠	NT																												
N	-	1	-			1	-																												
S	-	1	-			1	-																												
E	1	-	2	-	1																														
W	1	-	2	-	1																														
13		♥ 106																																	
9		♦ QJ103																																	
6		♣ J7632																																	

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1H
1S	2H	and 3 passes	

Bidding: Responder E has 3 card heart support for opener. Should bid 2H. Should not make Neg X.

Lead: AS from AK is at top of recommended leads.

Play: Initial losers: 4S & probably 2H. If opponents lead AS & KS, your JS will be good. If not, plan to throw one on QC (after pulling trump and after cashing KC, AC). From the bidding, you know spades are 5-4-2-2. South will over-ruff if you try to ruff a spade in dummy. You will lose 2 trump ticks to AJx behind your KQ. Losing only 3S & 2H, you make 2S.

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5		<p>♠ A975 ♥ K2 ♦ J1084 ♣ AQ4</p>		<p><i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i></p>																															
<p>♠ KQ2 ♥ 864 ♦ A52 ♣ 9765</p>		<p>♠ 108 ♥ AJ975 ♦ Q63 ♣ K102</p>																																	
<p>14 9 10 7</p>		<p>♠ J643 ♥ Q103 ♦ K97 ♣ J83</p>																																	
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	1	2	1	2	2																														
S	1	2	1	2	2																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																														

N E S W
 1D 1H X 2H
 2S P/3H? and 3 passes

Bidding: Key point: Neg X by South shows exactly 4 spades & 6+ points (since opener can bid 1S). The 4-4 fit is found & N bids 2S. It smells like E/W can make 2H & N/S can make 2S. Being non vul, E or W might sacrifice in 3H.

Lead: In 2S, E leads AH. OK in bid/supported suit. In 3H, S leads 3S, low from something in N/S suit.

Play: In 2S, N losers are: 2S, 1H, 2D, 1C = 6. OK to lead JD towards KD when you have next 2 (TD, 9D). This traps QD, losing only 1D. E/W fair poorly in 3H. Losers are: 1S, 2H, 2D, 2C = 7, down 3.

6		<p>♠ AQ2 ♥ 864 ♦ A52 ♣ 9765</p>		<p><i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: E-W</i></p>																															
<p>♠ J7643 ♥ Q10 ♦ K97 ♣ J83</p>		<p>♠ K95 ♥ K32 ♦ J1084 ♣ AQ4</p>																																	
<p>10 7 13 10</p>		<p>♠ 108 ♥ AJ975 ♦ Q63 ♣ K102</p>																																	
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N	-	-	-	-	-																														
S	-	-	1	-	-																														
E	1	2	-	2	1																														
W	1	2	-	2	1																														

N E S W
 1D 1H 1S
 2H 2S P/3H? and 3 passes

Bidding: Key point: W should bid 5 card spade suit, not make Neg X. E can raise to 2S with 3 of them. Feels like E/W can make 2S & N/S can make 2H. Being non vul, S or N might sacrifice in 3H.

Lead: In 2S, N leads 8H, top of nothing in N/S suit. In 3H, W leads 3S, low from something in E/W suit.

Play: Both E/W & N/S will find the play hard. In 2S, W losers are: 2-3S, 1H, 2D, 1C = 6-7 total. Can lead 3S towards KS to lose only 2 spades. But still probably down 1. In 3H, S losers: 1S, 2H, 2D, 3C = 8 total. Can lead 5C towards KC to make KC. But still down 2 or 3.

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7		<p>♠ QJ7 ♥ KJ7 ♦ 943 ♣ J932</p>		<p><i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: Both</i></p>																															
♠ 1082		♠ A63																																	
♥ AQ1095		♥ 864																																	
♦ Q6		♦ AJ52																																	
♣ K108		♣ 765																																	
8		♠ K954																																	
11	9	♥ 32																																	
12		♦ K1087																																	
		♣ AQ4																																	
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N	2	2	-	2	1																														
S	2	2	-	2	1																														
E	-	-	1	-	-																														
W	-	-	1	-	-																														

N E S W
 1D 1H
 1NT 2H and 3 passes

Bidding: Key point: N should not make a Neg X with only 3 cards in an unbid major. N has opponent suit stopped & is strong enough (8 pts) to bid 1NT. E has enough to raise 1H to 2H.

Lead: 3D, low from 3 cards in partner's suit is good. Other good choice is QS, top of touching honours.

Play: Possible losers: 2S, 2H, 1D, 3C = 8 total. Sacrifice QD to KD. Then throw a club loser on AD&JD. Lead 5C towards KC to score the KC. But still down 1. Not so bad, N/S can make 1NT.

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8		<p>♠ AQ1083 ♥ 102 ♦ 10983 ♣ A9</p>		<p><i>Dlr: W</i> <i>Vul: None</i></p>																															
♠ J6		♠ 942																																	
♥ AQJ643		♥ 98																																	
♦ KJ7		♦ AQ54																																	
♣ J5		♣ Q872																																	
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N	1	-	-	2	-																														
S	1	-	-	2	-																														
E	-	1	2	-	-																														
W	-	1	2	-	-																														

N E S W
 1H
 1S X 2S 3H and 3 passes

Bidding: E needs 8+ points to force partner to 2 level. E needs 4+ in each suit to show both minors. South has easy raise of 1S to 2S. Opener thinks N/S will make 2S, has neither minor, rebids 6 card suit.

Lead: In 2S, E leads 9H, hi/low in partner's suit. In 3H, N can lead AC & then a low club, hoping to get a club ruff. TD, top of nothing, also reasonable.

Play: Looks like W was right not to let N/S play 2S. W can make 3H by entering dummy twice with diamond winners to finesse KH twice. N/S could hold E/W to 8 tricks (down 1) with AC lead, KC & club over-ruff (+ 2 spades).

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9		♠ AJ106 ♥ AJ643 ♦ KJ2 ♣ 8		Dlr: N Vul: E-W																															
♠ 75 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 876 ♣ K10654			♠ KQ983 ♥ 1052 ♦ 1093 ♣ AJ																																
14			♠ 42 ♥ 98 ♦ AQ54 ♣ Q9732																																
8	10																																		
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N	1	3	2	1	2																														
S	1	3	2	1	2																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																														

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1H	1S	X	P
1NT	P	P	P

Bidding: Key point: S needs 8+ points and 4+ in each minor to make this Neg X. West does not bid clubs since South bid them first (with Neg X). North has no minor, has stuff in opponent suit, bids 1NT.

Lead: KS from KQ is usually good. Nothing else looks appealing. Gives N an extra trick in this case. Would be better for W to lead spades towards E.

Play: If opponents lead a spade, get 2 spade tricks. Lead towards hearts twice to score both AH & JH. Also have 4 diamond tricks. Makes 1 or 2 NT.

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10		♠ K8 ♥ Q9 ♦ 109432 ♣ Q1043		Dlr: E Vul: Both																															
♠ 62 ♥ AJ10752 ♦ Q85 ♣ 75			♠ Q953 ♥ 643 ♦ AJ ♣ AK86																																
7			♠ AJ1074 ♥ K8 ♦ K76 ♣ J92																																
7	14																																		
12																																			
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	1	1	-	1	-																														
S	1	1	-	1	-																														
E	-	-	3	-	2																														
W	-	-	3	-	2																														

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1C	1S	X
P	1NT	P	2H

Bidding: Key point: When W makes Neg X and then bids own suit, this is to play. E should pass. W too weak to bid 2H initially. Bids 6 card suit on 2nd bid. N too weak and the diamonds too bad to bid 2D.

Lead: Lead partner's suit. KS followed by 8S.

Play: Opponents can take first 3 tricks with AS, KS & a spade overruff. You also have another heart loser and a diamond loser (total 5 losers). So you make 2 hearts.

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11		♠ 652 ♥ AKJ7 ♦ 875 ♣ QJ2	<i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: None</i>																															
♠ AJ1074 ♥ 852 ♦ KQJ ♣ 97			♠ K8 ♥ 96 ♦ 109432 ♣ K543																															
11 11 12	6 12	♠ Q93 ♥ Q1043 ♦ A6 ♣ A1086	<table><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	3	-	2	S	3	-	3	-	2	E	-	2	-	1	-	W	-	2	-	1	-
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N	3	-	3	-	2																													
S	3	-	3	-	2																													
E	-	2	-	1	-																													
W	-	2	-	1	-																													

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1C	1S
X	P	2H	P
3H	P	P	P

Bidding: North has enough points to respond 2H, but only 4 (not 5) hearts. So North makes Neg X to show hearts. South bids 2H to confirm a 4-4 heart fit. North bids 3H, invitational, 10-11 points. An opener with 12-13 should decline the invitation.

Lead: KD, top of touching honours.

Play: Losers = 3S, 0H, 1D, 1C = 5 total. Can avoid the club loser if KC is onside. You have 4 of top 5 clubs. Play to trap KC. Lead QC. If KC does not appear, repeat by leading JC. Then lead a small club towards A & T of clubs. Makes 3H this way.

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12		♠ AQ753 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 53 ♣ 852	Dir: W Vul: N-S																															
♠ 864 ♥ A10 ♦ A1086 ♣ KQ96			♠ K102 ♥ Q864 ♦ QJ92 ♣ J10																															
10 13 8	9	♠ J9 ♥ 9753 ♦ K74 ♣ A743	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	3	1	1	3	W	2	3	1	1	3
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																													
N	-	-	-	-	-																													
S	-	-	-	-	-																													
E	2	3	1	1	3																													
W	2	3	1	1	3																													

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1D
1S	X	P	2C
P	2D		

Bidding: East has diamond support. Makes a Neg X to show hearts & look for a 4-4 major suit fit. When West bids 2C, denying hearts, East reverts to 2D.

Lead: Best to lead top of nothing 8C. Leading a suit headed by AQ or KJ is bad. You want these led towards you. No reason to lead a trump.

Play: Losers: 3S, 1H, 1D, 1C = 6 total. Can avoid 1 spade loser by leading low towards KS. Can avoid the trump loser by leading QD towards AD, JD towards AD, etc until KD falls. Makes 3D.