

Takeout Doubles Part One

| <p>♠105 ♥A96 ♦AK7654 ♣74</p> <p>♠Q9874 ♠AKJ6 ♥83 ♥KJ102 ♦J10 ♦82 ♣AKQ2 ♣J98</p> <p>♠32 ♥Q754 ♦Q93 ♣10653</p> | <p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>X</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>East has opening values, a shortage in the opened suit and support for all unbid suits. He is prepared for any call partner makes. Partner has a reasonable hand and is justified in leaping to game (he knows that there will be a 5-3 or better fit).</p> <p>North cashes two top diamonds and switches to a trump. Declarer painlessly draws two rounds of spades and starts to think. North South have just fifteen points between them and North has opened the bidding at the one level. He may have started with ♦AKQ and ♥Q but that would give him just an eleven count. Not impossible but playing him to hold the ace of hearts seems reasonable. When we play on hearts we play one to the king and it holds. 4♠ made.</p> | West | North | East | South | | 1♦ | X | Pass | 4♠ | All pass | | |
|--|--|----------|-------|------|-------|--|----|----|------|------|----------|----------|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1♦ | X | Pass | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4♠ | All pass | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>♠KQ2 ♥10987 ♦9872 ♣Q3</p> <p>♠1074 ♠A65 ♥5432 ♥A6 ♦KQ ♦AJ6543 ♣10852 ♣J9</p> <p>♠J983 ♥KQJ ♦10 ♣AK764</p> | <p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South's double is so much more flexible than a unilateral 2♣ overcall and North South soon arrive in their partial fit. North's bidding shows 4+hearts and 0-7 points and this latter information is sufficient to restrain South from seeking higher things. 1♥ should make in some comfort as declarer can always scramble some tricks even if the defence starts to force him in diamonds.</p> <p>This is the sort of hand on which openers often overbid. Here there will be quite a few 2♦ bidders with the East hand. It works well here but, facing a partner who hasn't raised a peep, it's not without danger.</p> | West | North | East | South | | | 1♦ | X | Pass | 1♥ | All pass | |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1♦ | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 1♥ | All pass | | | | | | | | | | | |

| <p>♠ 1074 ♥ 7542 ♦ Q8 ♣ 10854</p> <p>♠ J983 ♠ KQ2 ♥ KQJ10 ♥ 863 ♦ 2 ♦ KJ109 ♣ AK76 ♣ Q32</p> <p>♠ A65 ♥ A9 ♦ A76543 ♣ J9</p> | <p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>X 3N</td><td>Pass All pass</td><td>2N</td><td>1♦ Pass</td></tr></table> <p>West has been dealt the classical 4441-shaped take out double and East is in a comfortable position. He has no major to show so can content himself with a very descriptive 2N, 11-12 with a decent holding in diamonds.</p> <p>West adds his fourteen count to the response's values and quickly places the 3N card on the table. South doesn't really have a surprise attack up his sleeve so starts with a mundane 4th best diamond lead. That does declarer no harm as the queen is quickly swallowed up. Declarer will play on hearts and then on spades and will come to ten tricks. He'll only loses three aces.</p> | West | North | East | South | X 3N | Pass All pass | 2N | 1♦ Pass |
|--|---|------------------|------------|------|-------|------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | |
| X 3N | Pass All pass | 2N | 1♦ Pass | | | | | | |
| <p>♠ QJ32 ♥ KQJ9 ♦ 10 ♣ AK76</p> <p>♠ 654 ♠ 97 ♥ A7 ♥ 10542 ♦ AKJ976 ♦ 8532 ♣ J9 ♣ 1054</p> <p>♠ AK108 ♥ 863 ♦ Q4 ♣ Q832</p> | <p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♦ Pass</td><td>X 4♠</td><td>Pass All pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr></table> <p>Another perfect takeout double, this time for North, who also has some extra values to boot. South has an eleven count so, at first glance, is a little heavy for a jump to 2♠ (ostensibly 8-10). But included in his collection is the worthless ♦Q. The hand should be assessed as a working nine count and the spade jump is therefore correct. With plenty in reserve North blasts to game.</p> <p>After a top diamond West may continue the suit or switch to a club. No matter for declarer who can draw trumps and claim eleven tricks. He does best to lead up to dummy's heart honours twice lest the clubs don't break (he could then get rid of a club loser on the third heart). This precaution isn't necessary here.</p> | West | North | East | South | 1♦ Pass | X 4♠ | Pass All pass | 2♠ |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | |
| 1♦ Pass | X 4♠ | Pass All pass | 2♠ | | | | | | |

| <div><div><div>♠AK5</div><div>♥AJ</div><div>♦A7654</div><div>♣J95</div></div><div><div>♠642</div><div>♥863</div><div>♦KQJ109</div><div>♣Q3</div></div><div><div>♠QJ83</div><div>♥KQ109</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣AK76</div></div><div><div>♠1097</div><div>♥7542</div><div>♦83</div><div>♣10842</div></div></div> | <div>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>X</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With the preponderance of takeout doubles, you may wonder if there's ever a time to extract a useful penalty from the opposition. Well, here it is. The way in which we bid is such that penalties often arrive from one player converting his partner's takeout double into a penalty by passing that call. Here West is guaranteed four diamond tricks and, with the vulnerability as it is, that pass looks far better than bidding 1N (7-10).</p> <p>The traditional lead against a doubled partscore is a trump and that works very well here. Declarer can be held to four tricks but it may be difficult for the defence to stop him making at least one small trump. The best defence sees East allowing West to win a trick with ♣Q. West can now extract all of North's trumps. That would give East West +800 (three off).</p> | West | North | East | South | | 1♦ | X | All Pass |
|---|---|------|----------|------|-------|------|----|----|----------|
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | |
| | 1♦ | X | All Pass | | | | | | |
| <div><div><div>♠642</div><div>♥863</div><div>♦KQ109</div><div>♣Q32</div></div><div><div>♠Q107</div><div>♥7542</div><div>♦J83</div><div>♣1085</div></div><div><div>♠AK5</div><div>♥AJ</div><div>♦A7654</div><div>♣J95</div></div><div><div>♠J983</div><div>♥KQ109</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣AK76</div></div></div> | <div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1N</td><td>1♦</td><td>X</td></tr></table> <p>North has no major to think about bidding and with his good diamond holding can bid 1N to show roughly 7-10 (sometimes we stretch with a 5/6 count if we're a little stuck for a viable alternative).</p> <p>The contract should always make (and often with overtricks) as the defence can't really play on any suits (barring clubs which declarer may do best to cash early) without setting up winners for the opponents. East will have lead a small diamond to which North won't have objected).</p> | West | North | East | South | Pass | 1N | 1♦ | X |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | |
| Pass | 1N | 1♦ | X | | | | | | |

| <p>♠10743 ♥754 ♦Q98 ♣1085</p> <p>♠J98 ♥KJ102 ♦2 ♣AK764</p> <p>♠AKQ2 ♥Q983 ♦J103 ♣Q3</p> <p>♠65 ♥A6 ♦AK7654 ♣J92</p> | <p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>West has the takeout double type with the five card minor and East has enough for game. Until West has shown his major suit lengths, East cannot know whether to play in hearts or spades. He temporises with a 2♦ cue bid, 11+ and forcing to suit agreement. West bids his hearts and East has now found the right trump suit. He jumps to game. Had he held a slightly lighter hand (say, without ♠Q) he would bid 3♥, invitational.</p> <p>There is little to the play. Declarer knocks out the trump ace and will make eleven tricks, the defence taking a top diamond along the way.</p> | West | North | East | South | X | Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All pass |
|--|--|------|----------|------|-------|----|------|------|------|----|------|----|----------|
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | Pass | 2♦ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All pass | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>♠AK ♥KJ ♦QJ10987 ♣J98</p> <p>♠10754 ♥Q6 ♦AK654 ♣K3</p> <p>♠J32 ♥75432 ♦32 ♣1076</p> <p>♠Q986 ♥A1098 ♦-void - ♣AQ542</p> | <p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>X</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>Over West's opening bid North retains a calm demeanour and passes smoothly. How he would like to have a penalty double available. Well, his disappointment doesn't last very long as partner is able to make a takeout double in 4th seat (or the protective seat). This can be about a king lighter than a direct seat double but North is on firm ground when he passes.</p> <p>North makes the traditional lead of a trump (see hand 5 above) and superb defence will see this contract limited to two tricks. The defence won't be able to stop West making the ace and king of trumps.</p> | West | North | East | South | 1♦ | Pass | Pass | X | | | | |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1♦ | Pass | Pass | X | | | | | | | | | | |

| <p> ♠ 54 ♥ Q72 ♦ AKQ532 ♣ Q5 </p> <p> ♠ AK108 ♠ QJ32 ♥ 863 ♥ KJ104 ♦ 1084 ♦ 9 ♣ J32 ♣ AK76 </p> <p> ♠ 976 ♥ A95 ♦ J76 ♣ 10984 </p> | <p><i>Board 1 Talk : Dealer North : Love all</i></p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1 ♦</td> <td>X</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>2 ♦</td> <td>2 ♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West has an eight count but the hand is flat and the unsupported ♠J could be of little value. West treats the hand as a seven count and makes a simple bid of 1 ♠. North may not bid on though he does have a decent six card suit and he is not vulnerable (see hand 2 above). When East bids 2 ♠ this should be played simply as competing the partscore and confirming that East holds four spades.</p> <p>2 ♠ should make easily and when declarer cashes the top clubs, the queen falls and the knave makes an unexpected trick.</p> | West | North | East | South | | 1 ♦ | X | Pass | 1 ♠ | 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ | All pass |
|---|--|--------------------|----------|------|-------|--|-----|--------------------|------|------|-----|-------|----------|
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 ♦ | X | Pass | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 ♠ | 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ | All pass | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p> ♠ 108 ♥ 863 ♦ 108432 ♣ QJ3 </p> <p> ♠ 9764 ♠ AK5 ♥ A542 ♥ Q7 ♦ J ♦ AKQ765 ♣ 10984 ♣ 52 </p> <p> ♠ QJ32 ♥ KJ109 ♦ 9 ♣ AK76 </p> | <p><i>Board 2 Talk : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</i></p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1 ♦⁽¹⁾</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♥</td> <td>2/3 ♦</td> <td>??</td> </tr> </table> <p>(1) Could open 2 ♣ but might prefer a bit more texture to the diamond suit (and may not like rebidding the space-consuming 3 ♦)</p> <p>This is the sort of hand on which the responder (to the doubler) has to be inventive. With 1N showing 7-10 and a pass as good as promising that 1 ♦ will be defeated (it won't) North bids his 3card heart suit. East is on very safe ground if he bids 2 ♦ (an eighteen count but opposite a partner who has shown no life) but 3 ♦ is a little risky.</p> <p>If East bids 2 ♦ South is sure to be bid 2 ♥ and that will be precarious. After the event, South will have been pleased if East managed a 3 ♦ call as he'd be off the hook.</p> <p>A good demonstration of the flexibility of takeout doubles but that their use doesn't solve all problems.</p> | West | North | East | South | | | 1 ♦ ⁽¹⁾ | X | Pass | 1 ♥ | 2/3 ♦ | ?? |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 ♦ ⁽¹⁾ | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 1 ♥ | 2/3 ♦ | ?? | | | | | | | | | | |