

The Double of 1NT and how to get out of it

(Revision)

What do we need to double?

North	East	South	West
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1NT	X		
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To double a 1NT opening bid we need to have more points than the 1NT bidder.

The double of 1NT is intended as primarily a **penalty** double and partner is usually expected to leave it and not take-out.

To double it therefore we should have at least a good 15 points (and preferably more).

Ideally we should have a decent suit to lead against the 1NT.

♠ K J 4

♥ A Q T 4

♦ A J T

♣ K 5 2

Double. You have 18 points and although no great suit to lead you are sitting behind the 1NT bidder.

♠ A J 4

♥ Q T 4

♦ K Q J T 7

♣ K 5

Double. You have 16 points and a good diamond suit to lead.

North	East	South	West
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1NT	Pass	Pass	X
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Because you are sitting under the 1NT bidder, here it is advisable to have slightly more points to double, particularly if you have no great suit to lead.

♠ K J 4

♥ A Q

♦ K Q J 7 3

♣ Q T 8

Double. You have 18 points and a good diamond suit to lead

♠ A 8 4

♥ A 6 3

♦ K 9 7

♣ K Q 8 4

Probably best to pass this - a relatively poor 16 points and not a particularly good club suit to lead (particularly when it is round to the opening bidder).

What should opener's partner do if 1NT is doubled?

North	East	South	West
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1NT	X	?	
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With a balanced 8 points or more you can afford to pass, hoping partner will make the contract. With less than this and a suit to take out into use an exit transfer (bid the suit below the one you have).

♠ 4 2

♥ Q T 9 7 6 2

♦ 5 3 2

♣ 7 6

With this hand bid 2♦ which is a transfer to 2♥

♠ Q 4

♥ J 7 6

♦ 5 4 2

♣ K T 7 6 2

With this hand redouble, which is a transfer to 2♣

What should the doubler's partner bid if there is a pass from 1NT bidder's partner?

North	East	South	West
1NT	×	Pass	?

If you can leave the double in (by passing) it is usually best to do so.

If you have at least five points then your side has the majority of the points and the strong hand is sat behind the 1NT bidder. Even if you have less than five points partner may be able to take 1NT off on his own.

If you do decide to take the double out it will be because you have a very weak hand and a suit to bid. Your bid will be effectively a "weak take-out"

♠ J 8 4 2

♥ 8 7 3

♦ 8 5 4

♣ 7 4 2

Pass and hope! You don't like it, but if you bid your side may well be doubled and concede a large penalty. Maybe partner can beat 1NT doubled in his own hand. If it makes, too bad!

♠ 8 4 3 2

♥ 3 2

♦ 9 5

♣ Q 9 8 7 2

Bid 2♣. The enemy contract may well make, but facing 16+ points your club contract may make too. Even if partner has little support (and he may not be balanced) this is may well be better than defending 1NT doubled.