

PLAYING TOO QUICKLY

		653	DEALER – 1 Diamond		
		Q 3		2 Diamonds	
		AK10764		3 Hearts	
		KQ			
KQ84				AJ72	
9876	PASS			J10	PASS
82	PASS			QJ9	PASS
1032				9765	PASS

109	
AK542	1 Heart
53	3 Clubs
AJ84	4 Hearts

South could have temporized with 3 spades as a last-ditch effort to reach 3 NT. Based on the bidding North was not likely to have more than 1 spade stopper.

Lead: Spade King, three rounds of spades, forcing declarer to ruff. Plan your play!

		543			
		52	3 NT		
		KQJ105			
		QJ10			
J9				10876	
Q109				J843	PASS
762	PASS			A98	
K9732				86	

AKQ2	
AK76	DEALER – 2 NT
43	
A54	

It's acceptable to open 1 NT or 2 NT with a small doubleton. A good partner will have strength in that suit.

West leads the 3 of clubs, you play the 10 from dummy, East plays the 6, Plan your play!

THIS DOUBLE HAS A MESSAGE

	A852	1 Spade		
	684	2 NT (11pts or good 10 to bad 12)		
	AK6	PASS		
	J105			
76			KQ1094	
KJ1052	PASS		93	PASS
J543	PASS		982	PASS
94	PASS		A83	*DOUBLE
	J3			
	AQ7	DEALER – 1 Club		
	Q107	1 NT		
	KQ762	3 NT	All Pass	

Why is East doubling 3 NT after neither W or E have bid? S opened 1 club, N responded 1 Spade, and EAST DID NOT BID. S rebid 1 NT, (balanced 12-14 HCP and no 4 card spade support).

Double is certainly not T.O., can't be negative or support double, since you haven't bid.

It's saying East thinks you can beat the contract, but how and why? N-S have shown about 24-26 HCP between them, you, West, have 5, leaves East with 9-10 HCP's.

How can East be doubling 3 NT? If East was strong in one of the unbid suits, he/she would Surely have bid 2 diamonds, or 2 hearts over 1 spade.

The only thing which makes sense is that East has very good spades behind the spade responder. He's now sending you the message that if you make your opening lead, lead a spade, it will set up his suit. Partner leads the spade 7, win the Q, play K (dropping declarer's J) or switch to the 9 of hearts – declarer can never make 3 NT after the opening spade lead. Without the double, partner would have led the J of hearts.

Two things to warn you about. Firstly, don't do this unless your suit is VERY GOOD and you need it led. Secondly, be careful when the opponents bid a more "confident 3 NT."

4 MOST COMMON DOUBLES and the messages they give to partner:

1. Takeout Doubles, give partner the message to pick a suit
2. Negative Doubles, partner has opened and the opponent has interfered
3. Support Doubles showing 3 card support for his response when opponent interferes
4. Lead Directing Doubles, gives partner the message that you hold the "artificial" suit which the opponent bid in front of you.