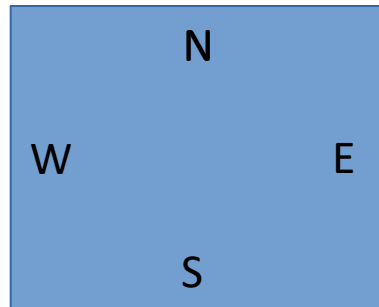


# Lead Directing Doubles



**+ Know your Limits**



North  
1H

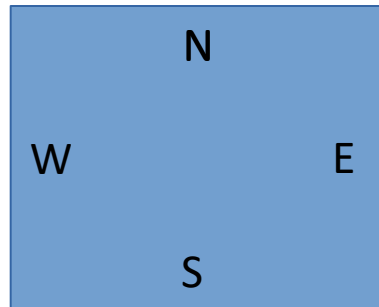
South  
?

♠ Q 9 7 2

♥ K 6 4 3

♦ Q 9 5

♣ 10 5



North  
1H

South  
2H

♠ Q 9 7 2

♥ K 6 4 3

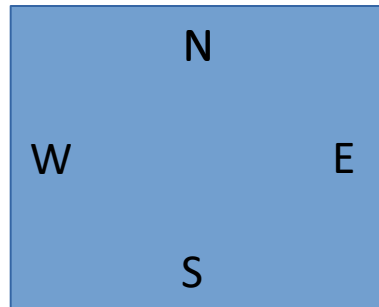
♦ Q 9 5

♣ 10 5

South says 2H showing four card support and 6-9 points.

With four card support in the major raise immediately. Do not show the spade suit.

Different if you have four card support for a minor – then show next higher up suit if you have one.



North  
1H

South  
?

♠ A Q 4

♥ 8 6 5 2

♦ K 9 3 2

♣ Q 5



North  
1H

South  
?

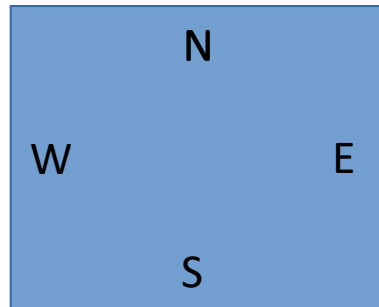
♠ A Q 4

♥ 8 6 5 2

♦ K 9 3 2

♣ Q 5

South says 3H showing four card support and 10-12 points.



North  
1C  
1S

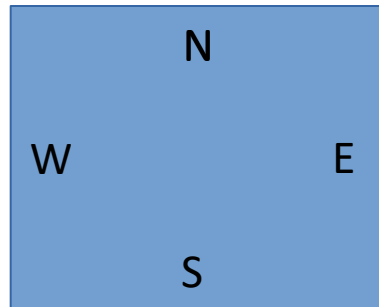
South  
1H  
?

♠ Q 5 2

♥ A J 10 3

♦ 9 5

♣ K 10 3 2



North	South
1C	1H
1S	3C

♠ Q 5 2  
♥ A J 10 3  
♦ 9 5  
♣ K 10 3 2

Even though this is not a direct raise the limit raise is still applicable.

Here, South says 3C showing four card support and 10-12 points.  
Because the raise is in the minor there is an inference that South is weak in Diamonds as she may have said 2NT (or Fourth Suit Forcing) with any values in diamonds.



♠ K Q 5 4 2

♥ A J

♦ K 5

♣ J 10 3 2

North

1C

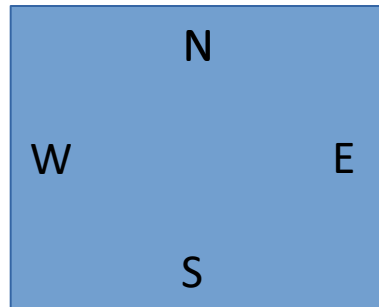
1NT

South

1S

?





♠ K Q 5 4 2

♥ A J

♦ K 5

♣ J 10 3 2

North	South
1C	1S
1NT	3C
3...	

When opener has rebid NT showing a hand with closely defined limits then limit raises in a suit no longer apply.

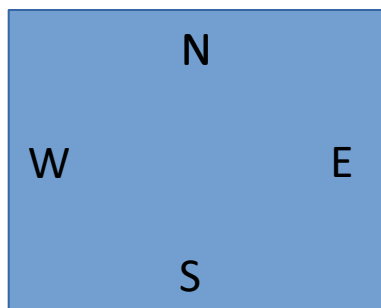
In this instance South is hoping to hear 3S from partner..

Note that in the sequence above if South had a completely different hand then a bid of 2D or 2H would show a weak two suited hand.

A jump to three in another suit would be forcing.

Lead  
Directing  
Doubles

♠ 5 4 2  
 ♥ A 5  
 ♦ 8 3 2  
 ♣ K Q J 10 4



North	East	South	West
1NT	P	2C*	Dbl

\*Stayman

What is a Lead Directing Double?

It is most commonly used as a double of a conventional bid to suggest (strongly suggest!) that partner leads that suit.

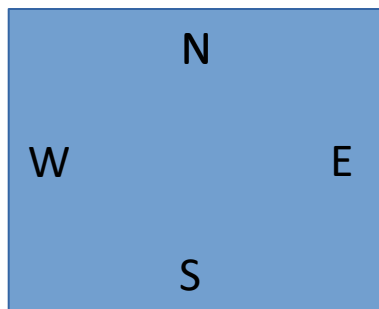
There is obviously no point in doubling 2C for penalties because the opponents are not going to play in 2C. So a double can be used as lead directing. Otherwise double is just a redundant call!

♠ 10 5 2

♥ A K J 10 8

♦ J 6

♣ 9 4 2



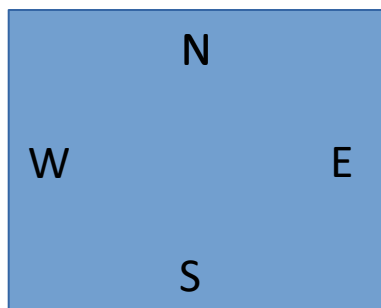
North	East	South	West
1NT	P	2H*	Dbl

\*Transfer to Spades

The above shows an example where the opponents bid 2H as a transfer and West doubles to say “lead a Heart please”

For this double you should have a good suit - it could be a four card suit (KQJ10 for instance).

♠ 9 3 2  
 ♥ 10 9 2  
 ♦ A Q J 10  
 ♣ 9 6 3

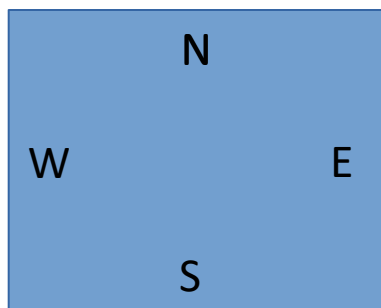


North	East	South	West
2NT	P	3D*	Dbl

\*Transfer to Hearts

I suggest you double with the West hand.  
 Without the double (possibly against 3NT if that's  
 where opponents settle) partner might, hypothetically  
 underlead a ♠K or ♣K hoping you will have high cards  
 to help – but they'll be disappointed!

♠ 4 2  
 ♥ A 8 5 3 2  
 ♦ Q 10 8  
 ♣ K J 5



North	East	South	West
2NT	P	3H*	?

\*Transfer to Spades

What call do you think West should make?

♠ 4 2  
 ♥ A 8 5 3 2  
 ♦ Q 10 8  
 ♣ K J 5



North	East	South	West
2NT	P	3H*	?

\*Transfer to Spades

I suggest West should pass. Let your partner lead their best suit. The point is that you would be happy if partner leads from their best suit.

Even with low cards in diamonds and clubs then best to pass. The suit is not really good enough.

What other conventions could you use a lead Directing Double against?

♠ K 4 3  
♥ 5 4 2  
♦ 7 3  
♣ K Q 10 5 3



North	East	South	West
1H	P	1S	P
2D	P	3C*	?

\*Fourt Suit Forcing (FSF)

Here West can double the Fourth Suit Forcing bid to suggest partner leads that suit.



# The Negative Inference!

North	East	South	West
1H	P	1S	P
2D	P	3C*	P
3NT	P	P	P



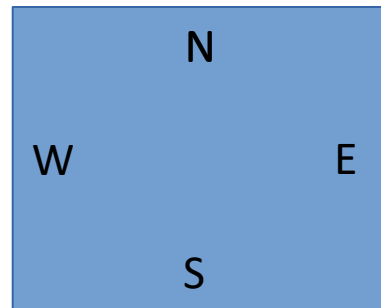
♠ 8 4  
 ♥ K J 7  
 ♦ Q 10 8 7 4  
 ♣ 6 4 3

\*Fourt Suit Forcing (FSF)

The auction is similar to that on the previous slide. Often against a NT contract you would lead, either the unbid suit, or the suit where opponents used FSF because it suggests it's their weakest suit.

Here though, you only have a small doubleton ♣ plus there is an additional negative inference that partner doesn't have a good holding in ♣s because they didn't double to suggest you lead that suit.

North	East	South	West
1H	P	1S	P
2D	P	3C*	P
3NT	P	P	P



♠ 8 4 2  
 ♥ K J 7  
 ♦ Q 10 8 7 4  
 ♣ 6 4

\*Four Suit Forcing (FSF)

So if East isn't going to lead a club then what?

The diamond lead is actually a potentially good lead regardless. Where declarer probably has a four card suit in a suit they have bid (as in this auction) then with a good suit - with plenty of stuffing - it often turns out to be a good lead.

I've digressed to opening leads !

# The Lightner Double

♠ 10 8 5 3 2

♥ A 8 4

♦

♣ J 8 7 6 3



North	East	South	West
1H	P	2D	P
4D	P	4NT*	P
5H**	P	6H	DBL***

\* Blackwood

\*\* Two Aces

\*\*\* The Lightner Double

North's raise to 4D is a slam try – not a limit bid.

South checks for Aces and goes back to Hearts rather than Diamonds.

West's double says "Dear partner, I have a void. You need to make an unusual lead – try to work out which suit I'm likely to be void in"



Any questions on this talk, or anything else (just bridge related that is, I don't give marital advice etc...)

But including Bridge laws and ethics, please email Jim Tudor at:

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