



## Replying to partner's take out double

Use the level of your bid to show your strength. If you have more than 9 HCP reply as though partner has opened your best suit.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>West</u>
1♦	X	P	3♠	♠ A 9 7 6 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ A Q J

A one level up reply indicates you have only bid because you were forced to, it should warn partner you are weak.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>West</u>
1♦	X	P	1♠	♠ J 9 7 6 ♥ 3 2 ♦ Q 4 3 2 ♣ 10 9 2



# BC L01 Doubles and Redoubles NOTES

## Responding to Opponents' Double for Take Out

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	Partner opens one of suit, and then Right-Hand Opponent doubles for take- out, showing opening values; shortage of the bid suit; and support for any of the other three.
1♥	X	?		

## S.t.r.e.t.c.h Response

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	X	3♥	

With support in partner's suit, responder will raise to an "extra" level. North must devalue partner's response by one level when considering a re-bid.

### South

♠ A 10  
♥ Q J 8 4  
♦ 10 9 8 7  
♣ J 3 2



## BC L01 Doubles and Redoubles NOTES

### Redouble to show points but no fit

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	X	XX	

However, with no fit 9+ HCP responder re-doubles inviting partner to show a second suit. This call puts great pressure on West to come up with a bid, quite possibly with very few points.

If partner bids again, it should provide enough information to decide on the next step. This is sometimes known as "BoP" (Balance of Points).

#### South

♠	A 10 8 4
♥	Q J
♦	K Q 9 7
♣	J 3 2



## When RHO overcalls - the Negative Double

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	1♠	?	

The Negative Double (sometimes known as the "Sputnik" Double) is a

useful tool in competitive auctions. It is used when your partner has opened a suit, and the opponents make a suit overcall in the direct position.

### Negative Double

Sometimes you don't hold partner's suit, or the overcalled suit. Perhaps you have the other two suits.

With suitable values to respond, the overcall has given you an opportunity.

You have an extra call available to you: the double. This is really a special kind of take out double.

It shows the two unbid suits and so tells partner what kind of hand you have.

### South

♠ K 2  
 ♥ K J 10 8  
 ♦ 8 7  
 ♣ 9 8 7 6 5



# BC L01 Doubles and Redoubles NOTES

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	1♠	X	

If responder doubles the suit overcall it shows:  
 enough high card points to reply (generally 6-10); and  
 at least four cards in the other two suits, especially one or  
 both un-bid major(s).

It allows responder to call with relatively few points or a  
 flattish hand, or both. It doesn't use up bidding space, so  
 opener has the maximum re-bidding opportunities.

## Stolen Bid

(Some players use such a double to  
 show that East has "taken their bid".  
 You cannot have this agreement and  
 play negative doubles. However, if  
 you play negative doubles and South  
 has cover in East's suit, South can  
 consider a bid of No Trumps.)

### South

K J 10 8  
 K 2  
 8 7  
 9 8 7 6 5

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	1♠	1NT	



# BC L01 Doubles and Redoubles NOTES

## High Card Point count for the negative double

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	The point count choice should be made according to the level the auction has reached so far. This auction is still at the one level, so South is showing at least six points.
1♣	1♠	X		

If the auction has got to the two level, responder should have at least nine, or a quality eight points.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	2♣	X	

### South

It's especially good to be able to tolerate partner re-bidding their suit – they often do!

K 10 8 7  
K 3 2  
A 8 7 2  
9 8

With a much stronger hand, perhaps 11 or more, you will bid instead of doubling.

### South

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	2♣	3NT	

K 10 8 7  
K 3 2  
A 8 7  
A J 8



## BC L01 Doubles and Redoubles NOTES

When does the negative double become a penalty double?

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	3♠	X	

Many pairs play that the double is a negative or sputnik double when the overcall is up to and including 3♠.

Responder can clearly show a five card or longer suit

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	1♠	2♥	

If responder doesn't use a negative double, it's to show at least a five-card suit, or to show strength.

This bid of 2♥ must show at least five cards in hearts. This can really help find an eight-card fit where opener only has three in the suit bid.

South

K 10  
K 8 7 3 2  
9 8 7  
Q J 8



## BC L01 Doubles and Redoubles NOTES

Is a negative double forcing?

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	2♣	X	P
?			

Basically yes. As with any take-out double, responder is advertising interest in the un-bid suits.

Responder is therefore not going to be strong in the overcalled suit and is not suggesting defending that contract.

North

♠ K Q J 2  
♥ Q J 10 8 7  
♦ 8 2  
♣ A 7

This North  
Should bid 2♠.

However, in rare circumstances, opener may judge that such a defence is the best tactic, and “convert” the negative double to a penalty double by passing.

North

♠ K 2  
♥ Q J 10 8 7  
♦ 8  
♣ A K 7 6 5

This North might  
well pass.

Be careful though, this is unusual!





### Lead Directing Double

Occasionally you get a chance to exploit an unnatural bid by your opponents.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	P	2♣	

North has opened the bidding with a 12-14 HCP, and his partner, South has responded with a 2♣ bid announced as Stayman.

West has a good holding in Clubs and can win early tricks.

The 2♣ bid is not going to be passed by North, even if doubled. So West can use a double to ask East for a Club lead.

West

♠	J 10
♥	J 8 4
♦	10 9 8 7
♣	A K 3 2

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

Note this double is not for take-out or for penalties but is understood by all players and is not alerted.



## Re-opening Double

The Reopening double comes into play when an opening of 1 of suit:

- is overcalled by another suit in the direct position and
- is passed by the other two players.

The two passes put the opener into the Protective Position.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	1♠	Pass	Pass
?			

Possibly South cannot bid because there are not enough points in the hand.

However, this South cannot double because the “negative” double would show four hearts, and hint at four diamonds.

He could consider 1NT, but North may not have any cover in the red suits either. By passing he invites North to consider a “reopening double”.



# BC L01 Doubles and Redoubles NOTES

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl			

## North

♠ -  
 ♥ A 4 3 2  
 ♦ K J 9 8  
 ♣ K Q J 10 9

North's "re-opening" double shows a five-card opening suit, shortage of spades, and invites partner to bid his best suit.

With 5 spades, some High Card Points, and knowing his partner has an opening hand South passes the double "converting the double" to penalties. This is a great way of exploiting weak overcalls by the opponents.

## South

♠ Q 10 5 3 2  
 ♥ 8 6 5  
 ♦ A Q 10  
 ♣ 4 2

If South doesn't hold the overcalled suit, South can choose between supporting the five-card opening suit or with a fit in either un-bid suit, South might bid that suit.

This is a particularly good defence to weak jump overcalls. Players can agree that a pass by responder forces opener to double, intending to pass it out. Could be expensive for overcaller!