

## §44. Negative Doubles Part 2.

**By the end of this chapter you should understand the following terms:**

**Reopening Double:** A take-out Double made by the opening bidder after an overcall has been made to his left followed by two Passes.

**Trump Stack:** Having length (at least four good cards, often more) in a suit overcalled, usually by your right-hand opponent.

**Penalty Pass:** Passing partner's take-out Double, converting it into a penalty Double.

In a previous chapter (§25) we looked at overcalls. One of the points made there was that overcalls are dangerous on *misfit* hands. This chapter is concerned with how to gain rewards by extracting large penalties from injudicious or unlucky overcalls by the opponents. For instance, imagine you are sitting South with the cards of Example 1.

**Ex 1.**

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

Suppose your partner opened 1♥. With 9 points you can presume that your side has the balance of the points (perhaps only marginally so); in any case, you would be prepared to make a minimum response of 1♠.

Now, before you can make that response, just suppose that your right-hand opponent overcalled 2♦. What would be your thought processes?

Well, this deal now has all the hallmarks of a **misfit**. You have little liking for Hearts and it is clear that you have a *trump stack* when it comes to Diamonds. Now, the first rule of misfits is to allow the opponents to play the hand. Secondly, you might ask yourself how the opponents can possibly make eight tricks in Diamonds when your side has the balance of points and you have a nasty surprise for the enemy in the guise of those long Diamonds. The answer is, of course, that they can't.

Long, long ago it was easy to handle such matters. Holding such a hand a player would Double loudly, shut off his deaf aid and detach a card from his hand, "My lead, partner?"\*

Nowadays, however, as we have discovered in Part 1, a Double would be for take-out, not for penalties. You might Double 2♦ (to show four Spades) but that would pass up the chance of extracting 500-800 points from a Doubled contract. And it is worth pointing out that it is in this area of the game that penalties – big, fat, juicy penalties – are most frequently found. Few players get rich by Doubling the opponents after a sequence such as 1♠ – 3♠ – 4♠ when they (should) know what they are doing.

How, then, might you get a *penalty Double* into the picture?

Firstly, here are some rules to help you recognise when to Double the opponents.

1. You are sitting over an overcalling opponent with length and strength in his suit (a *trump stack*). That is: you have a nasty surprise for the enemy;
2. Your side has the balance of the points;
3. The hand looks a *misfit* (you are short in your partner's suit and long in the enemy's).

Example 1 fits into all of these categories. The full deal is below:

<b>Hand 1</b>		♠ K 7 4	
East plays in 2♦ Doubled.		♥ A J 10 8 2	
South leads the ♥Q.		♦ 6	
		♣ A 10 7 6	
♠ Q 10 6 3	N	♠ A 9	
♥ K 9 4	W	♥ 7 6 5	
♦ 5 3	E	♦ A J 9 7 4	
♣ 9 5 4 3	S	♣ K Q 8	
		♠ J 8 5 2	
		♥ Q 3	
		♦ K Q 10 8 2	
		♣ J 2	

Here, East would get slaughtered in 2♦ Doubled, losing three Hearts, a Spade, a Club and four Diamonds. If vulnerable, that's a penalty of 1100 points. Note that North-South can make little and weren't going to bid beyond a part-score. *But how do North-South get at East and Double him?*

\* *Not to be taken seriously. All bids at bridge should be made without giveaway mannerisms.*

The answer is that South should **Pass** over 2♦ (with no undue hesitation or giveaway squirms, please!) and that should float round to North. At this point North, rather than capitulate and Pass or weakly repeat his Hearts, should produce a *reopening Double*. This, as is the case with most low-level Doubles, is for take-out but allows South to make a *Penalty Pass* if he has a *trump stack*, thus converting a take-out Double into a penalty Double.

This manoeuvre, Passing with a trump stack and subsequently Passing a reopening Double, is a common play in the game.

Hand 2 shows another deal with precisely the same theme.

<b>Hand 2</b>		♠ A K J 5 4	
East plays in 2♥ Doubled.		♥ 3	
South leads the ♠6.		♦ Q J 9	
		♣ Q 10 6 4	
♠ Q 8 3 2	N	♠ 10 9 7	
♥ 5	W	♥ K J 9 8 6 2	
♦ 8 5 3 2	E	♦ A 7	
♣ K 8 5 3	S	♣ A 2	
		♠ 6	
		♥ A Q 10 7 4	
		♦ K 10 6 4	
		♣ J 9 7	

North opens 1♠ and East (the poor sucker – if we may be permitted to use that phrase) dives into shark-infested waters with a 2♥ overcall. South Passes serenely and North reopens the bidding with a take-out Double. South happily Passes that and West, aware of his probable fate, has nowhere to go except his bank manager for a sizeable loan. The carnage in 2♥ Doubled is simply too ghastly to relate.

It is important to lay down a few ground-rules for Doubling the opponents at a low level. Whilst taking large penalties is very desirable, it must be borne in mind that if the opponents were to make their contract it would be very profitable for them. If, for example, you Doubled the opponents in 2♥ and they were to make the contract, the 60 points they would have scored would be doubled to 120 points – in other words you would have *Doubled the opponents into game*. That would be an expensive mistake...

Examples 3, 4 and 5 show hands after partner has opened the bidding with 1♠ and your right-hand opponent has overcalled 2♥.

Would you Pass, awaiting a reopening take-out Double, and then Pass for penalties?

<p><b>Ex 3.</b></p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ K J 9 5 ♦ A 10 5 3 ♣ Q 10 5 2</p> <p>After 1♠ and an overcall of 2♥ you would Pass, hoping for a reopening Double from partner. With the hand a <b>misfit</b> you would Pass the Double.</p>	<p><b>Ex 4.</b></p> <p>♠ Q 9 2 ♥ A 6 4 3 ♦ Q J 8 2 ♣ 9 8</p> <p>After 1♠ and an overcall of 2♥ you would raise to 2♠. The hand is <i>not</i> a misfit and your trumps are nowhere near good enough to defend 2♥x.</p>	<p><b>Ex 5.</b></p> <p>♠ A J 10 6 ♥ Q 10 7 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ K 7 4</p> <p>After 1♠ and an overcall of 2♥ you would raise to 4♠. With four-card Spade support you should just take the money by bidding your game.</p>
---	---	---

Examples 6, 7 and 8 show various opening bids. In each case, there is an overcall followed by two Passes. Would you make a reopening take-out Double?

<p><b>Ex 6.</b></p> <p>♠ A Q 9 8 5 ♥ A 7 5 4 ♦ 3 ♣ K 10 7</p> <p>After opening 1♠ and seeing left-hand opponent overcall 2♦, you would make a take-out Double if that were Passed round to you. You'd Pass if the overcall were 2♣ or 2♥, though, as it would be improbable that partner had a <i>trump stack</i> in either case.</p>	<p><b>Ex 7.</b></p> <p>♠ 10 4 3 ♥ K 9 6 2 ♦ A K Q 10 6 ♣ Q</p> <p>After opening 1♦ and seeing left-hand opponent overcall 2♣, you would make a take-out Double if that were Passed round to you. The basic principle is that you should reopen the bidding when you are short in left-hand opponent's suit.</p>	<p><b>Ex 8.</b></p> <p>♠ K J 7 6 2 ♥ Q J 10 8 3 ♦ 9 ♣ A J</p> <p>After opening 1♠ and seeing left-hand opponent overcall either 2♣ or 2♦, you would bid 2♥ if that were Passed round to you. Although short in the enemy's suit, you have an unsuitable hand for defence. You have good <i>offence</i>, poor <i>defence</i>.</p>
---	---	--

## §44. Quiz A on Negative Doubles Part 2

In each case you are **South**

What is your best bid on these hands?

1.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
		1♣	?

♠ K Q J 7 4  
♥ 9 3  
♦ 6 4  
♣ A 8 7 4

2.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
		1♠	?

♠ K 9 7  
♥ A Q  
♦ Q 5 4  
♣ Q 10 6 5 2

3.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
		1♠	?

♠ A 5 3  
♥ K Q J 10 7 4  
♦ 9 6 3  
♣ 8

4.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	?

♠ J 9 5  
♥ Q J 9 7 5  
♦ A J 8 3  
♣ J

5.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♣	?

♠ 8 4  
♥ A Q 10 6  
♦ K 10 8 5 3  
♣ 10 9

6.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♦	?

♠ 8 4  
♥ A Q 10 6  
♦ K 10 8 5 3  
♣ 10 9

7.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♥	?

♠ J  
♥ K J 9 5  
♦ A Q 9 5  
♣ 10 8 5 3

8.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♣	?

♠ J  
♥ K J 9 5  
♦ A Q 9 5  
♣ 10 8 5 3

9.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♦	?

♠ K 8 4  
♥ J 6  
♦ A 9 7 6  
♣ J 8 6 4

10.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♦	?

♠ 9  
♥ A J 9 5  
♦ A Q 9 5  
♣ 10 8 5 3

## §44. Quiz A on Negative Doubles Part 2

### Answers

1.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	1♣	?

♠ K Q J 7 4  
♥ 9 3  
♦ 6 4  
♣ A 8 7 4

**1♠.** An obvious one-level overcall. You would not have opened the bidding with this 10-point hand, but the overcall is essential. If partner is on lead (to 3NT, say) you'd crave a Spade lead. Also, it is written in the good book, *He who hath Spades ruleth the auction.*

2.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
		1♠	?

♠ K 9 7  
♥ A Q  
♦ Q 5 4  
♣ Q 10 6 5 2

**Pass.** Not even close. Your suit is far too poor for a two-level overcall, the bid has minimal pre-emptive value and a tatty minor-suit can be easily out-bid by the opponents or Doubled for gazillions. Clubs? Who needs 'em? **You can't fight tanks with toy soldiers.**

3.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
		1♠	?

♠ A 5 3  
♥ K Q J 10 7 4  
♦ 9 6 3  
♣ 8

**2♥.** Yes, only 10 points (so, some may think this a weaker hand than that of Q2). Here, though, you have an excellent six-card suit with considerable *offensive strength*. Put another way, you have a substantial number of *playing tricks*. A clear-cut overcall.

4.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	?

♠ J 9 5  
♥ Q J 9 7 5  
♦ A J 8 3  
♣ J

**Pass.** This is a classic *Trap Pass*, hoping partner can reopen the auction with a take-out Double. Should he do so, you'd make a *Penalty Pass*, converting the Double into one for penalties. East has picked an unfortunate moment to enter the auction with Hearts.

5.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♣	?

♠ 8 4  
♥ A Q 10 6  
♦ K 10 8 5 3  
♣ 10 9

**Double.** This (and Q1, Q2 and Q3) are interlopers from previous chapters. The first three first appeared in §25 and this one in Part 1 on negative Doubles. Here you are showing four Hearts and a desire to compete the auction. You are not guaranteeing Diamonds.

6.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♦	?

♠ 8 4  
♥ A Q 10 6  
♦ K 10 8 5 3  
♣ 10 9

**Pass.** Now the enemy have bid your long suit and the hand appears to be a *misfit*. With a *trump stack* your best bet appears to be to extract a penalty, and to do that you should make a *Trap Pass*, awaiting a reopening Double from North. You intend to Pass that.

7.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♥	?

♠ J  
♥ K J 9 5  
♦ A Q 9 5  
♣ 10 8 5 3

**Pass.** You have a strong holding in Hearts, the suit bid on your right. Thus, you have a nasty surprise for East. With the hand a likely *misfit* you should aim to defend rather than declare, and the best way to do that is to Pass now and to Pass again over a reopening Double.

8.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♣	?

♠ J  
♥ K J 9 5  
♦ A Q 9 5  
♣ 10 8 5 3

**Double.** Your Clubs are far too feeble to consider defending 2♣ Doubled, so this hand is unsuitable for the tactic of making a *Trap Pass* and Passing a reopening Double. Best is to show four Hearts via a negative Double so that you can compete the auction.

9.

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♦	?

♠ K 8 4  
♥ J 6  
♦ A 9 7 6  
♣ J 8 6 4

**2♠.** You can't allow the enemy to steal the deal in 2♦ but your Diamonds are not good enough to Double them in that venture. Also, the hand is not a *misfit* when you have three-card Spade support. Give North a gentle raise – it may be just what he wants to hear.

10.\*

N		E
W		S

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♦	?

♠ 9  
♥ A J 9 5  
♦ A Q 9 5  
♣ 10 8 5 3

**4♥.** No beating about the bush here – just bid what you expect partner to make. True, you “only” have 11 points, but the singleton Spade must count for extras as must the well-placed ♦A Q. Passing, and playing for a penalty off 2♦ Doubled, would be a big mistake.

## §44. Quiz B on Negative Doubles Part 2

In each case you are **South**

What is your best bid on these hands?

1.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	1♥
			?

♠ 9  
♥ AK1064  
♦ KQ98  
♣ J108

2.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♠
			?

♠ AQ984  
♥ A1075  
♦ QJ8  
♣ J

3.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♥
			?

♠ 9  
♥ AK1064  
♦ KQ98  
♣ J108

4.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♠
			?

♠ AQ984  
♥ A1075  
♦ K9  
♣ 108

5.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♥
			?

♠ A98  
♥ KQJ1096  
♦ K872  
♣ None

6.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
2♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
			?

♠ AJ1086  
♥ KQJ106  
♦ 2  
♣ J10

7.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
			?

♠ AJ96  
♥ AJ8  
♦ K74  
♣ K108

8.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	?

♠ 84  
♥ AQ106  
♦ K10853  
♣ 109

9.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

♠ 6  
♥ QJ108  
♦ K10832  
♣ A75

10.\*

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
2♥	Dble	Pass	1♠
			?

♠ AQ984  
♥ A1095  
♦ K9  
♣ J10

## §44. Quiz B on Negative Doubles Part 2

### Answers

1.

N		E
W		S

♠ 9  
♥ A K 10 6 4  
♦ K Q 9 8  
♣ J 10 8

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	1♥ ?

**Double.** A classic, textbook reopening Double. Partner may well have a *trump stack* in Spades and be longing to defend 1♣ Doubled. You have the ideal shape for a take-out Double and, in any case, it generally pays to take action when short in the opponents' suit.

2.

N		E
W		S

♠ A Q 9 8 4  
♥ A 10 7 5  
♦ Q J 8  
♣ J

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♠ ?

**Double.** Another reopening Double – vastly superior to 2♥ or a craven Pass. It is entirely possible that North is stuffed full of Clubs, in which case the hand would be a *misfit* and 2♣ Doubled would prove disastrous for West. If not, North has other places to play in.

3.

N		E
W		S

♠ 9  
♥ A K 10 6 4  
♦ K Q 9 8  
♣ J 10 8

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♥ ?

**Pass.** Double is extremely dangerous – just where are the Spades? If North has them, he'll bid them; if East-West have them they may move from a poor spot (Clubs) to a good one (Spades). It is highly unlikely that partner has a *trump stack* when you have ♣J 10 8.

4.

N		E
W		S

♠ A Q 9 8 4  
♥ A 10 7 5  
♦ K 9  
♣ 10 8

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♠ ?

**Double.** This may not be textbook (you'd prefer to be 5-4-3-1 as in Q2), but it is still a better call than 2♥. If North, holding a trump stack, Passes you'd be perfectly happy – if he bids 2♦, you'd bid 2♥ to suggest your actual shape. Double gives you two bites of the cherry.

5.

N		E
W		S

♠ A 9 8  
♥ K Q J 10 9 6  
♦ K 8 7 2  
♣ None

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♥ ?

**2♥.** You can't afford to allow West to steal the deal in 2♣, but a reopening Double is too dangerous with this hand type. Here, you have poor defensive prospects but good *offensive strength* (you have *playing strength* rather than top tricks). Forget those feeble Diamonds.

6.

N		E
W		S

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

West	North	East	South
2♦	Pass	Pass	1♠ ?

**2♥.** As in Q5, you can't afford to allow West to steal the deal in 2♦, but a reopening Double is inappropriate here. Again, you have *poor defensive potential* but *good offensive potential* (you expect to make a fair few tricks as declarer). 2♥ suggests 5-5 in the majors.

7.

N		E
W		S

♠ A J 9 6  
♥ A J 8  
♦ K 7 4  
♣ K 10 8

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠ ?

**Pass.** Surprising? Maybe, but consider the evidence. North can hardly have a trump stack, he has failed to bid 2♠ nor made a negative Double. What is the future of this hand? You surely can't make game, so may as well defend and hope to get a plus score that way.

8.

N		E
W		S

♠ 8 4  
♥ A Q 10 6  
♦ K 10 8 5 3  
♣ 10 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠ Dble	2♦ Pass	Pass ?

**Pass.** Gleefully. Whatever East has overcalled 2♦ on, this hand is going to come as a nasty shock to him. You made a Trap Pass over 2♦ in the hope North could oblige with a reopening Double and now he has done just that. Your side is more likely to make 2♦ than East.

9.

N		E
W		S

♠ 6  
♥ Q J 10 8  
♦ K 10 8 3 2  
♣ A 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠ 2♣	2♦ Pass	Pass ?

**Pass.** Regretfully. As in Q8 you made a Trap Pass over 2♦ in the hope North could oblige with a reopening Double. However, partner has shown a hand with good Spades but scant defence. With little future in the hand you may as well Pass, expecting 2♣ to make.

10.

N		E
W		S

♠ A Q 9 8 4  
♥ A 10 9 5  
♦ K 9  
♣ J 10

West	North	East	South
2♥	Dble	Pass	1♠ ?

**Pass.** This is an unusual situation, but a potentially profitable one. North has made a negative Double, showing values in the minors and a fair hand. Since your side has the balance of the points and the hand is a misfit, you should let West toil away in 2♥ Doubled.

## §44. Example hands 1 to 4.

**Hand 1** Love all, dealer North

♠ 4 2 ♥ 10 6 3 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ Q 10 9 6 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ A Q 10 8 6 ♥ J 9 4 2 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ K	♠ 3 ♥ A K 8 7 5 ♦ K Q 10 4 ♣ J 7 3
N	E						
W	S						
♠ K J 9 7 5 ♥ Q ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ A 8 5 4							

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass
1♠x by East		Opening lead: ♥Q	

North opens 1♥ and East has a perfectly respectable overcall of 1♠. However, today is not East-West's lucky day. North-South have their opponents on toast, with a vicious trump split and the balance of the points. South, with a *trump stack*, makes a smooth Pass over 1♠ (there is no percentage in bidding on misfit hands) and North reopens with a take-out Double after West Passes. South now happily converts the reopening Double by making a *Penalty Pass*, forcing East to toil away in the unpromising spot of 1♠ Doubled. That should lose three Hearts, two Diamonds, a Club and sundry trump tricks for a penalty of round about 500 points. Note that East has done little wrong but be unlucky.

**Hand 2** North-South game, dealer East

♠ J 5 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ 10 5 3 ♣ K 10 8 6 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ A Q 10 4 3 ♥ A 9 8 6 ♦ J 8 2 ♣ Q	♠ K 9 8 ♥ 10 7 4 3 ♦ 9 7 6 4 ♣ 9 2
N	E						
W	S						
♠ 7 6 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ A K Q ♣ A J 7 5 3							

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣?
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
2♣x by South		Opening lead: ♠J	

East opens 1♠ and South will probably, if unwisely, overcall 2♣. Two-level overcalls, especially in a minor-suit, really need a more robust suit than the one here, as this cautionary tale shows. West should Pass (don't bid on misfits!) and East should reopen with a take-out Double. As in Hand 1, West converts the take-out Double into a penalty Double by Passing and South has to play in a distinctly unpromising spot. After the ♠J lead this contract should lose three Spades and two Hearts before suffering the indignity of losing four trump tricks. That's a penalty of 1100 points for overcalling without due care and attention. There's little point in overcalling Spades with Clubs as you **can't fight tanks with toy soldiers**.

**Hand 3** East-West game, dealer South

♠ J 8 5 ♥ K 9 ♦ K Q 10 4 2 ♣ A 8 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ Q 6 4 ♥ Q 10 4 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 6 5 4 2	♠ 10 2 ♥ 6 5 3 ♦ A J 9 3 ♣ K Q 9 3
N	E						
W	S						
♠ A K 9 7 3 ♥ A J 8 7 ♦ 6 5 ♣ J 10							

West	North	East	South
2♦?	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♦x by West		Opening lead: ♠10	

A deal in similar vein to Hand 2. South opens 1♠ and West may feel entitled to enter the fray with 2♦ ("I had 13 points, partner!"). Overcalling at the two-level on 5-3-3-2 hands in a minor suit is unwise, especially when you have three weak cards in the suit bid on your right (as it means the enemy will have a good lead). Holding strong Diamonds, North should Pass (smoothly) and South should reopen with a take-out Double (a superior action to 2♥ – see Hand 6). North can make a Penalty Pass now, expecting (and achieving) a big penalty when his side were not about to make a game. The size of West's penalty for careless bidding will be around the 800 mark.

**Hand 4** Game all, dealer West

♠ A J 9 6 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ A J 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 10 3 ♥ Q 7 6 3 ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ 8 6 4 3	♠ K 8 4 ♥ J 2 ♦ A K 7 6 4 2 ♣ K 10
N	E						
W	S						
♠ Q 7 5 2 ♥ A 9 8 4 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 9 5 2							

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♦ by North		Opening lead: ♠10	

A deal that contrasts with the first three deals in this set. West opens 1♠ and North is entitled to overcall 2♦ with a good hand (14 points) and a six-card suit. East and South Pass and now it's up to West. Many would bid here, but that's not recommended. West is not short in Diamonds, so it's highly unlikely that East has a trump stack and is willing to Pass a reopening take-out Double. East didn't make a negative Double of 2♦, nor did he bid 2♠. He can't really have that much, and it doesn't look as though East-West can make a great deal – certainly not a game. If East has some bits and pieces 2♦ may fail; if he has a heap of tripe, bidding invites a big minus score. 2♦ scrapes home for North – East-West can make nothing.

## §44. Example hands 5 to 8.

**Hand 5** North-South game, dealer North

♠ 4 ♥ K J 9 5 ♦ K Q 9 5 ♣ J 10 5 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 8 7 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ J 10 7 2 ♣ Q 9 7 2	
N	E						
W	S						
♠ A 5 3 2 ♥ A Q 8 7 6 2 ♦ 4 ♣ A 6		♠ K Q J 10 9 6 ♥ None ♦ A 8 6 3 ♣ K 8 4					

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♠
2♠ by South		Opening lead: ♦4	

South opens 1♠ and West has an obvious 2♥ overcall. North, interested in penalising that, Passes and awaits partner's reopening take-out Double. No, not this time. South's hand has *playing strength* but little in the way of defence. For sure, South should bid (selling out to 2♥ would be craven) but this is not a suitable hand for a reopening Double. Instead, South should rebid his Spades, emphasising their length and strength, whilst telling his partner he has no interest in defending 2♥ Doubled. West should not bid again and North should also Pass, having been told that South's hand is mostly Spades. 2♠ is easy enough but note that 2♥ Doubled would have made.

**Hand 6** East-West game, dealer East

♠ Q 4 ♥ 4 ♦ A K 9 7 5 4 ♣ K 10 9 6	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 6 ♥ Q J 10 8 ♦ Q 10 8 3 2 ♣ A 7 5	
N	E						
W	S						
♠ A J 9 7 3 2 ♥ A K 9 7 3 ♦ None ♣ 4 3		♠ K 10 8 5 ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ J 6 ♣ Q J 8 2					

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♥ by West		Opening lead: ♦A	

West opens 1♠ with his interesting 6·5·0·2 pattern and sees North's 2♦ overcall come back round to him. East, having Passed 2♦ with a trump stack, is willing his partner to make a reopening Double as he expects 2♦ Doubled to cost North a fortune. Nope – it isn't right to defend on these two-suiters, the more so with a void trump. West's 2♥ reopening rebid shows a two-suiter, probably 5-5. With anything less (5-4 in the majors, say) he'd probably Double (see Hand 3). East now realises the hand is **not** a misfit, so raises Hearts and West is happy to go onto game. Ten tricks can be made easily enough on a crossruff.

**Hand 7** Game all, dealer South

♠ A 5 ♥ Q 4 ♦ A Q 10 7 5 3 ♣ J 9 5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 10 8 ♥ K 6 ♦ K J 9 8 2 ♣ A 7 4 2	
N	E						
W	S						
♠ K Q J 9 3 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K Q 6		♠ 7 6 4 2 ♥ J 10 9 8 7 3 ♦ None ♣ 10 8 3					

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
3NT by East		Opening lead:	

There are many interesting points on this deal. West has an obvious opening bid of 1♠ and North's 2♦ overcall with a six-card suit is respectable. East, with a trump stack, Passes and west makes a reopening take-out Double. East, naturally, makes a Penalty Pass, expecting a massive score to come his way. South, though, should *rescue* his side from disaster by bidding 2♥, following the principle that the weaker hand should declare trumps. Robbed of a big penalty East-West can only bid and make their vulnerable game now by declaring the laydown 3NT.

**Hand 8** Love all, dealer West

♠ 8 6 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ A ♣ K J 10 6 5 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 9 3 ♥ A Q 10 6 ♦ K 10 8 5 3 ♣ 7 4	
N	E						
W	S						
♠ A Q 7 5 2 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ A Q 8 3		♠ K J 10 4 ♥ J 9 5 4 2 ♦ J 9 7 6 ♣ None					

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	Pass		
2♣x by North		Opening lead: ♠9	

This deal shows another type of Penalty Pass. West opens 1♠ and North's 2♣ overcall can't be criticised. East has a textbook negative Double (promising four Hearts) and now West has to find a rebid. Well, with a robust opening bid and with the hand known to be a misfit, West does best to Pass, leaving North in 2♣. This is an unfortunate contract – East leads a Spade, won by the ♠Q. West switches to a Heart and East plays three rounds, West ruffing the last. West cashes the ♠A and plays another and this causes North all sorts of anguish. The likely outcome is three down for a loss of 500 points on a part-score deal. Note that this is pure bad luck for North. However, if you play well, you will meet many unlucky opponents