

Negative Double - by Ed L'Heureux

Reminder: Double of a 1 level or 2 level suit contract says: Partner, bid something. I have support for the unbid suits. (It is not not for penalty.)

Situation: Partner opens the bidding. Next opponent overcalls 1 or 2 of a suit. I am next to bid.

My Double says:

- **Enough points to respond:**
 - **6+** If partner can bid at the 1 level.
 - **8+** If forcing partner to bid at the 2 level.
 - **10+** If partner will likely have to bid at the 3 level.
- **Usually no support for partner's (opener's) suit.** Might have support for partner's minor but want to show a 4-card major. Remember: Best place to play is an 8 card major suit fit.
- **Have the 2 unbid suits:** 4 cards in each unbid suit. Might have only the 4-card major, not the other minor, and will raise partner's minor if there is no fit in the major.
- Partner: please bid whatever you think is best.

Do not make Negative Double with:

- **6+ points & 5 card suit you can bid at 1 level:** Bid the suit at the 1 level instead.
- **10+ points & 5 card suit you can bid at 1 or 2 level:** Bid the suit instead.
- **Support for partner's major:** Raise partner's major suit with support.
- **Less than 4 cards in an unbid major:** Bid No Trump if strong enough or pass.

Opener's Second Bid:

- **Rebid opening suit:** Shows 6+ card suit.
- **Bid an unbid suit:** One of the 2 unbid suits. Shows a fit with the negative doubler.
- **Bid No Trump:** Opponent's suit stopped. No desire to play in one of the unbid suits.
- **Pass:** 5-6 cards in opponent's suit, convert to penalty. (Rare)

Make Negative Double, then Bid a Suit:

- **Weak, to play:** Decent suit. Too weak to bid it the first time. Usually a 6+ card suit.

Neg X Showing Hearts: Partner: 1 minor. Opponent: 1S. I need 10+ points & 5+H to bid 2H.

- **Neg X:** Might have 5+ hearts but not the 10+ points needed to bid 2H.
- **Neg X:** Might have 10+ points but only 4 hearts, not the 5+ hearts needed to bid 2H.

Neg X Showing Spades: Nice bonus: Can tell partner whether I have 4 spades or 5+ spades.

- **Neg X:** Shows exactly 4 spades.
- **Bid 1S:** Shows 5+ spades.

Negative Double Examples: (Opponent bids shown in brackets. X is Double.)

1. **1C-(1D)-X:** Partner opens 1C. Opponent overcalls 1D. My double shows 4 hearts & 4 spades with 6+ points (since partner can bid at the 1 level).
2. **1D-(1H)-X:** Partner opens 1D. Opponent overcalls 1H. My double shows exactly 4 spades & 6+ points (since partner can bid 1S). I would bid 1S with 5+ spades. I might not have 4 clubs. If not, I should have support for diamonds so I can bid 2D if partner bids 2C.
3. **1C-(1H)-1S:** Partner opens 1C. Opponent overcalls 1H. My 1S promises 5+ spades. Partner can raise with only 3 spades. I would make a Neg X with only 4 spades.
4. **1D-(1S)-X:** Partner opens 1D. Opponent overcalls 1S. My double shows 4+ hearts & 8+ points (since partner must bid hearts at the 2 level). I need 10+ points and 5+ hearts to bid 2H, so I might have 5 hearts with 8-9 points or 4 hearts with 10+ points. If I do not have 4 clubs, I should have diamond support so I can bid 2D if partner bids 2C.
5. **1S-(2H)-X:** Partner opens 1S. Opponent overcalls 2H. My double shows 0-2 spades, both minors, 10+ points (partner will have to bid 3 of a minor). I should have at least 4 cards in each minor.
6. **1H-(1S)-X-(2S)-3H:** Partner opens 1H. Opponent overcalls 1S. I show both minors & 8+ points. Partner bids H again showing 6+ hearts. Partner bid at the 3 level. Might have extras or might be sacrificing for down 1. No way to know.
7. **1C-(1D)-X-(2D)-2H:** Partner opens 1C. Opponent overcalls 1D. My negative double shows 4 hearts, 4 spades, 6+ points. Partner has 4 hearts too, so bids 2H.
8. **1H-(1S)-X-(P)-1NT:** Partner opens 1H. Opponent overcalls 1S. My Neg X shows both minors & 8+ points. Partner's 1NT shows no interest in the minors & spades stopped.
9. **1C-(1S)-X-(P)-1NT-(P)-2H:** My Neg X shows 4+ H & 8+ points. Partner's 1NT denies 4 hearts, shows spade stopper. My 2H bid is to play; partner should pass. I have 6 hearts (or 5 very good hearts) with not enough points (less than 10) to bid 2H at my first turn.