

Responding to a Takeout Double

A low-level double by partner is a request for you to name your longest unbid suit. The most common situation is when an opponent has opened with a suit bid at the one or two level and you have a hand of opening bid strength and at least three card support for the other suits. As the partner of the doubler, you should first try to respond in a major suit. If you do not have a four-card major you can bid no trump with stoppers in the opponent's bid suit. If neither of those choices are available, you can bid a minor. The point is that you **MUST** bid something if your RHO passes.

Responses to a Takeout Double:

- a) 0-9 HCP- bid a simple new suit You would usually bid your longest suit and with equal length give preference to a major.
- b) 8-10 HCP- 1NT without a four-card major and stoppers in the opponent's suit
- c) 10-12 HCP- jump in your longest suit
- d) 11-12 HCP jump to 2NT without a major suit and at least one stopper in the opponent's suit
- e) 13+ HCP- jump to game with a good five-card major suit or bid 3NT with stoppers in the opponent's suit
- f) 5-8 HCP with a good 6 or 7 card major suit- jump to 3 of the major (this is like opening a weak 2 or 3 bid)

Remember that you are required to bid if your RHO passes. So, when you make a simple suit response you are not guaranteeing any strength.

What would you respond after 1D-X-P-?

- a) KT65 87 Q76 K872
- b) 8765 87 543 8765
- c) J876 872 98 KQ65
- d) KQ65 A32 87 QT76
- e) K8 Q76 KJ76 8762
- f) KQJ76 76 A65 A54
- g) AJ6 98 AK76 KJ72