

Double Trouble

What does partner mean/What should I do?

reference: Larry Cohen article in May 2012 Bridge Bulletin

and: www.nofearbridge.co.uk/acol/takeout_doubles_general.htm

Double Trouble

Let Me Count The Ways

- * If partner Doubles, what does s/he mean?
- * Meaning depends on the auction!
- * Partner's double could be: penalty, negative, take-out, support, balance of power, responsive, protection, ...
- * There are too MANY kinds of doubles.

Double Trouble

Penalty: The Original, Take-Out: The Most Common

* Auction: 1♥-p-1♠-p- 4♥-Dbl

* This is penalty. Count on partner for a couple Aces (or well placed Kings) and a stack of ♥s.

* Auction: 1♥-Dbl

* This is take-out. Partner wants you to bid. Count on partner to have an opening hand, short in ♥s, holding 4♠s with minor suit tolerance.

Double Trouble

When Should I Make A Take-Out Double?

- * You are short in opener's suit,
- * AND You have 4 cards in all unbid majors, no obvious bid, so usually balanced,
- * AND You have an opening hand in the 2nd seat, or values to compete in the balancing seat,
- * OR You have 18+ HCPs, (double and bid new suit)
- * Quiz: 1♥-?

* ♠AQxx ♥x ♦KTxx ♣Qxxx

(classic take-out double)

* ♠Ax ♥KJx ♦KJxx ♣Jxxx

(pass, you can balance later)

* ♠KQx ♥xxx ♦AQJx ♣KTx

(don't like it, but double anyway)

* ♠Ax ♥xxxxxx ♦Axx ♣Ax

(pass!!!)

Double Trouble

How Do I Know It's Take-Out?

- * "All doubles are take-out, we just leave them in when the auction gets higher."
Remember Mel's Rule of 9.
- * Guidelines: Partner's double is take-out if all of the following are true:
 - * The opponent's bid is a part-score
 - * You have not bid
 - * The double is made at its first opportunity

Double Trouble

Examples

- * All of the following are “take-out” doubles:
 - * 1 ♥-Dbl, or 2 ♥-Dbl, or 3 ♥-Dbl
 - * 1 ♥-1 ♠-2 ♥-pass- pass-Dbl
 - * 1 ♦-pass-1NT-pass- pass-Dbl (*special case*)
 - * 1 ♥-pass-2 ♥-pass- pass-Dbl
 - * 1 ♥-1 ♠-Dbl, (called negative, by responder)
 - * 1 ♥-2♣-pass-pass-Dbl, (called protection, by opener)
 - * 1 ♥-pass-pass-Dbl, (called balancing, by 4th seat)
 - * 1 ♥-pass-2 ♥-Dbl, (called pre-balancing, by 4th seat)

Double Trouble

How Should I Respond To Partner's Take-Out Double?

- * Auction: 1♥-Dbl-pass-?
- * Pass: If you meet Mel's Rule of 9
 - * You hold: ♠xx ♥AJTxx ♦Tx ♣Kxxx (pass)
- * Bid your cheapest 4 card suit when weak
 - * You hold: ♠xx ♥xxxx ♦Txx ♣Kxxx (bid 2♣)
- * Skip bid with 8+ to 12- HCPs
 - * You hold: ♠KJxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣KQxx (bid 2♠)
- * Bid game or cue bid with an opening hand
 - * You hold: ♠Kxxx ♥xxx ♦Kx ♣KQJx (bid 4♠)
 - * You hold: ♠KQx ♥Qx ♦Kxxx ♣QJxx (bid 2♥)

Double Trouble

Example, Friday 7/14 NKBC

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	2	-	1
S	-	2	3	-	1
E	2	-	-	-	-
W	2	-	-	-	-

♠8642
♥A83
♦AKQT3
♣6

♠KJ3
♥K42
♦9
♣AKT873

Board: 4
Dealer: W
Vul: All

♠QT75
♥Q6
♦87542
♣92

♠A9
♥JT975
♦J6
♣QJ54

	HCP	QT	Ctl	Losers	Len	Short	Supp
N	13	3	5	6	1	2	3
S	9	1	2	8	1	2	2
E	4	0	0	9	1	2	2
W	14	3	5	6	2	2	3

RESULTS OF BOARD 4

SECTION A			SCORES		MATCHPOINTS		
	Lead	Made	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	
4♥	S	♣A	=	620	12.00	0.00	
3♣x	W	♦A	-2	500	11.00	1.00	
2♥	S	♣A	=	110	10.00	2.00	
3♣	W	♦A	-1	100	8.00	4.00	
3♣	W	♦A	-1	100	8.00	4.00	
3♣	W	♦A	-1	100	8.00	4.00	
2♦	N	♣9	=	90	6.00	6.00	
2♣	W	♦A	=		90	4.50	7.50
2♣	W	♦A	=		90	4.50	7.50
2♥	S	♣A	-1	100	2.00	10.00	
2♥	S	♣A	-1	100	2.00	10.00	
3♥	S	♣A	-1	100	2.00	10.00	
3♣	W	♦A	=	110	0.00	12.00	

* Preferred Auction: (1♣)1♦(p)p (2♣)X(p)2♥