

# Responding When RHO Makes a Takeout Double

30 Minute Mini lesson

# Thoughts and Understandings

- When partner opens the bidding and RHO doubles:
  - You have accounted for approximately 26 of the 40 points in the deck.
  - If you have 9 or 10 points, LHO probably has no more than 4 or 5 points.
- Basic understandings
  - Redouble shows 10+ points.
  - New suit bids are not forcing.
  - You don't have to bid simply because you have a few points.

# Exceptions

- When you have an unbalanced hand with most of your points in one or two suits, it is often better to bid a suit than to redouble.
- Consider this hand:

Partner

1 ♦

♠ A K 8 6 3

♥ 5 3

♦ K J 10 6

♣ 5 4

^ RHO You

double ??

- With a hand like this one, many experts would bid 1 ♠ rather than redouble.
- Then make a constructive bid later to show the strength.
- This means, of course, that 1-level bids must be forcing for one round.

# 2-Level Bids are Natural, Non-Forcing and Less Than 10 points

Partner	RHO	You	Partner	RHO	You
1 ♦	dbld	2 ♣	1 ♠	dbld	2 ♥
♠ 4 2			♠ 4 2		
♥ 5 3			♥ K Q 10 9 5 3		
♦ Q 10 3			♦ Q 10 3		
♣ A Q 10 7 5 4			♣ J 4		

# With What Sort of Hand Do You Redouble?

- As responder, you redouble when you know you are prepared for whatever the opponents might do.
- When you redouble you expect to do one of the following things.
  - You expect to bid some level of no trump.
  - You intend to double the opponents.
  - You expect to raise your partner's suit.

Partner



1 

 Q 4 2

 J 8 5 3

 Q J

 A Q 9 7

LHO bids 1  or 1 ,  
you bid 1 nt,  
showing 10-12

RHO


double

 Q 4 2

 J 8

 A J 8

 K 10 9 7 4

LHO bids 2 , you  
will double for  
penalty.

You

Redouble

Partner

1 ♥

♠ K 2

♥ K J 8

♦ A 8 6 3

♣ 10 9 7 4

No matter what  
opponents do, you  
will raise hearts.

RHO

double

You

Redouble

♠ K 4 2

♥ Q J 8 6

♦ K J 8

♣ K 10 9

LHO bids any  
thing at the two  
level double for  
penalty.



Partner

1♠

RHO

double

You

Redouble

♠ 2

♥ K J 8 3

♦ A J 6 3

♣ K 9 7 4

♠ K Q 4 2

♥ J 8

♦ A J 8 5

♣ J 10 9

No matter what  
the opponents bid,  
you've got them.

After a redouble,  
jump raise  
partner's spades.

# What Does a Direct One-nt Show?

- Because of RHO's double – no obligation to keep the bidding open.
- Nevertheless, with a good 6 to 9 points, you should bid.

Partner

1 ♥

RHO

dble

You

??

♠ J 8 5

♥ Q 7 2

♦ Q 8 6 3

♣ Q 10 7

A really bad 7  
points. Best to  
pass.

♠ 7 5

♥ K 8 2

♦ Q J 9 7 2

♣ 9 8 4

A good 7 point  
hand. Worth a  
raise to 2 ♥.

Partner

1♠

RHO

dble

You

??

♠ J 2

♥ Q 10 9

♦ A 10 6 3

♣ J 9 8 4

A good 8 points.

Bid 1 nt.

♠ 8 5

♥ A K 8 3

♦ 10 9 5

♣ J 10 9 4

Another good 7

point hand. Bid 1

nt.

# A Jump Raise of Opener's Suit

- Regardless of what suit partner has opened, a jump raise is weak.
  - Good trump support.
    - At least 4 cards for a major suit
    - At least 5 cards for a minor suit.
  - Good distribution.
- The opponents might have a game, so you want to get in their way as much as possible.

Partner

1♠

♠ Q J 7 2

♥ 10 9

♦ 10 6 7 4 2

♣ 4 2

They may have  
game in hearts.

Bid 3♠.

RHO

dble

♠ J 10 8 5 2

♥ 3

♦ 10 9 5

♣ A 10 9 4

They almost surely  
have game in

hearts. Bid 4♠.

You

??

Partner

1♦

RHO

dble

You

??

♠ K 7 2

♠ J 10 8

♥ 10 9

♥ 3

♦ Q J 7 4 2

♦ 10 9 5 7 2

♣ J 4 2

♣ A 10 9 4

They may have  
game. Bid 3♦.

Even with this  
weak hand, bid 3♦.

# Jump-Shifts are Also Weak

- A Jump-shift over RHO's take out double should show:
  - A reasonably good suit.
  - A weak hand.
  - Too weak to redouble.
  - Too weak to make a regular, non-jump bid.
- Be aware that RHO has shown some values in your suit.



Partner

1♦

♠ Q J 9 8 7 3

♥ 10 9

♦ 2

♣ J 9 5 2

Bid 2♠.

RHO

double

You

??

♠ 10 8

♥ J 3 2

♦ 9

♣ K J 10 9 5 4 2

Nice 7-card suit

Bid 3♣.

# The Jordan Convention

- Partner opens a major suit, RHO doubles, you have 10-12 points.
- Your hand can be:
  - a. 2-card or fewer support for partner's suit.
  - b. 3-card support for partner's suit.
  - c. 4-card or better support for partner's suit.
- With a: redouble, then make the appropriate bid or double.
- With b: redouble, then raise partner's suit.
- With c: bid 2 nt.