

Responding to Partner's Negative Double With Extra Values

The Negative Double

- We have talked in some detail about the negative double.
- I think you know how it works, and I hope you are using it in your bidding.
- It is a valuable convention.
- We have not talked about how the opening bidder shows extra values after partner makes a negative double.

First, We'll Set the Scene.

North East South West

1♦ 1♥ dble pass

- South's double is negative and shows exactly 4 spades and probably clubs as well.
- South does not absolutely have to have clubs, but south must know where the hand is going to go if north cannot bid spades.
- The question with which we are dealing is, what does north do when she has more than a minimum opening hand?
- Perhaps 16 or more points.
- Let's look at a few examples.

Example 1

North	east	south	West
1♦	1♥	dbld	pass

North's hand

♠ A J 4 2

♥ 2

(16 points)

♦ K Q 8 7 5

♣ A Q 3

- If you had minimum opening values, you would bid 1♠.
- But you have extra values, so make a jump bid, 2♠.
- This is not forcing on partner.
- Shows more than a minimum opening, and is invitational.

Example 2

North	east	south	West
1♦	1♥	dbler	pass

North's hand

♠ K 2

♥ K J 10 (18 points)

♦ A Q 8 7

♣ A J 6 3

- Ask yourself, what would you bid if east had passed?
- You would have bid 2nt.
- That's your bid here.
- You jump to two no trump to show 18 or 19, balanced and hearts stopped.

Example 3

North	east	south	West
1♦	1♥	dble	pass

North's hand

♠ K 5 2

♥ 2 (16 points)

♦ A Q 8 7 4

♣ A K 6 3

- 3♣ shows your extra values.
- This looks like a jump shift, but it is not, because you are bidding a suit your partner bid.
- Partner can:
 - Pass.
 - Correct to diamonds.
 - Invite in clubs or diamonds.
 - Bid game in clubs or diamonds, or no trump.

Example 4

North east south West
1♦ 1♥ dble pass

North's hand

♠ Q 5

♥ A 2 (16+ points)

♦ A Q 9 8 7 4 3

♣ A 3

- 3♦ shows 6+ diamonds and extra values.
- Invitational to game.
- If you had minimum values, you'd just bid 2♦.

Example 5

North	east	south	West
1♦	1♥	double	pass

North's hand

♠ A Q 9 5

♥ A 2 (18 points)

♦ K Q J 9 8

♣ Q 3

- 18 points, good distribution and an excellent side suit.
- Bid the game.
- Once again: What would you have bid if the auction was..?

North	east	south	west
1♦	pass	1♠	pass

Example 6

North	east	south	West
1♦	1♥	dbld	pass

North's hand

♠ A Q 5

♥ 4 2 (18 points)

♦ K Q J 9

♣ A Q 9 3

- 3♣ shows partner that you have extra values and that you do not have 4 spades.
- Partner should know what to do.
- Note that South does not absolutely have to have clubs for her negative double.

New Auction - Example 7

North	east	south	West
1♣	1♠	double	pass

North's hand

♠ K J 5 2

♥ K 2 (18 points)

♦ Q 9 5

♣ A K Q 9

- 2nd shows 18 or 19 points.
- You have the opponent's suit stopped.
- Once again, the same bid you would make if east had passed and south had bid 1♥.

Example 8

North east south West
1♣ 1♠ dble pass

North's hand

♠ 7

♥ Q 6 (17 points)

♦ A K J 5

♣ A Q J 10 7 4

- 3♣ is an invitational bid with 6 clubs.
- Responder can:
 - Pass
 - Bid 3nt with a stopper in spades.
 - Bid 5♣.

Example 9

North	east	south	West	• 3♥ invitational to game in hearts.
1♣	1♠	dble	pass	

North's hand

♠ A K 7

♥ A K 9 6 (15 points)

♦ 5

♣ J 10 7 5 4

New Auction - Example 10

North	east	south	West
1♥	3♣	dbler	pass

North's hand

♠ K Q 10 7

♥ A Q J 9 6 (17 points)

♦ K J

♣ J 10

- 4♠ Your hand is too good for just 3♠, which would not indicate extra values.
- Partner should have more than a minimum for his negative double, in this auction.

Example 11

North east south West
1♥ 3♣ dble pass

- 3 nt – not perfect, but the best you can do.
- You have extra values and a stopper in their suit.

North's hand

♠ Q

♥ A Q 9 6 4 (17 points)

♦ A K 7

♣ Q 9 7 3

The Doubler's Perspective - Example 12

North	east	south	West
1♦		1♥	pass
2♠			

South's hand

♠ K J 7 3

♥ 9 6 (7 points)

♦ J 9 3

♣ Q 9 7 3

- Pass.
- Partner has extra values, but his bid is invitational.
- You don't have enough to go on to game.

Example 13

North	east	south	West
1♦		1♥	double
			pass
2♠			

South's hand

♠ K J 7 3

♥ 9 6 (10 points)

♦ A 9 3

♣ Q 9 7 3

- 4♠.
- Partner has extra values, but his bid is invitational.
- Your 10 points puts your side in the game range.
- You must bid it.

Example 14

North east south West

1♦ 1♥ dble pass

3♦

South's hand

♠ Q J 7 3

♥ K 6 (13 points)

♦ A 9 3

♣ Q J 9 7

- 3nt.
- Partner has extra values, but his bid is invitational.
- You have opening count and a stopper in their suit.
- No guarantee here, but you need to give game a try.

Example 15

North	east	south	West
1♣	1♠	dbld	pass
3♥			

South's hand

♠ 3

♥ A K 6 5 (15 points)

♦ K J 9 3 2

♣ K J 9

- 4nt. Key-card Blackwood.
- Partner has extra values, but his bid is invitational.
- You also have a good hand.
- You want to try to get to slam.

Final Thoughts

- It goes without saying, you must listen carefully to partner's bid.
- When partner shows extra values, let that bid inform your action.
- Nevertheless, partner's jump bid, following a negative double, is not forcing.
- It is invitational.