

Opponents Open We Double

How to Proceed





The Takeout Double

- When you make a takeout double, you have one of Three types of hands.
 1. A three-suited hand with shortness in the suit(s) bid by the opponents. 12-16 points, counting useful distribution.
 2. A balanced hand with (17) - 18+ points.
 3. An unbalanced hand with 18+ points and a strong suit.



Here Are Some Examples

North East South West
1  double




East type 1

 A Q 9
 K J 6 2
 10 5
 K 10 4 2

East type 2

 A K 4 2
 K Q J 2
 10 5
 A J 3

East type 3





 A 4
 K Q 3
 10 5
 A K Q J 4 3

Type 1 – the doubler does not bid again unless forced.

Type 2 – the doubler will raise the advancer's bid.

Type 3 – the doubler will bid her own suit.

Consider This Example


North	East	South	West
1 	double	2 	2 
3 	pass		

East

 A 9 5 3

 K J 6 2

 5





 Q 10 4 2

This is a bare minimum for a takeout double. Note that you have support for any suit partner bids. Your hand will be dummy. Counting dummy points, your hand is good enough, but you will not bid again.

This Example Not Good Enough

North	East	South	West
1 	pass		

East

 A 9
 A Q 6 2
 5 4 2
 K J 4 2

You have enough strength for a takeout double, but not adequate support for the unbid suits... you have no bid here.


This Example Not Good Enough

North	East	South	West
1 	1 		

East

 A Q 9 7 2




 Q 6

 5 4 2

 A J 2

You have enough strength for a takeout double, but not adequate support for the unbid suits. It is not strong enough to double then bid spades. Just make an overcall

How Do You Handle This Strong Hand?

North	East	South	West
1 	double	pass	1 
pass	2 		

East

 A K 9 2




 Q J 10 6

 4 2

 A K J

You don't need to make a jump bid. Simply having bid at all tells partner that you have 18+ points. If partner has 7 or 8 he should get your side to game.

How Do You Handle This Strong Hand?

North	East	South	West
1 	double	pass	1 
pass	4 		

East

 A K 9 2

 A K J 6

 4 2

 A Q 10

With a hand this strong, you will just bid game.

Don't be Afraid to Come in Over a Preempt, With the Right Hand

North	East	South	West
2 	double	pass	

East

 K 9 8 2


 6

 A J 4 2

 K Q 10 5

Double with this hand.

Not Good for a Takeout Double

North	East	South	West
2 	2 nt	pass	

East

 A K 7



 K J 9

 A 10 4 2



 K J 10

Strong enough for a takeout double, but 2 no trump is a better description of your hand. Adequate for a 1 no trump opening with Hearts stopped.

With This Hand?




North	East	South	West
2 	double	pass	2 
pass	2 nt		

East

 A 7
 K 10 9 5
 A Q J 2
 A Q 10

19 points too strong for a no trump overcall double first then bid no trump.

With This Hand?

North	East	South	West
2 	double	pass	3 
pass	3 		

East

 K Q J 9 7 5

 5

 A K J 2


 A Q

20 points. This is a double then bid your own suit hand.

When You're in the Balancing Seat

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	double

West

 J 9 7 5

 3 2

 A J 2


 K Q 8 4

Only 11 points but enough for a reopening double.

When You're in the Balancing Seat

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	1nt

West

 J 9 7



 A J 2

 Q 2





 K J 8 4

A reopening, or balancing, 1 no trump can be made with less than a regular one-no-trump overcall.

When You're in the Balancing Seat

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	double
Pass	1 	pass	1 nt

west

 K 9
 A J 2
 K 9 4 2
 K Q 8 2

If, in the balancing seat, you have a real 1 nt bid, you must double first then bid 1 no trump. .

When Both Opponents Have Bid

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	2 	double

West

 K Q 9 7

 7 2

 A Q 7 2

 Q J 4

When Opponents bid and raise the same suit, your takeout double is about the same as if you had bid directly over the opening bidder.

When Both Opponents Have Bid


North	East	South	West
1 	pass	2 	double

West

 K Q 9

 7

 A Q J 7 2

 K 10 4 3

Not ideal, but still worth a takeout double. . .

When Both Opponents Have Bid

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1 	double

West

 K Q J 5

 4

 7 4 2

 A K 10 7 4

When the opponents bid different suits, you will be expected to have at least 4- cards in both of the unbid suits. . . .

When Responder Bids 1 No Trump

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	pass	1 nt	double

West

♠ 5

♥ A Q 7 4

♦ K 10 8 2

♣ A 8 5 4

When responder bids 1 no trump, your double is based on opener's suit.

When Responder Bids 1 No Trump

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	pass	1 nt	double

West

♠ 5 3

♥ A J 10 4

♦ A K 9 2

♣ A Q 4

When responder bids 1 no trump, your double is based on opener's suit.

When They Open at a High Level

North	East	South	West
4 ♠	pass	pass	double

West

♠ A 3

♥ K J 10 4

♦ A K 9 2





♣ A 9 4

Doubles are usually considered takeout or optional through 4 ♥, but when they bid spades, your double is penalty oriented.





When They Open at a High Level

North	East	South	West
5 	double	pass	5 

West

 A Q 9 3
 A K J 4
 9 2
 A 9 4

West

 K J 10 8 6 9
 8 2
 2
 K J 10 2

Partner would need a great deal to come in and bid at the 5-level. Partner will usually pass and hope you can set them. But with the right hand he could bid.