

Free Bids

A Bit More on Advancing Partner's Takeout Double

LHO Partner RHO You

1 (suit) double pass ??

- We talked about this auction a couple of weeks ago.
- I even gave you a chart to guide your bids.
- Nothing more about that auction.

LHO Partner RHO You

1(suit) double 2 (suit) ??

- If you bid here, it's a free bid.
- You don't have to bid.

Free Bids

RHO	Partner	LHO	You
1(suit)	double	2 (suit)	??

- After this auction, what are your options?
 - Pass says your hand is weak (might be zero points).
 - Suit bid at the minimum available level (5-8 points, 4+cards)
 - Suit jump-bid (9 -11 or 12 points, as I defined it previously)
 - Game bid (13+ points, as I defined it previously)
 - No trump bid (Opponent's suit(s) stopped, as defined previously)

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

??

Your Hand

♠ J 5 4 2

♥ 3 2

♦ 10 7 5 3

♣ J 4 3

- If RHO had passed, you would have bid 1♠.
- But RHO has bid, so you can pass.
- Partner's double has been taken out by the opponents.
- If you do bid in this situation, it is a free bid.
- You could have passed.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

??

Your Hand

♠ K 5 4 2

♥ 3 2

♦ Q 7 5 3

♣ J 4 3

- We define a free bid in this situation as 5-8 points.
- This is a minimum hand for a free bid.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

??

Your Hand

♠ K J 5 4 2

♥

♦ 10 7 5 3

♣ 10 9 8 3

- If you have excellent shape, you can give yourself an extra point or two.
- You might add a point or two for your void in hearts and your 5-card spade suit.
- Bid 2♠.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

??

Your Hand

♠ K J 5 4

♥ 4 2

♦ K Q 5 3

♣ J 8 3

- Here you have 10 points.
- With 9-12 points make a jump bid.
- Bid 3 ♠ with this hand.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

??

Your Hand

♠ K 10 5 4

♥ 4 2

♦ A Q 5 3

♣ K J 3

- Here you have 13 points.
- With 13 or more points, your side should be in game.
- Bid 4 ♠ with this hand.

LHO

1 ♦

Partner

double

RHO

1 ♠

You

??

Your Hand

♠ J 9 5 4

♥ Q 8 7 2

♦ 7 5 3

♣ 9 3

- You have 4 hearts with partner, but only 3 points.
- Best to pass.
- Partner still has a bid coming.
- If she has extra values, she will double again.

LHO

1 ♦

Partner

double

RHO

1 ♠

You

??

Your Hand

♠ 5 4

♥ A 8 7 2

♦ 7 5 3

♣ K 10 9 3

- Here you have 7 points.
- Bid 2♥, a free bid.
- Partner will know you have between 5 and 8 points.

LHO

1 ♦

Partner

double

RHO

1 ♠

You

??

Your Hand

♠ 5 4

♥ A Q 7 2

♦ 7 5 3

♣ K J 9 3

- Here you have 10 points.
- Bid 3♥, a free bid.
- Make a jump bid with 9-12 points.

LHO

1 ♦

Partner

double

RHO

1 ♠

You

??

Your Hand

♠ K 4

♥ A K 7 2

♦ 7 5 3

♣ K 10 9 3

- Here you have 13 points.
- Bid 4♥, a free bid.
- With 13 points, you need to find a game.

LHO

1 ♦

Partner

double

RHO

1 ♠

You

??

Your Hand

♠ K 4

♥ 7 5 2

♦ A J 5 3

♣ 10 9 7 3

- Here you have 8 points.
- Stoppers in both the opponent's suits
- Bid 1 no trump.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1 ♥	double	2 ♥	??

- Let's go back to this auction for a moment.
- You have another option, that I did not discuss when we considered this auction.
- You can double.
- This is called a responsive double and it communicates something specific about your hand.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1 ♥	double	2 ♥	double

- This responsive double is only on when the opponents have bid and responded in the same suit.
- When opponents have bid and raised a major suit, a responsive double says: “partner I don’t have the other major, but pick a minor.”
- When opponents have bid and raised a minor suit, a responsive double says: partner I don’t have the other minor, but pick a major.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

double

Your Hand

♠ J 4 2

♥ 3 2

♦ A 7 5 3

♣ J 9 8 3

- Make a responsive double with this hand.
- You have between 5-8 points, you cannot support the unbid major, and you have no preference in the minors.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

double

Your Hand

♠ A 4 2

♥ 3 2

♦ A 7 5 3

♣ Q 9 8 3

- Make a responsive double with this hand.
- Here you have 10 points.
- After partner chooses a minor suit, you should raise one level.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♥

You

double

Your Hand

♠ A J 2

♥ 3 2

♦ A 7 5 3

♣ K Q 8 3

- Make a responsive double with this hand.
- Here you have 14 points.
- After partner chooses a minor suit, you should raise to game level.

LHO

1 ♦

Partner

double

RHO

2 ♦

You

double

Your Hand

♠ A J 4 2

♥ J 9 3 2

♦ 5 3

♣ J 8 3

- Make a responsive double with this hand.
- Here you have 6 points.
- And no preference of the major suits.
- Let partner choose the major.
- Know if they are playing inverted minors.

LHO

1 ♦

Partner

double

RHO

1 ♠

You

double

Your Hand

♠ Q 4 2

♥ J 9 3 2

♦ 5 3

♣ K 9 8 3

- Unless you and partner have an agreement, don't double.

- Here the opponents have not bid and raised the same suit.
- Is this a responsive double?
- Some play it as penalty.
- Some play choose one of the unbid suits.
- Talk it over with partner.

LHO

Partner

RHO

You

1 ♦

double

redouble

??

Your Hand

♠ 4 2

♥ J 9 5 3 2

♦ 5 3

♣ 9 8 3 2

- Bid 1 ♥ with this hand.
- Partner will know you are weak.

- Here your side is probably in a bit of trouble.
- Most play the redouble as showing 10+ points.
- Usually what you want to do is get out of the auction as cheaply as possible.

LHO

1 ♥

Partner

double

RHO

redouble

You

??

Your Hand

♠ 4 2

♥ 9 5 3 2

♦ 5 3 2

♣ 9 8 3 2

- Even with this hand, you must bid.
- Escape to two clubs and hope the opponent's bid something.
- Partner needs to know your best suit..

Final Thoughts

- When partner makes a takeout double and RHO does something other than pass, you're off the hook.
- You don't have to bid.
- But partner needs for you to describe your hand.
- So, you should bid when you have something to say.
- Remember, the responsive double is only on when opponents bid and respond in the same suit.