



Taking Out the Takeout Double

Consider These Two Auctions

West	Partner	East	You
----	1 	pass	1 

West	Partner	East	You
1 	double	pass	1 

How are They Different?

- For the first auction
 - 1 ♥ is voluntary. You could have passed.
 - Your hand shows 6 to unlimited value.
 - After your 1 ♥, your partner is forced to bid again.
- For the second auction
 - Your 1 ♥ was forced. You could not have passed.
 - Your hand has limited it's values. (0-8 points)
 - Partner is not forced to bid again.
 - If you have more than 8 points, you must make a bid that shows your values, to allow partner to make the right bid.

With a Minimum (0-8 points)

north east south west
1 ♣ dble pass
??

♠ K 10 4 2
♥ 9 3 2
♦ K 10 7 5
♣ 4 3

- Choose your longest suit at the minimum available level.
- With suits of equal length, choose a major suit, if possible.
- 1 ♠ is correct with this hand.

With a Minimum (0-8 points)

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ J 4 2
♥ 9 3 2
♦ 10 8 7 5 3
♣ 8 4

- Choose your longest suit at the minimum available level.
- When your longest suit is the suit the opponents have bid, you may have to bid a 3-card suit.
- 1 ♠ is correct with this hand.
- Try not to look like you are in pain.

With More Than 8 Points, You Must Let Partner Know.

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ K 4 2
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ 8 5
♣ Q 8 4 3

- With 9-12 points, choose your longest suit by jumping a level.
- Here you have 10 points. You must bid 2♥.
- Always prefer a major suit to a minor suit, when you have equal length.

With More Than 8 Points, You Must Let Partner Know.

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ J 9 7 4 2

♥ A K 2

♦ 8

♣ J 10 4 3

- With 9-12 points choose your longest suit by jumping a level.
- Here you have 9 points. You must jump to 2 ♠.
- You do not promise a 5 card suit.
- You would make the same bid with 4 spades.

With More Than 8 Points, You Must Let Partner Know.

north east south west
1 ♠ dble pass ??

♠ 7 4 2

♥ A K 2

♦ 8 5

♣ A 10 5 4 3

- With 9-12 points choose your longest suit by jumping a level.
- Here you have 11 points you must jump to 3 ♣.
- You do not promise a 5 card suit.

You Must Use a Bit of Judgment

north east south west
1 ♠ dble pass ??

♠ 9 7 4 2

♥ Q 2

♦ Q J 8

♣ K J 4 3

- Here you have a really bad nine points.
- No aces and lots of quacks.
- Don't be a total slave to point count.
- The best bid here is 2 ♣, rather than a jump to the 3 level.

You Must Use a Bit of Judgment

north east south west
1 ♣ dbl pass ??

♠ A 10 9 6 4
♥ J 10 9 2
♦ A J 10
♣ 3

- This hand has only 10 points.
- But a singleton, 2 quick tricks, and good middle cards.
- It is clearly worth more than 10 points.
- A simple jump to two spades would be an under bid.
- Make a double jump to 3 ♠.

When You Have 13+ Points, You Must Get the Partnership to Game

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ A Q 10 6

♥ K J 2

♦ 10 5

♣ A 8 6 3

- Jump to 4 ♠ .
- With 14 points, your side is in the game range.
- You know it, partner doesn't.
- Don't give partner a chance to pass short of game.

When You Have 13+ Points, You Must Get the Partnership to Game

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ A 6

♥ K Q J 9 7 2

♦ 10 7 6 5

♣ 3

- Only 10 points, but 4 ♥ should be close to a lay down.
- If you bid 3 ♥, you may find yourself in a partscore making lots of over tricks.

When You are 4-4 in the Major Suits, Let Partner Choose.

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ A 8 7 6
♥ K J 7 2
♦ A 5
♣ Q 10 3

- Cue bid 2 ♦.
- Let partner choose a major suit.
- You don't have a preference, but partner might have a preference.

Taking Out The Double to No Trump

- When partner doubles, it shows a clear preference toward a suit contract.
- Nevertheless, with some holdings, no trump may be your best contract.
- How many points do you need to bid no trump?
- Larry Cohen suggests the following ranges, with of course a stopper in the opponent's suit.
 - With 6-10 points bid 1nt.
 - With 11-12 points bid 2nt.
 - With 13+ points bid 3nt.

Taking Out Partner's Double to No Trump

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ J 7 6

♥ 10 2

♦ K J 9 8

♣ A 7 5 3

- 10 points and diamonds well stopped, 1 nt is more descriptive than bidding 2 ♣.
- Your hand is not quite good enough to pass for penalty.

Taking Out Partner's Double to No Trump

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ 10 6 3

♥ Q 2

♦ K Q 10

♣ A Q J 5 3

- With 14 points, you want to be in game.
- 3 nt seems like a better game than 5 clubs.
- Bid 3nt.

You Should Prefer A Major Suit When it is Available

north east south west
1 ♦ dble pass ??

♠ K J 10 6

♥ 2

♦ A Q 10 9

♣ A Q 7 4

- With 14 points and diamonds well stopped, you could bid 3nt.
- However, you have a major suit fit.
- Bid 4 ♠.

Summary Chart

After Partner's direct T.O. Double

Explanation

- Pass Seldom a good idea, but maybe with 5 strong cards in the opponent's suit.
- Non-jump in a suit 0-8 points, with 4+ cards. Rarely with 3 cards.
- Single jump in a suit 9-12 points, with 4+ cards.
- Jump to game Opening bid strength. 4+ cards in a major suit. 5+ cards in a minor suit.
- Cue bid Opening bid count. Usually 4-4 in the major suits.
- 1 no trump 6-10 points. Opponent's suit stopped. Usually denies 4 cards in an unbid major suit.
- 2 no trump cards 11-12 points. Opponent's suit stopped. Usually denies 4 in an unbid major suit.
- 3nt 13+ points. Opponent's suit stopped. Usually denies 4 cards in an unbid major suit.

Final Thought

- The takeout double is a cooperative bid.
- You and your partner each have a responsibility to find the best contract.
- With a few exceptions, after a takeout double, the advancer is in charge and responsible to get the partnership to the best contract.
- Point count is important, but don't be afraid to use judgment.