

# The Shape of a Negative Double

# Bidding Competitively

- When partner opens the bidding with 1 of a suit bid and RHO makes an overcall, you will want to describe your hand to partner.
- The opponent's overcall may have made it difficult for you to do so.
- Conventions are helpful. I will talk about the negative double, one of the most common conventions we use.

# The Negative Double

- I know you know about the negative double. We've talked about it in these mini-lessons.
- I thought we might take a look at some of the hand shapes you might have when you make a negative double.
- When your partner uses a negative double, you should give some thought to these shapes.

# A Negative Double Usually Shows Both Unbid Suits.

♠ J 9 4 2	North	East	South	West
♥ A 10 3 2	1 ♣	1 ♦	dbld	
♦ 10 5 3				
♣ K 6				

- Don't make a negative double in this situation, unless you have both majors.
- If you have just one major bid it.

# A Negative Double Usually Shows Both Unbid Suits.

♠ 4 2	North	East	South	West
♥ K Q 3 2	1 ♦	1 ♠	double	
♦ 10 5				
♣ K J 10 8 6				

- The negative double allows you to compete while keeping the bidding low.
- Note you do not have enough to bid a new suit at the two level.
- If partner makes a minimum level bid you will pass.
- If partner offers a game invitation (3♥), you might accept.

# A Negative Double When You Can Support Partner's Minor.

♠ 4 2	North	East	South	West
♥ K Q 3 2	1 ♦	1 ♠	dbld	
♦ Q J 10 8				
♣ 9 4 2				

- Again you can compete while keeping the bidding low.
- If partner can bid hearts, you are happy, but if partner bids clubs, you have to correct to diamonds.

# When You Have the Other Major and Interest in No Trump.

♠ A J 9 2	North	East	South	West
♥ Q J 10 2	1 ♦	1 ♠	dbld	
♦ 9 4				
♣ J 10 2				

- Again you can compete while keeping the bidding low.
- If partner can bid hearts, you are happy, but if partner bids clubs, or rebids diamonds, you can bid no trump.

# When You Have a Long Major Suit but Cannot Bid it Directly.

♠ Q 9 2	North	East	South	West
♥ Q J 10 7 5 2	1 ♦	1 ♠	dbld	pass
♦ 9 4	2 ♣	pass	2 ♥	
♣ Q J 2				

- To bid 2♥ directly, with this hand, would be an overbid.
- Partner would expect you to have 11 or more points.
- The hand qualifies for a preemptive jump, but you'd have to jump to the 3-level. Partner will expect you to have 7 cards.



# One More Example.

♠ A Q 9 5 3 2	North	East	South	West
♥ 4 3	1 ♥	2 ♣	dbld	pass
♦ 9 4	2 ♦	pass	2 ♠	
♣ 9 5 2				

- To bid 2♠ directly, with this hand, would be an overbid.
- Partner would expect you to have 11 or more points.
- Partner thinks you have spades and diamonds.
- Your 2♠ bid clears it up.

# Negative.

♠ A Q 9 5 3 2	North	East	South	West
♥ 4 3	1 ♥	2 ♣	dbld	pass
♦ 9 4	2 ♦	pass	2 ♠	
♣ 9 5 2				

- To bid 2♠ directly, with this hand, would be an overbid.
- Partner would expect you to have 11 or more points.
- Partner thinks you have spades and diamonds.
- Your 2♠ bid clears it up.

# Negative Double With This Hand.

♠ A Q 9 5	North	East	South	West
♥ 4 3	1 ♦	1 ♥	double	
♦ J 9 4				
♣ J 10 5 2				

- Partner will know you have 4 spades
- You will pass whatever, your partner bids, unless it is a forcing bid.

# Bid 1♠ With This Hand.

♠ A Q 9 5 3	North	East	South	West
♥ 4 3	1♦	1♥	double	
♦ J 9 4				
♣ J 10 5				

- Partner will know you have 5 spades

# Here's an Exception to the Rule.

♠ A K J 5	North	East	South	West
♥ 9 6 5 3	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠	
♦ 9 4				
♣ 9 7 5				

- Partner will surely take you for 5 spades, So this could turn out badly for your side.
- Your hand is too good to pass but if you double and partner bids clubs, you will not like it.
- The best lie is to bid 1 spade.

# Here's an Exception to the Rule.

♠ J 8 7 5	North	East	South	West
♥ J 6 5 3	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠	(not good)
♦ J 4				
♣ K 7 5				

- Better to pass with this hand. Your suits are too weak and you really don't want to hear a 2♣ bid from partner.
- Your Jack of hearts is probably worthless.

# Even This Hand is Worth a Negative Double.

♠ 9 7 5 3	North	East	South	West
♥ 4 3	1 ♦	1 ♥	dbld	
♦ J 9 4				
♣ A K 7 5				

- Your spades are pretty weak, but you should have bid one spade if East had passed. So, a negative double is right.

# Even This Hand is Worth a Negative Double.

♠ K J 10 5	North	East	South	West
♥ 4 3	1 ♦	1 ♥	dbld	
♦ 9 4 2				
♣ 10 7 5 3				

- You can Negative double with fewer than 6 points, if you have the right hand.
- Here your spade suit is pretty good and you won't mind a 2 ♣ bid.
- Your doubleton heart is also an asset.



# You Can Negative Double with a Strong Hand.

♠ A K 5 3	North	East	South	West
♥ 4 3	1 ♦	1 ♥	double	
♦ Q 9 4				
♣ A K 7 5				

- You have enough for game, but you need to see if you have a spade fit, before deciding the level of the contract.

# You Can Negative Double with a Strong Hand.

♠ A Q 5 3	North	East	South	West
♥ K 3	1 ♦	1 ♥	double	
♦ 9 4				
♣ A Q J 7 5				

- You are well into the game range here, but you want to look for a spade fit, before trying 3 nt.
- If partner bids spades you're happy.
- If partner bids clubs or rebids diamonds, you will try 3 nt.