Penalty Doubles



Double is the Most Versatile Bid in Bridge

- Takeout Double
- Negative Double
- Support Double
- Rosenkranz Double
- Responsive Double
- Balancing Doubles
- Lead Directing Double
- <u>Penalty Double</u>

Aggressiveness In Bridge

- Winning bridge, according to expert Mike Lawrence, requires players to compete aggressively.
- If both sides compete aggressively, there will be times when alert players can pick up a top score with a penalty double.
- In a competitive auction, when to pass, when to bid on and when to double for penalty is a matter of judgment, not an exact science.

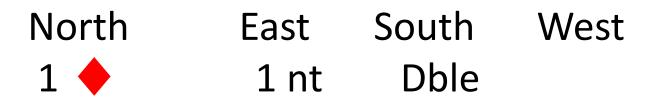
When Should You Make a Penalty Double

- Certainly, there are some obvious times.
 - When you find yourself with a strong trump stack.
 - When opponents make a 5-level sacrifice against your sure game.
- Other times you must look at your hand, listen carefully to the bidding, and make a judgment call.
- In this lesson I will offer some examples and some advice, but there are few hard fast rules.

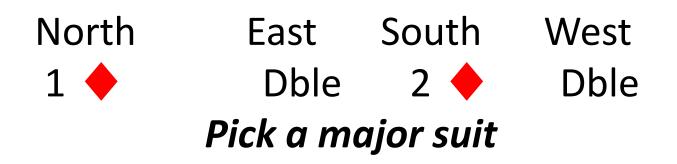
Two Bidding Sequences

North	East	South	West
1 🧡	Dble	2 🧡	pass
pass	Dble	pass	??
North	East	South	West
1 🧡	Dble	2 🧡	2 🔶
3 🧡	Dble	pass	??

How Do You Play This Sequence?



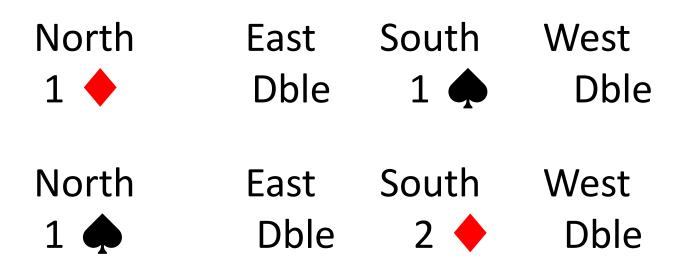
Responsive Double





East South West Dble 2 Dble Pick minor suit

Maybe Responsive Double



When responder changes suits: Can be responsive by agreement, but usually penalty

You are South: North East South West 1 • 2 • 2 • 3 • pass pass ??

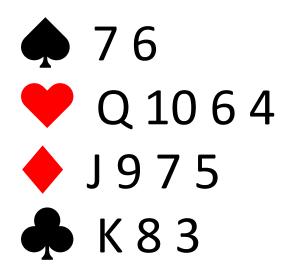


Example 1

Double

Only 8 trump 3-3-3-4 distribution Diamond trick, club and spade Partner opend the bidding

You are South: North East South West 1 • 2 • 2 • 3 • pass pass ??

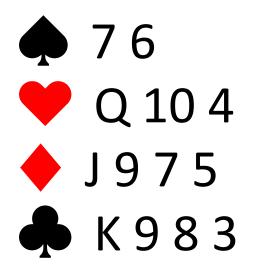


Example 2

<u>Bid 3</u> 💙

Your side has 9 trump Partner has a singleton dia. You may not have a heart trick on defense

You are South: North East South West 1 2 2 3 pass pass ??



Example 3

<u>Pass</u>

8 trump Too weak to double or bid



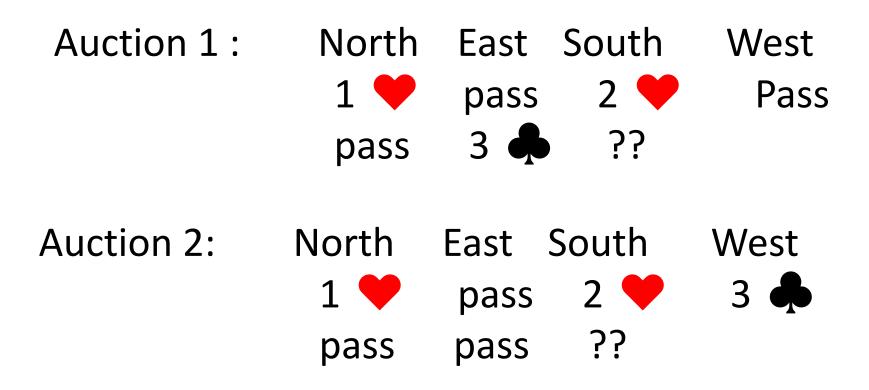


Example 4

Double

Very close choice East is balancing You have a stronger hand than you might have East will be disappointed with dummy.

Which Auction Shows the Stronger Hand?



Auction 2 is a stronger hand

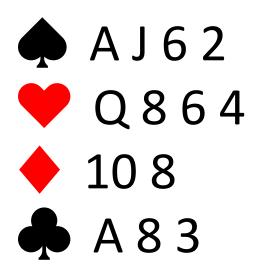
With some hands you might choose not to double even though you are sure you can set them.

North	East	South	West
1 🐥	pass	2 🐥	Pass
2 🔶	pass	pass	??



Imagine you are West with this hand.





Example 5

Double

Partner has passed Unusual no trump is an often abused bid You might expect to get a club, heart and a couple spades. Cooperative bid

You are South: North East South West ---- $1 \oint 2nt$ $3 \oint 5 \oint ??$



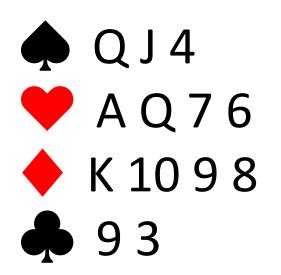
Example 6

<u>Double</u>

Another close call.
You might make 5
They might make it, but you have good defensive values
You have an good opening lead
Surely East is sacrificing.

You are South: North East South West 1 4 1 4 dbl* 2 4 3 7 3 7?

Example 7 *negative



Double

Part of the negative double system
You have more points than your original negative double indicates.
Partner is free to bid 4

You are South: North East South West 1 pass 2 3 4 5 ??

Example 8



<u>Double</u>

Close call, again. Partner has a good hand. Your side can take a spade, maybe a heart, a diamond and a couple of clubs.

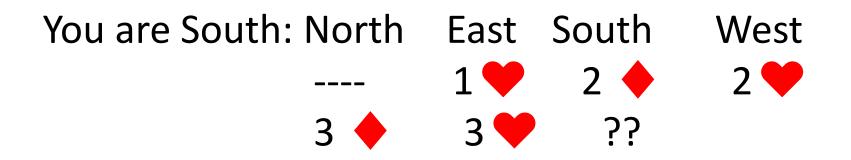
You are South: North East South West 1 pass 1 pass 1 pass 2 * 2 pass pass ??

Example 9 *NMF

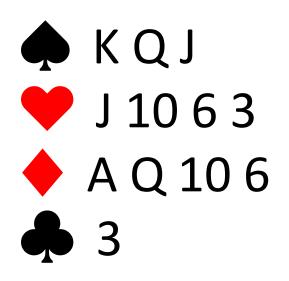


<u>Double</u>

Dangerous to double at the two level Partner's 1 nt, suggests he has 3 spades West will have difficluty with trump. Partner will lead a heart. Partner will have some club tricks.



Example 10

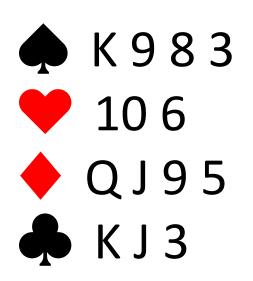


<u>Double</u>

Your spade suit pushes you to double Plus you know that East is going to get a bad trump split

You are South: North East South West 1 1 nt ??

Example 11 <u>Balance of</u> <u>Power</u>



Double

How many points does West have? East will be playing opposite a busted partner





Example 12 Balance of Power