

After A Negative Double:
Rebids and Responses

Partnership Agreements and
Understandings

You Open the Bidding

- LHO overcalls, partner makes a negative double, and RHO passes. How do you rebid?
- It can be more complicated than you might think.
- You should consider what you would have done if LHO had not overcalled.
 - You can bid a new suit, particularly one indicated by the negative double.
 - You can rebid your own suit, usually with six cards.
 - You can bid no trump, with a stopper in the overcaller's suit.
 - With extra values you can make a jump rebid.

1 ♣ ... (1 ♠) ... double ... pass

Hand 1

♠ Q 10 6 3

♥ K 2

♦ K Q 9

♣ A 7 6 2

Hand 2

♠ Q J 6

♥ J 6 3

♦ A K 2

♣ Q J 10 2

With minimum values and a spade stopper,
bid 1 nt.

1 ♣ ... (1 ♠) ... double ...

Hand 5

♠ 6

♥ A 4 2

♦ A Q 9 5

♣ K 10 7 6 2

Partner should have hearts and diamonds.

Would your diamond bid be a reverse? No!

But should open this hand 1 ♦ .

1 ♣ ... (1 ♠) ... double ...

Hand 6

♠ 6 3
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ A 9 3
♣ K 7 6 2

2 ♥

Hand 7

♠ 6
♥ A J 10 3
♦ A K 2
♣ A J 10 4 2

3 ♥

Hand 8

♠ 3
♥ A Q J 3
♦ A K 2
♣ K Q J 6 2

4 ♥

When you have hearts, you should bid them. Jump to show extra values.

1 ♣ ... (1 ♠) ... double ...

Hand 6

♠ K Q J

♥ A 2

♦ A J 9

♣ K J 10 8 2

Hand 7

♠ A J 10

♥ 7 3

♦ A K 2

♣ A Q 10 4 2

2 no trump ... 18-19 points, spades well stopped.

1 ♦ ... (1 ♥) ... double ...

Hand 8

♠ Q J 7 2

♥ A 2

♦ A J 9 3

♣ 8 6 2

1 ♠ A negative double over a 1 heart overcall shows exactly 4 spades. When responders have 5 or more spades, they bid the suit, rather than making a negative double.

1 ♥ ... (1 ♠) ... double

Hand 8

♠ Q J 2

♥ A J 10 7 2

♦ A J 9 3

♣ 8

2 ♦ A negative double can even be for minors. In the auction above, responder is showing clubs and diamonds.

1  ... (2 ) ... double


Hand 8

 Q J 2

 A J 10 7

 A J 9 5 3

 8

2  A negative double can be for both majors. Here responder has at least 4 cards in both major suits.

Now, let's take a look at the negative doubler's second bid.

Consider the Following Auction

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♥	double	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♥	??	

Hand 9

♠ Q 10 6 3

♥ 7 2

♦ K Q 9 4

♣ 8 7 6

Pass is your bid. You have exactly the hand you told your partner that you had. Any further bidding is up to your partner.

Don't bid your values twice.

Consider the Following Auction

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♥	double	2 ♥
2 ♠	pass	??	

Hand 10
♠ Q 10 6 3
♥ 7 2
♦ K Q 9
♣ K J 6 2

3 ♠ You have 11 points, enough to invite game. It is not forcing. Partner can pass. Partner will know you have an invitational hand.

Consider the Following Auction

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♥	double	2 ♥
2 ♠	pass	??	

Hand 11
♠ K 10 6 3
♥ 7 2
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ K J 6

4 ♠ You have 13 points. You knew when partner opened the bidding that your side would go to game. You used the negative double to find your spade fit.

Consider the Following Auction

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♥	double	pass
3 ♠	pass	??	

Hand 12
♠ K 10 6 3
♥ 7 2
♦ K 10 9 4
♣ Q 9 6

Pass You have 8 points. Partner is inviting you to game. This is a borderline hand. It might make 10 tricks, but you might be a bit short.

Consider the Following Auction

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♥	dble	pass
2 nt	pass	??	

Hand 13
♠ K 10 6 3
♥ 7 2
♦ K 10 9 4
♣ Q 9 6

3nt. Partner has 18 or 19 points and a heart control. Your 8 points should be enough for game.

Consider the Following Auction

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♥	double	pass
2 ♦	pass	??	

Hand 14

♠ K 10 6 3

♥ A 2

♦ K 10 9 4

♣ Q J 6

3nt. Partner does not have 4 spades, but still has an opening hand. You need to be at game.

Final Points

- We've been talking about partnership agreements.
- So, talk these things over with you partner.
- Be sure you are on the same page....
- Most of the time when you think about whether or not to bid on, you can take the opponent's bid out of the auction.
- Ask yourself, would I bid on if they has not bid?