

# Negative Doubles and Negative Free Bids Bridge Lesson/Slides

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# Overview

- **One important goal of the 2/1 bidding system is to inform your partner about the general strength of your hand and your distribution, as soon as possible.**
- **It is IMPORTANT that your MAJOR SUIT length be shown at the lowest possible level.** Let's look at an example:

## BIDDING

North	East	South	West
Pass	1♣	1♠	?

You are west and you hold the following hand: ♠87 ♥KJ109 ♦Q65 ♣Q32

**What is your bid? YOU HAVE 8HCP**

# Answer

**You have a problem.**

**As responder you cannot go to the 2-level with less than 10 HCP.**

**It is also impossible to show your 4-card heart suit for it requires 5 cards in the suit and more than 10 HCP.**

**Worse yet, if your opponent (North) now bids 2♠, you are going to have to pass.**

**However, your partner may be holding: ♠105 ♥AQ57 ♦A72 ♣KJ104 (14HCP)**

**Your opponents are making 2♠ (110) but you could be making 3♥ (140) or 3♣ (110).**

**Your partner will not bid over 2♠ if you pass, and you also don't have the values for a bid.**

**You are fixed unless you use a convention called the NEGATIVE DOUBLE.**

***A NEGATIVE DOUBLE IS A TAKEOUT DOUBLE MADE BY THE RESPONDER***

# HCP Requirements for the Negative Doubles

The strength requirements for a negative double are:

- 1 level double = 6+ HCP
- 2 level minor double = 8+ HCP
- 2 level major double = 11+ HCP (some use 10+)
- 3+ level double = 12+ HCP

**Note these are HCP requirements. What you should also notice is that the HCP limits are open-ended.**

**A Negative Double can be made with 15, 20, or more HCP. Sometimes it is the only descriptive bid possible.**

# More Requirements

## **Prerequisites for a Negative Double**

**No fit with partner**

**For Low 1/2 Level Doubles, support for the un-bid suits  
Lacking points and stoppers in RHO's suit to bid Notrump**

**Sufficient strength 6+HCP to compete**

**Considering without finding a fit you and partner should have  
about 20 points to play 1 NT, 22-23 points in 2 NT (with  
stoppers).**

# The Basics

Let's look at some simple examples of the basic Negative Double

1♣/1♦ – (1♥) – X Negative Double promising 4 Spades, not 5 and 6+HCP

1♣/1♦ – (1♥) – 1♠ Promising 5 Spades for this exact auction and 6+HCP

1♣/1♦ – (1♠) – X Promises 4 Hearts and 6+ HCP (with 5 and 10/11 HCP bid 2♥)

1♣/1♦ – (1♠) – 2♥ Promises 5+ Hearts and 11+ HCP

1♦ – (2♣) – X Usually 4-4 in the majors and 10/11 HCP or one 4+card major, other major might be a good 3-card suit and 11+ HCP since if partner does not bid your 4-card major you must bid 2NT.

1♣ – (1♦) – 1♥/1♠ Make a Major suit bid with 6+ HCP

and a 4-card suit, the bid does not show a 5-card suit. **However, caution some play that the major suit bid over a minor shows a 5-card major -- discuss this with your partner.**

# No Alert for Negative Doubles

- Depending on your partnership agreement, Negative Doubles may be played as “on” through 3 Spades, 4 Hearts, 5 Diamonds, NO LIMIT, etc. Advanced players play Negative Doubles at higher levels than casual club players.
- At high levels, such as RHO’s 4♠ preemptive bid, they play the Negative Double as showing “cards” to allow partner to pass for penalty with a poor fit (in Hearts here) and lacking primary honors/quick tricks.

# Bids and Doubles at the 1 Level

What are the meaning of these auctions ?

- 1)  $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit - X$
- 2)  $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$
- 3)  $1\clubsuit - 1\diamondsuit - 1\heartsuit/1\spadesuit$
- 4)  $1\clubsuit - 1\diamondsuit - X$
- 5)  $1\clubsuit - 1\spadesuit - X$

1) the double is negative and shows 4 spades and 6+HCP

2) the bid of  $1\spadesuit$  over  $1\heartsuit$  shows 5+spades and 6+HCP

3) the major suit bid shows 4 hearts/4+spades and 6+HCP

4) the double is negative and always shows 4-4 in the majors with 6+HCP

5) negative double but shows 6+ HCP and 4+hearts - to bid  $2\heartsuit$  one needs 5 and 11+HCP



# More examples- One Level

1♣ - 1♦ - ?      ♠A567 ♥9564 ♦A32 ♣72      ♠J567 ♥95 ♦AK32 ♣872  
Make a Negative double

What about these hands?

♠A5672 ♥95642 ♦A3 ♣7      When 5-5 do not negative double instead bid 1♠, then 2♥

♠4567 ♥KQ10965 ♦32 ♣2      You have 6 hearts make a weak jump shift, bid 2♥

♠45 ♥KQ10965 ♦Q3 ♣K2      You have 6 hearts, but 10 HCP make a negative double and then bid 2♥.

1♥ - 1♠ - ?      ♠56 ♥K9 ♦AJ32 ♣105672  
Double to show clubs if partner bids diamonds pass

1♣ - 1♥ - ?      ♠J56 ♥Q92 ♦A732 ♣1056  
Bid 1NT with a heart stopper

# Two Difficult Hands

**You just learned Negative doubles and you have these hands where the bidding went**

**1♦ - 1♥ - ?**

**(1) ♠KQJ ♥456 ♦789 ♣K543**

**(2) ♠789 ♥456 ♦AKQ ♣10543**

**Each hand has 9HCP and you are at the one level! What is your bid?  
If you pass, partner has no clue about your 9HCP.**

**Negative double? – You only have 3 spades.**

**Bid 2♣? - You need 10 HCP.**

**Bid 2♦? - You need 4 diamonds to raise diamonds.**

# Answer

1♦ - 1♥ - ?

(1) ♠KQJ ♥456 ♦789 ♣K543

(2) ♠789 ♥456 ♦AKQ ♣10543

Some may pass with hand (1) – better to Negative Double and then to pass 2♠ bid since a 4-3 fit at the 2-level is just fine.

With hand (2) --- bid 2♦, showing support for partner's bid suit.

Note a JUMP cue bid of 3♥ denies 4 spades and shows 12+ HCP. If partner has a stopper he will bid 3NT. Without a stopper he will re-bid diamonds at the 4-level and you without support will pass.

# Opener's Rebids at 1 Level

- Cue bids are forcing to game
- All jumps below game are invitational
- 1NT promises a stopper in suit overcalled
- Opener may at times be forced to rebid a 5-card suit
- A double jump to 3NT shows length and strength in opener's bid suit
- Double and triple jumps to game are weaker than a cue bid followed by a jump to game.

# Example of 1 Level Opener Rebids

1♣ -1♦ - X – Opener Rebids

♠AK ♥9564 ♦A32 ♣KQ72  
♠AK ♥956 ♦A324 ♣KQ72

Bid 1♥  
Bid 1NT (have diamond stopper)

♠A2 ♥AQ95 ♦1032 ♣A762  
♠AK56 ♥A ♦832 ♣AKJ72  
♠AQ6 ♥KJ8 ♦AQ ♣Q654

Bid 2♥ (better than 1♥)  
Cue bid 2♦  
Bid 2NT

♠AQJ4 ♥AJ ♦32 ♣KJ1052  
♠A4 ♥32 ♦K2 ♣AKQ1052  
♠7 ♥AQJ3 ♦32 ♣AK10752

Bid 3♠  
Bid 3NT  
Bid 4♥

The bidding goes 1♣ -1♥ - X – (Pass) And you hold as Opener: ♠AQ9 ♥K876 ♦A ♣109852

What is your bid?

Bid your 3-card suit 1♠, NOT 1NT or 2♣ - You have a singleton!

# Responder's Rebids

## Responder's Rebid after Making a Negative Double

- **With a minimum hand (6 to 9 DUMMY points),**
  - • **Pass opener's minimum rebid.**
  - • **Give a simple preference to opener's original suit, or**
  - • **Bid a new suit without a jump.**
- **With an invitational-strength hand (10/11 DUMMY points)**
  - • **Bid again to invite opener to game.**
- **With a maximum hand of 12+ DUMMY points,**
  - • **Bid game.**

# Responder Rebids Example 1

**North Hand**

**♠A2 ♥109 ♦AQ543 ♣K345**

**South Hand**

**♠Q874 ♥876 ♦86 ♣AJ106**

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
<b>1♦</b>	<b>1♥</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Pass</b>
<b>2♣</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Pass</b>	

**North is the opener with 14 points (13HCP+1 length pt) opens.**

**South has 7HCP and makes a Negative Double.**

**North does not reverse, but shows a minimum hand – responder must pass.**

**Let's replace South's hand with say the Diamond Ace (11HCP)**

**♠Q874 ♥876 ♦A6 ♣AJ106**

**Now with 4 clubs South makes a game try by bidding 3♣.**

**With a minimum hand, North must pass.**

# Responder Rebids Example 2

- In North's hand, let's replace ♠A with the ♠J the heart 10 with the ♥K and in south's hand replace the ♠Q and small spade with the ♠AK and change the minor card distribution.

North Hand

South Hand

♠J2 ♥K9 ♦AQ543 ♣K345

♠AK87 ♥876 ♦K8 ♣AJ1062

North	East	South	West
1♦	1♥	X	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- North is the opener with 14 points (13HCP+1 length pt) opens by bidding 1♦.
- South has 15HCP and makes a Negative Double (ONLY COUNT HCP).
- North does not reverse, but shows a minimum hand by bidding 2♣. .
- However, South with a big hand makes a cue bid of 2♥.
- After North's bid of 2NT, South bids 3NT.
- Note with 18+ points North would bid 3NT instead of 2NT (Not a close-out bid or Fast Arrival when you jump and bid 3NT). Now South would bid Gerber with slam interest.



# Negative Doubles at the 2 Level

- 1♦/1♥/1♠ - 2♣ - X 8+ HCP
- 1♣/1♥/1♠ - 2♦ - X 8+ HCP
  
- 1♥/1♠ - 2♣/2♦ - X 8+HCP (Over Minor)
- 1♣/1♦ - 2♥/2♠ - X 11+ HCP (Over Major)
  
- 1♠ - 2♣/2♦/2♥ - X 8/11 HCP (Depends on Minor/Major)
- 1♥ - 2♣/2♦/2♠ - X 8/11 HCP (Depends on Minor/Major)
  
- Note that Michaels overcall bids are excluded from the negative doubles so do not double 1♣ - 2♣ - ( to bid a suit you need 10/11 HCP and 5+ cards)

# Examples – 2 level

- **1♦ - 2♣ - X**                      **Need 8+ HCP**
  
- **♠A567 ♥A564 ♦J32 ♣72**      **4-4 in the majors**
- **♠AQ78 ♥AK9 ♦543 ♣852**      **4-3 in Majors with 13, bid 2NT if Partner bids Hearts**
  
- **♠A9786 ♥KQ9 ♦54 ♣863**      **If Partner bids 2♥ PASS (4-3) fit at 2-level is OK**
- **♠A7 ♥KQ56 ♦J732 ♣752**      **If Partner bids hearts, bid game- after 2♠ bid 2NT – need 13 for 3NT**
  
- **♠Q72 ♥A5642 ♦J ♣KJ72**      **Stuck if partner rebids diamonds PASS – you have clubs**
  
- **1♥ - 2♣ - X**                      **Need 8+ HCP**
  
- **♠KJ67 ♥A5 ♦J8732 ♣72**      **Perfect double**
- **♠AQ67 ♥7 ♦KJ87 ♣9572**      **Not the best but can again bid 2NT if Partner bids hearts**
  
- **1♠ - 2♥ - X**                      **Need 11+ HCP**
- **♠KQJ9 ♥8765 ♦AQ87 ♣10**      **Perfect X**
- **♠K ♥8765 ♦AQ87 ♣10972**      **Pass - Too many hearts and not enough spades – have minors and only 9+ HCP - PASS**
- **♠K4 ♥J8 ♦J87 ♣AK10972**      **Bid 3♣, Forcing**

# Opener's Rebids at 2 Level

- A cue bid is forcing to game
- All jumps below game are invitational
- 1NT promises a stopper in over caller's suit
- Opener may be forced to rebid a 5-card suit
- A double jump to 3NT shows length and strength in opener's bid suit
- Double and triple jumps to game are weaker than a cue bid followed by a jump to game

# Example – Opener's Rebid

North Hand

South Hand

• ♠AQ986 ♥A7 ♦J543 ♣AQ

♠7 ♥9862 ♦AKQ86 ♣1065

North

East

South

West

1♠

2♥

X

Pass

3NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

- **Even though South has values in the opponent's suit, more defense than offense or high ODR, he must make a Negative Double to show values.**
- **With 17 HCP, North with a heart stopper bids 3NT.**
- **Without a stopper, he would cue bid 3♥, western cue.**

# Some Additional Problems

- You just learned Negative doubles and you have these hands where the bidding went
- 1♠ - 2♥ - ?
- ♠7 ♥Q4 ♦AK6 ♣KQJ43
- Bid 3♣ - While you might consider a Negative Double, it better to show exceptional values by making a game forcing bid
- ♠K7 ♥456 ♦AKQ9 ♣J432
- Bid 3♦ - not 3♣ (again game force)
- ♠A7 56 ♦Q109654 ♣A32
- Negative double --- not strong enough to bid 3♦.

# Negative Doubles at the 3 Level

- For the 3-level you now need 12+ HCP. **Now the negative double DOES NOT necessarily show the un-bid suits**, you are not looking for a game in a major, but your primary goal is to find 3NT.
- Mary Bergen calls these doubles at the 3-level **THRee** notrUMP, or **Thrump** doubles instead of Negative Doubles.
- They are used with 3-level jump overcalls.
- Now the double asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper.
- Double says nothing about the un-bid suit, but denies a 5-card major.
- Doubles almost always denies a stopper, and 3NT shows a stopper.

# 3-Level Bidding Example 1

- 1♦ - 3♣ - X
- ♠A567 ♥KQ64 ♦K632 ♣7      4-4 in the majors (perfect)
- ♠J7854 ♥A963 ♦AK43 ♣-      5-4 in Majors with 12 (Need to find your Heart fit) Do not bid spades, if 5-5 cue bid 4♣
- **Opener's rebids**
- Cue bid is forcing to game
- 3NT ensues a stopper
- Opener may be forced to re-bid a 5-card suit
- Opener almost NEVER bids a 3-card suit at the 3-level

# 3-Level Bidding Example2

- 1♠ - 3♦ - X
- ♠AJ ♥KJ63 ♦J3 ♣A10832 (perfect for heart contract or 3NT)
- ♠782 ♥A963 ♦7 ♣AJ1098 (imperfect X but 2 aces and 5-card suit, 9HCP)
- If you hold ♠K78542 ♥J963 ♦AK ♣K - **Do not double, bid 3♠**
- ♠KJ ♥J765 ♦KJ8 ♣Q972 - With stopper bid 3NT – **DO NOT NEGATIVE DOUBLE**
- ♠KJ7 ♥AK765 ♦67 ♣J72 - With spade support bid 4♠, with 4-4 in the majors cue bid 4♦



# More 3-Level Examples

- After 1♦ by your partner and a 3♥ overcall, what would you bid with the following hands?
- 1) ♠ AQ102 ♥ 83 ♦ KQ54 ♣ J87      You have 12 HCP, double
- 2) ♠ AQJ86 ♥ A7 ♦ J876 ♣ 32      You again have 12 HCP, but 5 spades, bid 3♠
- 3) ♠ A32 ♥ AJ98 ♦ 654 ♣ 732      Pass only 9HCP
- 4) ♠ AK103 ♥ 53 ♦ KQ97 ♣ J32      A clear double with 13 HCP and 4 spades
- 5) ♠ AQ32 ♥ 76 ♦ AKQ ♣ A789      Double --- there is no upper limit

# 3-level Negative doubles

## When do you pass?

- With no obvious re-bid and a balanced hand, you may choose to pass a 3-level Negative Double.
- At lower levels you need very good trumps to pass since the over caller's suit is behind yours.

# Penalty Doubles

What follows are examples of penalty doubles --- they are not negative; interest in penalizing the opponents. A double of 2NT or higher is usually for Penalty

1♥ – (2♥) – X

2♥ – (3♣) – X

1♣ – (2NT) – X

1♥/1♠ – (1NT) – X

1M – (3NT) – X

# Penalty/Cooperative Doubles

North	South	East	West
1♦	1♠	X=Negative	3♠
Pass	Pass	X=?	

- **What is the second double? Penalty/Cooperative or Take-out**
- **Check the Opponents cc!**
- **If 3♠ show a limit raise --- Then the second double is Take-out**
- **If 3♠ are preemptive --- Then the second double is Cooperative.**
- **Opener knows partner has 10/11+ HCP he may pass or bid on.**
- **More often than not, Opener will pass the double if the bid is Preemptive.**
- ***A cooperative double* is a double that provides the opener the option of passing for penalty or to continue bidding.**

# Overcall - Rule of 2/3

- **A guide to preemptive openings and overcalls is that one cannot be set more than 500 points (2 tricks vulnerable and doubled or and 3 tricks doubled and non-vulnerable) unless one is sacrificing against a slam. Hence, to make a preemptive contract your partner must cover 2/3 tricks.**
- **What does this mean about the level of bidding? One should use the Rule of 2/3.**
- **Rule of 2/3-** Bid to the level of 13- LTC +2(Vulnerable) or +3(Non-Vulnerable)= playing tricks.
- To count losers only the first three cards in a suit are counted where winners are only the A, K or Q. With less than 3 cards in a suit : AQ=1/2, Kx=1/2, KQ=1, K=1, Q=1, and Qx=1 loser.
- With 6-10 HCP and a 6- card suit, one usually bids at the 2-level and with a 7-card suit at the 3-level. NO!

# Rule of 2/3 - Example

- Example: ♠AKQ10654 ♥8 ♦854 ♣96
- You have 7 spades and 6 losers (0 in spades, 1 in hearts, 3 in diamonds, 2 in clubs).
- Playing tricks Non-Vulnerable are:  $13-6 = 7+3=10$   
overall 4♠.
- Playing tricks Vulnerable are:  $13-6 = 7+2=9$   
overall 3♠.

# Negative X 4-level Clubs

- Negative doubles at the 4-level require 12+ HCP (some only use 10 HCP).
- **Club Overcall**
- 1♦-4♣-X (Promises at least One major)
- 1♥/1♠-4♣-X (Promises Other major)
- 
- After the auction 1♦ - 4♣ - X, it is not likely that your partner is 4-4 in the majors. However, suppose opener is 4-4 in the majors what is his bid?
- 4♦ (FORCING) ---- PICK YOUR BEST MAJOR
- 5♣ cue bid with slam interest in Opener's bid suit (diamonds, hearts or spades)

# Negative X 4-level Diamonds

- Never pass the negative double with a void in the opponent's bid suit.
- **Diamond Overcall**
- 1♣-4♦-X (Promises at least One major)
- 1♥/1♠-4♦-X (Shows values **May not have Other** major)
- For example the bidding goes 1♠-4♦ and you hold
- ♠J9 ♥Q65 ♦A8 ♣KQJ972 You must Negative double



# Negative Doubles 4-Level Majors

- **1♣/1♦-4♥-X = spades, but no guarantee, or penalty**
- **Opener**
- **Never pass with a void in hearts**
- **Do not re-bid your 5-card suit**
- **Do not introduce a 3-card suit**
- **1♠-4♥-X = minors**
- **1x -4♥-4NT = minors**
- **1♣-4♠-X=Penalty/take-out and 4NT= diamonds and hearts**
- **1♦-4♠-X=Penalty/take-out and 4NT= clubs and hearts**
- **1♥-4♠-X=Penalty/take-out and 4NT= minors**

# 4- Level Major - Examples

- 1♣/1♦-4♥ - X
- 
- ♠AQ32 ♥72♦A543 ♣Q98 (Perfect Double)
- 
- ♠AK ♥72♦AQ543 ♣J987 (Double is best here –Over 4♠ bid by Opener, support Opener’s minor suit and bid 5♣/5♦)
- 
- 1♥-4♠ - X=Penalty/Take-out
- 
- ♠A2 ♥762♦A543 ♣A987 (Do not bid 5♥, even with support - Let Opener decide)
- 
- Suppose you hold a more balanced hand: ♠J96 ♥K62♦KQ43 ♣A98 – Again double
- Do not bid to the 5-level with a balanced hand even with support!
- 
- With a void in spades and the minors bid 4NT
- 
- Holding ♠7 ♥KQ62♦KQJ43 ♣1098 --- bid 5♥

# Vulnerability

- **How does vulnerability affect high-level doubles when partner opens a minor and the opponents bids 4♥?**
- **For example: 1m - 4♥ -? With shortness in hearts DOUBLE and with length PASS**
- **With the following hands you would double**
- **♠AQ102 ♥7 ♦AJ7 ♣Q8654**
- **♠J976 ♥32 ♦AK53 ♣AK2**
- **♠KQ10 ♥A2 ♦AQ32 ♣J876**
- **Partner will pass with a balanced hand, bid 4♠ or re-bid his minor at the 5-level with a very unbalanced hand and heart shortness.**
- **♠ A43 ♥ AQ109 ♦ 543 ♣ 842**
- **You have hearts and high ODR (Offence to Defense Ratio)- YOU MUST PASS**
- **IF they bid 4♠? Double with a void and pass with 1 or 2.**

# What about the 5-level?

## North Hand

## South Hand

• ♠A86 ♥AJ109876 ♦- ♣KQ

• ♠K754 ♥K2 ♦732 ♣A1076

• North	East	South	West
• 1♥	5♦	X	Pass
• 5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

- North has 14 HCP + 3 length pts – 1 for KQ doubleton = 16 points.
- South has 10 HCP.

- The opponents are trying to steal the bid and we are in the slam zone.
- The negative X shows 4 spades.

- North, do you double or bid to the 5-level --- “the 5-level belongs to the opponents” – NO --- You must bid.
- Using the rule of 210 – with 2 diamonds, double, with 1 pass, and with a void bid to the 5-level.
- Short Suit Total (SST) rule WITH 19-21 HCP (for your partnership): 13-SST = # of Tricks (13-3 = 10 tricks) Add 1 with 22-24 get 11 tricks. Just short of a slam (add one more with 25-27, etc).

# Negative Free Bids

- **NEGATIVE FREE BID**
- **DEFINITION** – Negative Free Bids are used when partner opens the bidding at the one level and the opponents show a one suited hand by bidding at the 1/2/3 levels through 3♦. If responder now bids **any new suit** at the two or three level, the bid shows a 5+-card suit and is non-forcing showing 5-10 HCP. With 11+ points one must double and bid their suit, a game force bidding sequence. **The NFB and the doubles must be alerted** since the new suit is non-forcing and the double may not be negative.

# At the 1-level

- At the one-level. Responder's new-suit bid at the one-level carries the standard meaning. After 1♦ by partner, 1♥ by RHO, a free bid of 1♠ is unlimited, showing 6+ points and a 5+-card suit (since you would make a negative double if you held only 4 spades).

# Example2 – 2 level

Lets look at an example when the bidding goes: 1♠ - (2♣) - 2♥\*. How does opener respond? The NFB of 2♥\* shows 5-10 HCP and 5+ hearts and must be alerted.

Pass	Minimal hand with hearts
2♠/3♦	Less than three hearts and non-forcing
2NT	Invitational to 3NT may have heart fit
3♥	Preemptive heart raise
3♣	Game invitational raise in hearts
3♠	and invitational
3NT	Natural and no heart fit
4♣/4♦	Delayed splinter with heart fit
4♥	Sign-off
4NT	1430 Keycard Blackwood for hearts
5♣/5♦	Exclusion Keycard Blackwood for hearts with club/diamond void

# Strong Hands Begin with a X

- With a strong hand, the bidding sequence would be: 1♠ - (2♣) – X\* (alert).
- Note that the double may not be negative, it only shows 11+ HCP and is forcing.  
Responder bids 2♠. Partner may raise or bid his own suit 3♦.



# Weak Hands

Examples of NFB weak sequences (5-10 HCP):

Partner	Overall	NFB
1♣/1♦	1♠	2♥*
1♣	1♥/1♠	2♦*
1♣	2♠/2♠	3♦*
1♦	2♥/2♠	3♣*
1♥	1♠	2♣*/2♦*
1♥	2♣/2♦	2♠*
1♥	3♣	3♦*
1♠	3♣/3♦	3♥*

\*=alert

# Invitational Hands

- To show a highly invitational hand, responder jump-shifts after an opponent's overcall. The jump in a new suit shows:
  - A strong 6+card suit.
  - Game-invitational values (11+HCP)

## Above the Limit of 3♦

- Responder's new-suit bid is *NOT* a NFB if the bid is made at a level of 3♥ or higher above 3 diamonds.
- If partner opens 1♠ and your RHO overcalls 3♦, no Negative Free Bid is available; your new-suit bid of 3♥ or 4♣ is forcing.

# References – Negative Doubles

- Playing 2/1 or Standard American it is best to play Negative Doubles. However, with Precision because major suit bids are limited 11-15 HCP, Negative Free bids are usually preferred.
- For more on Negative Doubles see the book by Marty Bergen “Negative Doubles” (2000) or Larry Cohen’s book “Larry Teaches Doubles” (2013).
- On the Web look at the ACBL Lesson on Negative Doubles <http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/teachers/Teacher-Manuals/Defense-in-the-21st-Century-Lesson-9.pdf>

# Reference - Negative Free Bids

- Visit Karen Walker's site at
- <http://csbnews.org/conventions-negative-free-bids-part-2/?lang=en>
- She has a two-part Lesson on Negative Free Bids