Practice Session for U3ABDa16: More Overcalls & Penalty Doubles

Contents

Welcome! 2
Advanced topics & background information 2
This week's lessons 2
The Hands 3
Boards 1-16 3
Should I rescue 1NT doubled into my 5-card suit? 3
Can I use Double Then Bid with 15 points? 4
Can I always use Double Then Bid with 16 points? 6
Do I have to respond to a Double after an intervention? 8
Should East bid 4S on this hand? 8
Why did West bid 3D with just 3 points? 9
Boards 17-32 11
Should West bid their second suit after partner's NT rebid? 13
Synopsis 18
Boards 1-16 18
Boards 17-32 19

Welcome!

Here is a list of all the hands that you could play in today's Practice Session. It tells you useful stuff about them, like the cards in each hand, the High Card Points, the "correct" bidding and lead. Don't feel bad if you bid the hands a bit differently, or ended up in a different contract. There are new things to learn each week, it will take you a while to get the hang of it, no doubt.

Bridge is a great game, but it can be overwhelming, so much to think about. Don't worry, it will get easier. We're here to help it all make sense; don't worry about making mistakes, we're always happy to explain or answer questions. Remember, you're playing with other people who are just starting out, too. Let's have fun together!

To help clarify some points in this week's lessons, we've added a Lesson Summary. It describes the same topics from a slightly different angle to the online materials, with additional detail where it seems needed. You can find a link to the Lesson Summary next to the link for the Bidding Commentary on our web site.

-Ed

Advanced topics & background information

Anything in green is background information or more advanced than you need right now. But if you're keen, it's worth knowing.

This week's lessons

This week's lessons covered overcalling 1NT, doubling 1NT for penalties, and doubling higher level suit contracts for Takeout or Penalties. For details, see the Lesson Summary, but here's a brief overview:

If your opponent opens 1NT:

- With 0-10 HCP: PASS
- With 11-15 HCP and a good 5+ card suit: overcall at the two level
- With 11-15 HCP but no good 5+ card suit: PASS
- With 16+ HCP: DOUBLE FOR PENALTIES

If your partner's 1NT is doubled:

- With 0-10 points: RESCUE into your 5-card suit if you have one, PASS if you don't
- With 11+ points: REDOUBLE to reassure partner and make a lot more points

If your partner doubles 1NT:

- With 0-4 points: RESCUE into your 5-card suit if you have one, PASS if you don't
- With 5+ points: PASS

If your opponents bid up to the 3-level or higher, you can DOUBLE FOR PENALTIES

If your opponent opens a Weak Two* or 3-level pre-empt* such as 3H, you can DOUBLE FOR TAKEOUT

If your opponent opens a 4-level pre-empt* such as 4H, you can DOUBLE FOR PENALTIES

*Although we haven't taught you about Weak Twos or pre-empts yet!!

The Hands

This week you have a real mix of hands to bid and play, including SOME to practice the bidding introduced in this week's lessons. But only SOME!

Boards 1-16

North	East	South	West
1♥	1♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠Q6 ♥AKJ532 ♦AJ4 ♣53	
♠943 ♥ ♦T8652 ♣QT862		♠AKJT2 ♥874 ♦73 ♣KJ7
	♠875 ♥QT96 ♦KQ9 ♣A94	

Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♠A H376

East has 12 HCP, a good 5-card Spade suit, and three small Hearts. While the Hearts are a worry, East is strong enough to overcall at the 1-level.

The 1S overcall shows 8-15 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit.

West has 3-card support for partner's overcall but just 2 HCP. They pass, they're not strong enough to bid.

East	South	West	North
1NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

	♠65 ♥QJ874 ♦92 ♣KJ92	
♠Q983 ♥9 ♦JT63 ♣8653		♠AJT ♥KT5 ♦A8754 ♣T7
	♠K742 ♥A632 ♦KQ ♣AQ4	

Board: 2 Dealer: East Lead: ♠2 H490

South has 18 HCP and a balanced hand. They're strong enough to double 1NT for penalties.

A double of 1NT is always for penalties and requires 16+ HCP.

West doesn't have a 5-card suit to rescue partner, so must pass.

North has 7 HCP so is strong enough for the double to succeed, so they pass. This pass shows 5+ HCP, or less than 5 HCP but no 5-card suit.

East has a 5-card minor, so could bid it (2D) to escape the double but chooses not to – perhaps because the suit is quite weak.

Should I rescue 1NT doubled into my 5-card suit?

Probably.

East chose to play in 1NT doubled, but with their hand I would rather bid 2D. This will remove the double and the opposition might not double 2D, so even if 2D does go down, the price will be much less.

Looking at the hands, 2D should make easily, but 1NT should down by several tricks – expensive!

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠932
♥T983
♦82
♣A765

♠KT764
♥K4
♦K943
♣32

♠AQJ5
♥J
♦AJ65
♣QJT4

♠8
♥AQ7652
♦QT7
♣K98

Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♥T H1385

West has 9 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit with two Honours (K and T), just strong enough to overcall at the 1-level.

The 1S overcall shows 8-15 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit.

North has 4-card support for partner's Hearts and 4 HCP + 1 SP, so they raise partner to 2H; a bit misleading, as this promises 6 points, but not bad.

East has 16 HCP and excellent 4-card support for partner's Spades. They can even add 2 points for their Singleton Heart, so with 26-33 points they're strong enough to raise to game.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

♠T9743
♥Q64
♦JT62
♣4

♠J862
♥A52
♦K85
♣AQ8

♠K5
♥JT93
♦93
♣JT762

♠AQ
♥K87
♦AQ74
♣K953

Board: 4 Dealer: West Lead: ♥J H2864

South has 18 HCP so doubles 1NT for penalties.

A double of 1NT is always for penalties and requires 16+ HCP.

North has 3 HCP, a weak hand, so doesn't expect 1NT to fail, despite partner's double. They do have a 5-card Spade suit, so they bid 2S to rescue the double.

This rescue of the double shows a 5-card suit and less than 5 HCP. It's weak!

South passes because they can't see game in Spades (with less than 23 HCP) or a better bid.

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥
3♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠K6432
♥T
♦A93
♣A943

♠A975
♥KQJ754
♦KQ
♣7

♠8
♥963
♦JT8652
♣J86

♠QJT
♥A82
♦74
♣KQT52

Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♥6 H2081

West has 15 HCP and a good 6-card Heart suit, strong enough for a 2-level overcall.

A 2-level overcall shows 11-15 HCP and a 5-card suit. A bit stronger (a 6-card suit or 18 points) and they could Double Then Bid.

East has a terrible hand, just 2 HCP, so they pass.

West isn't strong enough to bid again over 4S, so they pass.

Can I use Double Then Bid with 15 points?

With an extra trump, you can.

Here, West is just about strong enough to Double-Then-Bid, showing 16+ HCP and a 6-card suit (or 18+ HCP and a 5-card suit). Their extra trump makes up for the missing point.

However, the bidding is already at the two-level. The opposition is bidding quite strongly (12+ points to open, 10+ points to change suit at the two-level) so they have at least 22 points. The most that East can have is 3 points; with no chance of game, it's better to bid a more obstructive 2S. This also leaves the opposition guessing where the points are.

Just because you can make a bid, doesn't mean you must.

East	South	West	North
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

	♠J7 ♥AKJ63 ♦QT4 ♣Q96	
♠KQ9653 ♥T98 ♦KJ65 ♣		♠A ♥Q7542 ♦A9 ♣KT754
	♠T842 ♥ ♦8732 ♣AJ832	

Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♦7 H1252

After a protracted auction, East reaches 4H and North doubles for penalties, as they expect to make at least 4 tricks in Hearts.

A double of a suit bid at the 4 level (or above) is always for penalties.

This double may help Declarer a little, as it indicates where the missing Heart Honours are – but the contract will still go down!

South	West	North	East
1♣	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠T9 ♥83 ♦QJ964 ♣AKT5	
♠852 ♥Q7 ♦AKT8753 ♣8		♠A7643 ♥JT965 ♦2 ♣Q6
	♠KQJ ♥AK42 ♦ ♣J97432	

Board: 7 Dealer: South Lead: ♣A H1535

West's bid of 3D over South's 1C is a double jump, a pre-empt.

With 14 HCP, good support for the two unbid suits and a void in Diamonds, South doubles 3D for takeout, asking partner to choose one of the unbid suits.

Remember: A double of a 3-level pre-empt is for takeout, if there are unbid suits to choose between. Even if partner has already bid a suit (as in this case). A double of a 3-level bid that isn't a pre-empt (such as 1S pass 3S X) is for penalties.

North does not have any length in the unbid suits, so they must either support partner's Clubs (they have good support) or pass the takeout double to convert it into a penalty double. They can see 2-3 tricks in Diamonds and 1-2 tricks in Clubs. Partner has an opening hand (11+ HCP), so should take another trick or two. So they decide to pass the double, converting it to a Penalty Double.

When you look at all the hands, you can see this is a great decision! E-W will lose 2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 1 Club and 2-3 Diamonds. 3 down doubled is a big penalty!

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

	♠AKQT98 ♥7 ♦JT976 ♣6	
♠764 ♥AK43 ♦K ♣QJ743		♠J5 ♥982 ♦AQ43 ♣AK52
	♠32 ♥QJT65 ♦852 ♣T98	

Board: 8 Dealer: West Lead: ♠A H910

North has 10 HCP and a good 6-card Spade suit, so they're strong enough to overcall at the 1-level.

The 1-level 1S overcall shows 8-15 HCP and a 5-card suit.

East has 14 HCP and good support for partner's Clubs. Game is likely, so they make a forcing change of suit to 2D to learn more about partner's hand.

This two-level change of suit is forcing, showing 10+ HCP and a 4-card suit.

South has just 3 HCP and 2 Spades, so isn't strong enough to bid.

West shows their second suit by bidding 2H. This promises 4 Hearts.

North isn't strong enough to bid again without support from partner.

East can't support partner's Hearts with just three, and can't bid NT without a stop. They can see 26+ HCP and 1 SP playing in Clubs; 5C seems a good bet and their only chance for game, so they bid it.

North	East	South	West
1♥	1NT	Dbl	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		



Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♣A H2027

East has 15 HCP and a (poor) stop in Hearts so overcalls with 1NT instead of doubling and then bidding their Clubs on the second round to show their strength (DTB). Hmm.

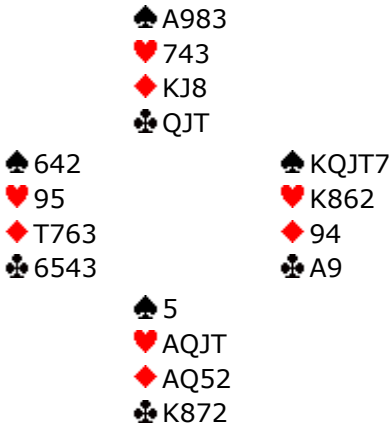
This 1NT overcall promises 16-18 HCP, a balanced hand, and a stop in Hearts. **This is a poor overcall, East's hand fails on both counts, really**.

South has 9 HCP but only 2 Hearts, so they can't raise partner's suit. They can't bid their 5-card Spade suit because 2S promises 10+ HCP, so they double 1NT for penalties; partner has at least 12 HCP, plus their own 9 HCP, making 21 – **a fairly risky double**.

North doesn't fancy defending against 1NT doubled, as they are much stronger in a suit contract, so they bid their second suit, 2D. This shows 4+ Dialmonds.

South has 2 Hearts and 2 Diamonds, doesn't like either suit, but bids 2H as a preference, since partner bid them first, so must have more cards in Hearts or – at worst – the same number of each suit. Hearts also scores better!

East	South	West	North
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			



Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♠K H146

South has 16 HCP, a single Spade, and no 5-card suit - an ideal hand to double the 1S opening for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a Takeout Double. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit – see the Discussion below.

This double is forcing.

North has 11 HCP and no 4-card suit other than Spades, so they can't respond with a suit. With a stop in Spades, they can bid NT. A response of 1NT would show 6-9 HCP, so they respond with 2NT, showing 10-12 HCP, a balanced hand, and a stop in the doubled suit.

South can see they have 26-28 HCP and one stop in the opponents' suit. They're strong enough to raise to 3NT, although the single stop in Spades and their Singleton Spade are a worry.

Can I always use Double Then Bid with 16 points?

No, with 16 points you need a 6-card suit. You need 18 points if you only have a 5-card suit.

If South had a 6-card suit, they would double, then bid their suit on the next round. (They're far too strong for a simple overcall.) Double Then Bid shows 16+ HCP and a good 6-card suit, or 18+ HCP and a good 5-card suit.

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

	♠ J4 ♥ 63 ♦ 98532 ♣ K872	
♠ KQT5 ♥ J5 ♦ AKJT4 ♣ AQ		♠ 863 ♥ QT72 ♦ Q6 ♣ J653
	♠ A972 ♥ AK984 ♦ 7 ♣ T94	

Board: 11 Dealer: South Lead: ♥8 H2586

West has 21 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and a strong 5-card suit. They're strong enough to double and then bid their suit on the next round.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a Takeout Double. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit as in this case (Double Then Bid).

The double is forcing.

East only has 5 HCP but is forced to bid by the takeout double. They have a balanced hand and a stop in the opponents' suit, but they're not quite strong enough to bid 1NT (requires 6-9 HCP). So they bid their longest suit; they have a choice between Clubs and Hearts. Normally they would bid the major, but that's been bid by the opponents, so they bid Clubs.

This 2C response promises very little; at least 3 Clubs and 0-8 HCP!

Now West responds with their long suit, 2D, showing they had a strong overcall: either 16+ HCP and a good 6-card suit, or 18+ HCP and a good 5-card suit.

East can't support Diamonds with just 2 trumps, but does have a stop in the opponent suit and 5 HCP, so bids 2NT, showing 6-9 HCP and a stop; a slight overbid but they know partner has at least 16 HCP.

West can see at least 26 HCP so raises to 3NT. A single stop in the opponents' suit might not be enough, but you have to accept some risks.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

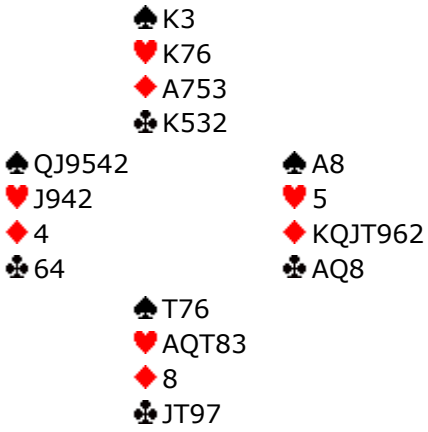
	♠ 85 ♥ AQJ ♦ QJ86 ♣ QJT7	
♠ ♥ K86 ♦ AK75432 ♣ K96		♠ AKT764 ♥ ♦ T9 ♣ A8532
	♠ QJ932 ♥ T975432 ♦ ♣ 4	

Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♣Q H1250

After a protracted auction, West reaches 5D. North doubles for penalties, as they expect to make 2 tricks in Diamonds, 1-2 tricks in Hearts, and a Club trick. A little risky!

A double of a suit bid at the 4 level (or above) is always for penalties, made when you expect the contract to go down.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Dbl	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			



Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♣J H488

East has 16 HCP and an excellent 7-card Diamond suit. While it's tempting to overcall with 2D, they're strong enough to double 1NT, and that double will probably achieve a much better score.

A double of 1NT is always for penalties and requires 16+ HCP.

South has 7 HCP and a good 5-card Heart suit. They're not strong enough to redouble, but can rescue into 2H.

This 2-level bid after partner's 1NT is doubled shows a 5-card suit and 0-10 HCP. It's weak.

West has 4 Hearts and 4 HCP, so they're not quite strong enough to double 2H (requires 5 HCP). They have a 6-card Spade suit and decide to bid that instead, even though they're short on points. Their hand would be useless in defence.

An overcall of an intervention like this shows 5 HCP and a 5+ card suit.

North passes with relief, 2H was quite likely to fail.

East doesn't like partner's Spades much, so bids their excellent Diamond suit: 3D, settling for a part score.

Do I have to respond to a Double after an intervention?

No. If partner doubles a suit bid, it's for takeout. After an intervention (bid by the next opponent) you don't have to bid; a **free bid** (as it's called) shows 6+ points and a decent 4+ suit.

However, partner has doubled 1NT, a very different situation; this shows 16-18 and is for penalties. South's rescue into 2H is a bit annoying! West has just 4 HCP, but a reasonable 6-card suit - time to compete!

Should East bid 4S on this hand?

I would! Partner has shown 5+ Spades and 5+ points, so there's a good chance of making 4S A raise to 3S is justified, a raise to 4S is reasonable; partner is unlikely to raise 3D to 5D, so 3D is a poor bid, denying any chance of game. Bid 5D or raise partner's Spades.

If you look at the hands, in 4S after a Heart lead you lose a Heart, and a Diamond, but then North is stuck. A Club lead forces the finesse, which wins; a Diamond lead produces an over-ruff; a Heart lead provides a ruff in Dummy. Play it carefully and you make 4S - but it isn't easy.

East	South	West	North
1♦	Dbl	3♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

	♠KT3 ♥AT87 ♦T7 ♣KQ96	
♠J42 ♥Q532 ♦98432 ♣5		♠976 ♥K ♦AKQJ6 ♣8743
	♠AQ85 ♥J964 ♦5 ♣AJT2	

Board: 14 Dealer: East Lead: ♦A H2740

South has 12 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit, so doubles for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a Takeout Double. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit; Double Then Bid.

This double is forcing.

West raises partner to 3D purely based on their 5 Diamonds; an obstructive/sacrifice bid. Their hand would be useless in Defence.

North has 12 HCP and a moderate 4-card major. With no stop in Diamonds they can't bid NT. With 24+ HCP and 3-card Heart support promised by partner, they jump to game over West's obstructive 3D bid.

Why did West bid 3D with just 3 points?

When South doubled East's 1D bid, West could see the opponents making game in either major, so they jumped to 3D to get in the way!

It worked, that 3D bid really messed up the bidding for N-S.

North's 4H bid is rather questionable, a bit of a leap in the dark. Yes, they have 12 points, but partner might only have 3 little Hearts, or might have a Double Then Bid hand, with a long suit in Clubs or Spades and no support for Hearts. You just have to hope they can overrule your 4H and bid their suit; you've got good support for the other suits too!

I think North should bid 3H, not 4H. Their suit isn't long but they do have points; the fact that they've made a free bid shows that they've got points, so partner should bid game. Tricky!

South	West	North	East
1♦	Dbl	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

	♠J986 ♥2 ♦T762 ♣K853	
♠KT5 ♥KJ93 ♦K3 ♣AT42		♠Q32 ♥AQ874 ♦9 ♣QJ97
	♠A74 ♥T65 ♦AQJ854 ♣6	

Board: 15 Dealer: South Lead: ♣6 H2628

West has 14 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit, so doubles for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a Takeout Double. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit; Double Then Bid.

This double is forcing.

North's 1S bid is – well – baffling. They should either have passed or raised to 2D.

East has 11 HCP and a 5-card major. They know they have a 5-3 fit in Hearts and 23+ HCP and decide to make the rather optimistic bid of 4H over the 1S intervention.

If you look at the hands, you can see they lose 1-2 Spades, no Hearts, 1 Diamond and 1 Club. They will probably go down one, or two if they take the Club finesse before drawing trumps.

West	North	East	South
1♦	1NT	Dbl	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

	♠Q85 ♥AK5 ♦KJ63 ♣KJ7	
♠A942 ♥J6 ♦AQT95 ♣84		♠KJT76 ♥QT ♦42 ♣AQ32
	♠3 ♥987432 ♦87 ♣T965	

Board: 16 Dealer: West Lead: ♥8 H1825

West has 11 HCP, a 5-card Diamond suit and a 4-card Spade suit. Just strong enough to open 1D (using Rule of 20).

A 1-level opening bid shows 12-18 points and a 4-card suit; West's length in Diamonds just about compensates for the missing point!

North's **1NT overcall** shows 16-18 HCP, a balanced hand, and a stop in Diamonds.

East has 12 HCP, added to West's 12+ HCP, they know 1NT should fail so they double 1NT for penalties.

South has just 0 HCP but a 6-card Heart suit, so rescues into 2H.

This 2-level bid after partner's 1NT is doubled promises a 5-card suit and 0-10 HCP. It's weak.

Neither West nor East has the right hand to double 2H, even though they both know they have the balance of the points. East overcalls with their 5-card Spade suit, which is raised somewhat tentatively by West, eventually reaching game.

East knows that North has all the high cards, which should help them make their contract.

Boards 17-32

This week you have a real mix of hands to bid and play, including SOME to practice the bidding introduced in this week's lessons. But only SOME!

North	East	South	West
1NT	Dbl	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

	♠AQT ♥AJ8 ♦QJ ♣96542	
♠J ♥QT97652 ♦986 ♣87		♠K7632 ♥K3 ♦AT ♣KQT3
	♠9854 ♥4 ♦K75432 ♣AJ	

Board: 17 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q H3144

East has 15 HCP and a poor 5-card Spade suit which doesn't pass the Suit Quality Test for overcalls, so decides to double 1NT for penalties instead – even though they're slightly too weak for this bid. Hmm.

A double of 1NT is always for penalties and promises 16+ HCP.

South has 8 HCP and a poor 6-card Diamond suit. They're not strong enough to redouble, so they rescue into 2D.

This rescue bid (after partner's 1NT is doubled) shows a 5-card suit and 0-10 HCP. It's weak and will usually be passed by partner.

West has just 3 HCP and a moderate 7-card Heart suit. They don't have enough points (or Diamonds) to double South's bid, so they choose to overcall with their own suit, 2H. They're relying on partner's 16+ HCP!

East	South	West	North
1♦	Dbl	3♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

	♠KT3 ♥AT87 ♦T7 ♣KQ96	
♠J42 ♥Q532 ♦98432 ♣5		♠976 ♥K ♦AKQJ6 ♣8743
	♠AQ85 ♥J964 ♦5 ♣AJT2	

Board: 18 Dealer: East Lead: ♦A H2740

South has 12 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit, so doubles for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a Takeout Double. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit; Double Then Bid.

This double is forcing.

West raises partner to 3D purely based on their 5 Diamonds; an obstructive/sacrifice bid. Their hand would be useless in Defence.

North has 12 HCP and a moderate 4-card major. With no stop in Diamonds they can't bid NT. With 24+ HCP and 3-card Heart support promised by partner, they jump to game over West's obstructive 3D bid.

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♣	3♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠AKJ742
♥J632
♦T
♣J6

♠Q986
♥T
♦A65
♣AK932

♠T3
♥AKQ9
♦KJ974
♣84

♠5
♥8754
♦Q832
♣QT75

Board: 19 Dealer: South Lead: ♥A H2498
North's 3S overcall of 1C is a double jump; a pre-empt.

A 3-level pre-empt promises 7 trumps, two of the top three honours and less than 6-10 HCP – North only has 6 trumps, but three honours. Hmm.

West has opened, showing 12+ HCP. East has 14 HCP so game looks likely but can't support partner's Clubs with just two of them. They can't bid NT without a stop in Spades. And they can't bid 4H with just four, as they don't know how many partner has got. They could perhaps bid 4D, but again they would be guessing about support - So they double 3S for take-out, asking partner to choose one of the other two un-bid suits.

Remember: A double of a 3-level pre-empt is for takeout, if there are unbid suits to choose between. Even if partner has already bid a suit (as in this case). A double of a 3-level bid that isn't a pre-empt (such as 1S pass 3S X) is for penalties.

So East has doubled for takeout. West hasn't got length in either of the un-bid suits, but they do have four Spades, so they pass, converting the takeout double to a penalty double. Their hand is excellent in defence, with three top tricks and one or two Sapde tricks – plus whatever partner has to offer.

If you look at the hands, you can see that North will probably only make 4 Spade tricks and 1 Heart trick; 4 down doubled is a very painful penalty. Well done West!

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠AQT2
♥J96
♦KJT32
♣A

♠9763
♥T53
♦5
♣Q8542

♠K5
♥AK84
♦AQ74
♣K73

♠J84
♥Q72
♦986
♣JT96

Board: 20 Dealer: West Lead: ♦J H2812

East has 19 HCP, a balanced hand, and two stops in the opponents' suit. They're too strong to overcall with 1NT (shows 16-18 HCP) so they double intending to bid NT on the second round; Double Then Bid, to show their strength and stop.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a Takeout Double. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit; or even a very strong hand, as here!

This double is forcing.

South has just 4 HCP and only three Diamonds, a little too weak to bid (although some partners would raise to 2D to be obstructive).

West has just 2 HCP, a poor 5-card minor and a poor 4-card major. They're forced to bid by partner's double. They decide to bid their horrible 4-card major, 1S, as majors score better than minors and 7 tricks are easier than 8.

This minimum level suit bid promises very little; a 3-card suit (usually 4+) and 0-8 HCP.

East rebids 1NT as planned. This Double Then Bid followed by 1NT shows they have 19+ points and a stop in the doubled suit, Diamonds.

Now West bids their second suit, 2C, as a weakness takeout (with no liking for NT and less than 6 HCP). No, it isn't Stayman, as they have already bid Spades!

East passes as there's no chance of game with less than 25 HCP.

Should West bid their second suit after partner's NT rebid?

I think West should pass 1NT rather than bid 2C; East has promised at least one stop in Diamonds, and it's much better to have the weak hand as Dummy. And NT scores so much better than a minor.

Even if West bids 2C, East should bid 2NT. This will make the weaker hand Dummy, encourage a Diamond lead for a free finesse, and NT contracts score better.

What do you think?

North	East	South	West
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♥	Pass	3♥	4♦
Pass	5♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠Q4
♥KJT932
♦8
♣KJ98

♠
♥6
♦J7542
♣AT76432

♠AJT53
♥A8
♦QT963
♣5

♠K98762
♥Q754
♦AK
♣Q

Board: 21 Dealer: North Lead: ♥J H472

No bidding commentary

East	South	West	North
1NT	Dbl	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Board: 22 **Dealer: East** **Lead: ♣J** **H488**

No bidding commentary

	♠QJ9542 ♥J942 ♦4 ♣64	
♠T76 ♥AQT83 ♦8 ♣JT97		♠K3 ♥K76 ♦A753 ♣K532
	♠A8 ♥5 ♦KQJT962 ♣AQ8	

South	West	North	East
1NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Board: 23 **Dealer: South** **Lead: ♠2** **H490**

No bidding commentary

	♠Q983 ♥9 ♦JT63 ♣8653	
♠K742 ♥A632 ♦KQ ♣AQ4		♠65 ♥QJ874 ♦92 ♣KJ92
	♠AJT ♥KT5 ♦A8754 ♣T7	

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Board: 24 **Dealer: West** **Lead: ♦T** **H503**

No bidding commentary.

	♠AQ52 ♥QT9765 ♦T94 ♣	
♠K643 ♥2 ♦KQ73 ♣AJ94		♠JT98 ♥AK4 ♦ ♣KQ8752
	♠7 ♥J83 ♦AJ8652 ♣T63	

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 8732
♥ Q92
♦ AT63
♣ 74

♠ KQ965
♥ AK
♦ J4
♣ QJ65

♠ T
♥ T764
♦ Q982
♣ KT32

♠ AJ4
♥ J853
♦ K75
♣ A98

Board: 25 Dealer: North Lead: ♠6 H645

No bidding commentary.

East	South	West	North
1NT	Dbl	2♥	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ AJ63
♥ Q9
♦ J72
♣ Q853

♠ 852
♥ JT743
♦ 9865
♣ J

♠ K7
♥ A652
♦ QT43
♣ K94

♠ QT94
♥ K8
♦ AK
♣ AT762

Board: 26 Dealer: East Lead: ♣J H766

No bidding commentary

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	2♦	2♥
3♦	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

♠ T82
♥
♦ AQJ83
♣ K9743

♠ KJ97
♥ 5432
♦ 9
♣ AQT8

♠ A6
♥ QJT9876
♦ T5
♣ J2

♠ Q543
♥ AK
♦ K7642
♣ 65

Board: 27 Dealer: South Lead: ♥4 H1138

No bidding commentary.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♠	4♣	4♠	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Board: 28 **Dealer: West** **Lead: ♦K** **H1603**

No bidding commentary.

	♠965 ♥T754 ♦A4 ♣AT42	
♠KQ83 ♥Q92 ♦KQJ972 ♣		♠AJ742 ♥KJ86 ♦T ♣985
	♠T ♥A3 ♦8653 ♣KQJ763	

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Board: 29 **Dealer: North** **Lead: ♥K** **H1612**

No bidding commentary

	♠AK2 ♥842 ♦A764 ♣A63	
♠Q985 ♥KQJT ♦T8 ♣954		♠764 ♥ ♦KQ9532 ♣QT87
	♠JT3 ♥A97653 ♦J ♣KJ2	

East	South	West	North
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Board: 30 **Dealer: East** **Lead: ♥A** **H1938**

No bidding commentary.

	♠KQT984 ♥T ♦K2 ♣A932	
♠6 ♥Q8632 ♦T97 ♣KQ64		♠73 ♥AK95 ♦AQJ543 ♣7
	♠AJ52 ♥J74 ♦86 ♣JT85	

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ AQ985
♥ 2
♦ KJ96
♣ JT8

♠ J42
♥ AQJ853
♦ T8
♣ 74

♠ T763
♥ 974
♦ AQ75
♣ K6

♠ K
♥ KT6
♦ 432
♣ AQ9532

Board: 31 **Dealer: South** **Lead: ♥Q** **H2339**

No bidding commentary.

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♦	3♣	3♠	5♣
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ Q
♥ A97652
♦ 843
♣ Q86

♠ T
♥ KQJT4
♦ AK962
♣ 72

♠ KJ97652
♥ 83
♦ QJ5
♣ J

♠ A843
♥
♦ T7
♣ AKT9543

Board: 32 **Dealer: West** **Lead: ♠T** **H3596**

No bidding commentary

Synopsis

Hand Types:

- OCL = Overcall
- DTO = Double for Take Out
- DTB = Double Then Bid
- NEG = Negative Double
- NTO = Overcall with 1NT
- DNT = Double 1NT (fir penalties)
- ONT = Overcall 1NT (with a suit)
- DFP = Double For Penalties

Boards 1-16

Some of these hands do not support the **Plan the Play** feature of **My Hands** yet, as indicated in the table below.

Board	Dealer	Bidding	Type	Hand #	Plan the Play?
1	N	1H, 1S, 3H, 4H	OCL	H376	N
2	E	1NT, X	DNT	H490	Y
3	S	1H, 1S, 2H, 4S	OCL	H1385	Y
4	W	1NT, X, 2S	DNT	H2864	N
5	N	1S, 2C, 2H, 3C, 4S	OCL	H2081	Y
6	E	1H, 1S, 2C, 3H, 4H, X	DFP	H1252	N
7	S	1C, 3D, X	DFP	H1535	N
8	W	1C, 1S, 2D, 2H, 5C	OCL	H910	Y
9	N	1H, 1NT, X, 2D, 2H	NTO	H2027	N
10	E	1S, X, 2NT, 3NT	DTO	H146	Y
11	S	1H, X, 2C, 2D, 3NT	DTB	H2586	N
12	W	1D, 1S, 2D, 3C, 3D, 4D, 5D, X	DFP	H1250	Y
13	N	1NT, X, 2H, 2S, 3D	DNT	H488	Y
14	E	1D, X, 3D, 4H	DTO	H2740	N
15	S	1D, X, 1S, 4H	DTO	H2628	N
16	W	1D, 1NT, X, 2H, 2S, 3S, 4S	NTO	H1825	N

Boards 17-32

Some of these hands do not support the **Plan the Play** feature of **My Hands** yet, as indicated in the table below.

Board	Dealer	Bidding	Type	Hand #	Plan the Play?
17	N	1NT, X, 2D, 2H	DNT	H3144	N
18	E	1D, X, 3D, 4H	DTO	H2740	N
19	S	1C, 3S, X	DTO	H2498	N
20	W	1D, X, 1S, 1NT, 2C	DTB	H2812	N
21	N	1S, 2C, 2H, 3H, 4D, 5D, X	DFP	H472	Y
22	E	1NT, X, 2H, 2S, 3D	DNT	H488	Y
23	S	1NT, X	DNT	H490	Y
24	W	1C, 1H, 1S, 2H, 2S, 3H, 4S, X, 5C, X	DFP	H503	Y
25	N	1NT, X	DNT	H645	Y
26	E	1NT, X, 2H, 3H, 3S, 4S	DNT	H766	Y
27	S	1D, 2D, 2H, 3D, 4H, 5D, X	DFP	H1138	Y
28	W	1D, 1S, 2C, 3S, 4C, 4S, 5C, X	DFP	H1603	Y
29	N	1D, 1H, 1NT, 4H, X	DFP	H1612	Y
30	E	1D, 1H, 1S, 3H, 3S, 4H, 4S, X	DFP	H1938	Y
31	S	1C, 2H, 2S, 3H, X, 3NT	DFP	H2339	Y
32	W	1H, 1S, 2C, 2D, 3C, 3S, 5C, X	DFP	H3596	Y