

Topic 6: Using Doubles During Play

Different Types of Doubles Used in Bridge:

1. Takeout Double
2. Negative Double
3. Support Double
4. Protective Double
5. Re-opening Double
6. Penalty Double

1. Takeout Double - the most common version.

It shows an Opening Hand **11-14 pt**, no 5 card suit and a shortage in the Opener's suit. The **X** hand **will not** bid again – *Accept your partner's bid!*

Bidding eg. **1H X** has a holding of (S, H, D, C) 4, 2, 4, 3 or 4, 1, 4, 4

With 16+ pt the X hand may bid again:

Bidding eg. **1♥ X / 1♠** 2♠ bid shows 4 card support and 16-18 pts
3♠ bid shows 4 card support and 19-20 pts
4♠ bid shows 4 card support and 21+ pts

After **1♥ X / 1♠**
/ **(2♣ or 2♦)** by X hand shows 16+pts and 5 x (♣ or ♦)

If 2nd seat holds higher pts

(i) **1♥ 1NT** shows 15-18 pts and balanced hand (use **NT** not **X**)

(ii) **1♥ X / 1♠**
/ **1NT** or if required, **2NT** shows no fit in ♠ and 19+

Responsibility of Doubles Partner (Responder):

1. Bid your longest suit
2. a **NT** response should have cover in Opener's suit
3. Sometimes you are forced to bid a 3 card suit
4. a **Pass** converts Partner's **X** into a Penalty X. You will need a long trump suit to defend, else risk giving the opponents a high score.
5. if Responder has **10+** pts you want to let your partner know.
 - (i) If you have a 5 card suit jump. Eg.
1♥ X / 2♠ shows 10+pts and 5 x ♠
 - (ii) not holding a 5 card suit make a Cue Bid over the Opener's suit. Eg.
1♥ X / 2♥ shows 10+ pts and no 5 card suit

2. **Negative Double** – does not require a lot of points.

Bidding goes:

1♥ / 2♣ X shows other 2 suits. Eg. 4 x ♠ and 3+ ♦,
Normally denies 5 x ♠ (may only have 6 pts)

3. **Support Double** – *not used often enough.*

Partner opens 1♦ / 1♠ 2♣
(4th seat must place a bid; 1st seat cannot X their partner without an intervening bid)
X shows 3 card support for the 1♠ bid by partner;
3rd seat can rebid the ♠ if holding 5+ ♠ or any other appropriate suit.

4. **Protective Double** – happens in 4th seat – will keep the bidding open one round

Bidding goes:

Opener 1♣ or 1♦ or 1♥ or 1♠ then / / X

There are 2 options:

- (i) Opener mis-bid, or
- (ii) 2nd seat has good points and length in Openers Suit

4th seat X to keep bidding open or bid a suit if possible.
Should have about 10 + pts.

5. **Re-Opening Double** – done by the Opener

Bidding goes:

1♥ 1♠ / /
X shows a good hand and asks partner to bid their best suit

6. **Penalty Double** – is used to punish the opposition for over bidding. You believe you can win the contract!

Double for Penalty at the 3rd level or more.

When you Double a contract you give a warning to the Declarer that you have some ammunition. It also gives the Declarer the opportunity to change their contract or play carefully against your seat.

If you are very confident you have a safe contract you can Double the original Double and either get a very large score or loose quite a lot!

Exercises: 1 - 4 using Takeout Double; 5 - 8 other Doubles; ** - Dealer

1.

		S: K Q 7 6 3	
		H: A 7	
		D: A T 8 7 6	
		C: J 8	
S: A T 6			S: J 2
H: 8 6 5 4		**N	H: K Q J T
D: K J 2	W	E	D: Q 9 5
C: K T 9		S	C: A 7 6 4
		S: 8 5 4	
		H: 9 3 2	
		D: 4 3	
		C: Q 5 3 2	

Bidding:

N E S W

2.

		S: K 7 6 3	
		H: A 7	
		D: A T 8 7 6	
		C: J 8	
S: A T 6			S: Q J 2
H: 8 6 5 4		**N	H: K Q J T
D: K J 2	W	E	D: Q 9 5
C: K T 9		S	C: A 7 6 4
		S: 8 5 4	
		H: 9 3 2	
		D: 4 3	
		C: Q 5 3 2	

Bidding:

N E S W

3.

		S: T	
		H: 8 6 5 4	
		D: K 5 2	
		C: K T 9 6 4	
S: 9 8 5			S: K 7 6 3 2
H: 9 3 2		N	H: A 7
D: 6 4 3	W	**E	D: A T 8 7
C: Q 5 3 2		S	C: J 8
		S: A Q J 4	
		H: K Q J T	
		D: Q J 9	
		C: A 7	

Bidding:

N E S W

4.

		S: 9 8 5	
		H: 9 3 2	
		D: 6 4 3	
		C: Q 5 3 2	
S: Q J			S: A T 4
H: K Q T		N	H: J 8 6 5 4
D: Q J 9	W	E	D: K 5 2
C: A K 7 6 4		**S	C: T 9
		S: K 7 6 3 2	
		H: A 7	
		D: A T 8 7	
		C: J 8	

Bidding:

N E S W

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5.

S: J 9 H: Q T 5 4 D: Q J 9 C: K 7 6 4		
S: K 7 6 H: A 7 2 D: K T 7 3 C: 9 8 2	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W **E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	S: A Q 8 5 3 H: 9 3 D: A 6 4 C: Q 5 3
S: T 4 2 H: K J 8 6 D: A 8 5 2 C: A J T		

Bidding:

N E S W

6.

S: 9 7 H: A K 7 6 3 D: A T 9 C: Q 8 2		
S: T 4 2 H: D: K 8 5 2 C: A K J T 7 5	<div> <div>**N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	S: A K J H: Q T 5 4 2 D: Q J 7 C: 6 4
S: Q 8 6 5 3 H: J 9 8 D: 6 4 3 C: 9 3		

Bidding:

N E S W

7.

8. 4♥X / S was the contract recently, was it worth the Double and what action could N/S have taken?

S: T 4 2 H: 9 8 D: 9 8 5 2 C: K J T 7		
S: A K Q 8 5 4 H: J 3 D: 6 4 3 C: Q 3	<div> <div>N</div> <div>**W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	S: 9 7 6 H: 7 6 D: K Q T C: 9 8 5 4 2
S: J H: A K Q T 5 4 2 D: A J 7 C: A 6		

Bidding:

N E S W

S: 3 H: Q 9 5 3 D: A 6 5 3 C: A Q 5 4		
S: A K J T 9 8 5 H: J 7 D: Q T C: J 9	<div> <div>N</div> <div>**W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	S: 6 4 2 H: 2 D: J 8 7 4 2 C: K T 6 3
S: Q 7 H: A K T 8 6 4 D: K 9 C: 8 7 2		

Bidding:

N E S W