

NEGATIVE DOUBLES

The negative double functions as another form of the takeout double. If partner has opened with a suit and the next opponent bids a different suit, an immediate double (through 3S) is called a Negative Double. Consider it like a takeout double. "Partner, please bid a different suit." There is no upper limit on points promised. The one- and two-levels require at least 7 points, the three and four-levels require 9 points.

1. If there is one or more unbid major, the doubler promises at least 4 cards in the major/majors.
2. If both majors have been bid, doubler promises at least 4 cards in each minor suit.

EXAMPLES:

1C 1S X

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	x
x	x	x	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	

Comments

1D 2C X

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
J	x	x	x
x	x		x
x	x		

1S 1H X

S	H	D	C
x	x	K	A
x	x	J	x
		x	x
		x	x
			x

1C 1H X

S	H	D	C
K	A	A	x
x	x	K	x
x		J	x
x		x	

You will get to game somewhere.
If partner has 4 spades, that is safer than 3NT.

1C 1H 1S

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
x	x	x	x
x		x	x
x			
x			

You promise at least 5 spades.

1D 2S X

S	H	D	C
x	A	K	x
	x	J	x
	x	x	x
	x		x
	x		

With 5 hearts, you want to bid the suit yourself, but you don't have enough points to go to the 3 level.

Rebids by Opener:

1. Any minimum bid is natural, indicates 13-15 points.
2. Any jump bid is natural, indicates 16-18 points, and is invitational.
3. A cue-bid of the enemy suit shows 19+ points and is game forcing.
4. Pass (rare) converts the negative double into penalty. Why is the pass rare? First, the double usually occurs at a low level. It is very difficult to set a low-level contract. Second, the double indicates that the doubler has the *other* suits, therefore her points are not important on defense. The doubler is trying to be competitive and offensive. If the opener passes, and converts the negative double into a penalty, then she must have the setting points in her own hand.

1C 1S X P
2H

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	K
x	J	x	Q
x	x	x	x
	x		

This supports partner's promised major. Shows a minimum hand.

1C 2H X P
3N

S	H	D	C
x	K	K	A
x	Q	x	K
	x		Q
			x
			x
			x

Bidding 2 N would indicate a minimum hand.

1C 1H X P
2H

S	H	D	C
A	x	A	A
K	x	x	Q
x			J
			10
			x
			x

You have shown your points with the cue bid (19-21); Partner will now describe her hand more.

Rebids by Negative Doubler:

1. One NT, new suit, or simple preference for a suit bid by partner is natural and shows 6-10 points. For example:
 - a. 1D—1H—x (shows spades) P
2C—P—2D (shows a preference for diamonds)
2. Two NT, single raise, or jump preference is natural and shows 11-12 points.
3. Cue-bid of the enemy suit shows 13+ points and is game forcing.

1D 1H **X** P
2C P **3D**

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	Q
x	x	Q	x
x		x	x
x		x	

This invitational jump-bid shows a preference for diamonds.

1H 2C **X** P
2H P **2N**

S	H	D	C
K	x	Q	A
J		x	J
x		x	x
x		x	x

Partner has shown a minimum hand with 6 hearts, but you still don't have a fit. 2N is invitational.

1C 1S **X** P
2C P **2S**

S	H	D	C
x	A	K	A
	x	Q	x
	x	J	x
	x	x	
	x		

You have shown 13+ points; Partner will continue to describe her hand; she may bid hearts now with just 3 since she already denied 4.

EXERCISES

RESPONDER: NEGATIVE DOUBLE? BID A SUIT? NO TRUMP? PASS?

1 1C 1H ?

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	x
x	x	x	x
x		x	x
x		x	

2 1C 1D ?

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
J	x	x	x
x	x		x
x	x		

3 1H 1S ?

S	H	D	C
x	x	K	A
x	x	J	x
		x	x
		x	x
		x	

4 1C 1H ?

S	H	D	C
K	A	A	x
x	x	K	x
x		J	x
x		x	

5 1C 1H ?

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
x	x	x	x
x		x	x
x			
x			

6 1D 2H ?

S	H	D	C
x	A	K	x
x	x	J	x
x		x	x
x			x

7 1D 1S ?

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
K	x	Q	x
x		J	x
x			
x			

8 1D 2C ?

S	H	D	C
A	A	K	x
J	x	x	x
x	x		x
x			

OPENER REBIDS

OPENER'S HAND:

9 1C 1H X P
?

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	K
Q	x	x	Q
x	x	x	x
x			

10 1C 2H X P
?

S	H	D	C
x	K	K	A
x	Q	x	K
	x		Q
			x
			x
			x

11 1C 1S X P
?

S	H	D	C
A	x	A	A
K	x	x	Q
	x		J
			10
			x
			x

DOUBLER REBIDS

RESPONDER'S HAND:

12 1D 1S X P
2C P ?

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	Q
x	x	Q	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	

13 1H 2C X P
2H P ?

S	H	D	C
K	x	Q	A
J		x	J
x		x	x
x		x	x

14 1D 2C X 3C
P P ?

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	A
x	x	x	K
x	x		x
x	x		

ANSWERS

RESPONDER: NEGATIVE DOUBLE? BID A SUIT? NO TRUMP? PASS?

1 1C 1H X

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	x
x	x	x	x
x		x	x
x		x	

2 1C 1D X

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
J	x	x	x
x	x		x
x	x		

The double promises both majors.

3 1H 1S X

S	H	D	C
x	x	K	A
x	x	J	x
		x	x
		x	x
		x	

The double promises both minors.

4 1C 1H X

S	H	D	C
K	A	A	x
x	x	K	x
x		J	x
x		x	

You will get to game somewhere. If partner has 4 spades, that is safer than 3NT.

5 1C 1H 1S

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
x	x	x	x
x		x	x
x			
x			

You promise at least 5 spades.

6 1D 2H X

S	H	D	C
x	A	K	x
x	x	J	x
x		x	x
x			x

7 1D 1S P (or 3NT)

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	x
K	x	Q	x
x		J	x
x			
x			

Be certain to pass smoothly with this hand. No hesitation. If partner re-opens with a double, you can leave it in for penalty. You also have the option to bid 3NT if you like the vulnerability.

8 1D 2C 2S (or 3C)

S	H	D	C
A	A	K	x
J	x	x	x
x	x		x
x			

This is one situation where a bid of the suit does not promise 5. You cannot double because you don't have 4 hearts. Partner cannot pass 3C. But some say you need support for partner's suit for this bid.

OPENER REBIDS

OPENER'S HAND:

9 1C 1H X P
1S

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	K
Q	x	x	Q
x	x	x	x
x			

10 1C 2H X P
3NT

S	H	D	C
x	K	K	A
x	Q	x	K
	x		Q
			x
			x
			x

11 1C 1S X P
2S

S	H	D	C
A	x	A	A
K	x	x	Q
	x		J
			10
			x
			x

This promises 19-21 points

DOUBLER REBIDS

RESPONDER'S HAND:

12 1D 1S X P
2C P 3D

S	H	D	C
A	x	K	Q
x	x	Q	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	

This is invitational and can be passed.
It shows more than a minimum hand and a preference for diamonds.

13 1H 2C X P
2H P 2N

S	H	D	C
K	x	Q	A
J		x	J
x		x	x
x		x	x

14 1D 2C X 3C
P P 3N

S	H	D	C
A	K	x	A
x	x	x	K
x	x		x
x	x		

You have both majors stopped plus the opponents' bid suit. This game bid has a good chance of making. Partner has 13 points somewhere.