

## **OPENER'S REBID AFTER A NEGATIVE DOUBLE**

When responder makes a negative double, opener presumes responder has enough strength to compete and has support for the unbid suits, especially any unbid major.

- With a minimum-strength hand, opener chooses a rebid at the cheapest available level. Opener may pass if the next opponent bids or redoubles after the negative double.
- With a medium-strength hand, opener jumps a level or bids, even if there is further competition.
- With a maximum-strength hand, opener gets the partnership to the game level, cuebidding the opponent's suit if in doubt about the best contract.

### **Responding to a Low-Level Negative Double**

Responder's negative double is for takeout. If the next opponent passes, opener rarely converts the double into a penalty double by passing.

<b>WEST</b>	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♦	1 ♠	Double	Pass
?			

<p>♠ J 4 2 ♥ Q J 6 3 ♦ A J 9 5 ♣ A 6</p>	<p>Rebid 2 ♥. East has promised at least four cards in hearts and the strength to compete at the two level. With a minimum-strength hand, West bids at the cheapest available level. Bidding 2 ♥ in this sequence isn't a reverse. It's as though East had bid 1 ♥ and West is raising to the two level with a minimum-strength hand.</p>
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<p>♠ J 4 ♥ A J 9 3 ♦ A Q J 7 3 ♣ K 5</p>	<p>Rebid 3 ♥. With a medium-strength hand, West shows extra values with a jump. Again, it's as though East bid 1 ♥ and West jumps to the three level to invite East to bid game.</p>
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♠ J 3  
♥ K Q 10 8  
♦ A K J 7  
♣ K Q 5

Rebid 4♥. With a maximum-strength hand, West puts the partnership at the game level in the known eight-card fit.

♠ 10 2  
♥ K 5  
♦ K J 7 5 3  
♣ A J 8 3

Rebid 2♣. East has theoretically shown support for both of the unbid suits. It will be up to East to bid again without support for clubs. East might rebid 2♦ or bid 2♥ with five or more cards in that suit and not enough strength to respond 2♥ initially.

♠ A J 5  
♥ Q 4  
♦ A J 8 7 3  
♣ J 9 5

Rebid 1NT. With a balanced hand, strength in the opponent's suit and no fit with either of the suits suggested by East, 1NT is West's most descriptive rebid.

♠ A Q 5  
♥ 6 2  
♦ A K J 10 7 3  
♣ K 5

Rebid 3NT. East is showing cards in clubs and hearts, and this is a maximum-strength hand with strength in the opponent's suit. 3NT appears to be the best game contract.

♠ 8 4 3  
♥ A Q 7  
♦ K Q 6 2  
♣ Q 8 3

Rebid 2♥. This is an awkward hand to bid. A rebid of 1NT isn't appealing, because there is no strength in the opponent's suit. Rebidding diamonds with a four-card suit isn't attractive, since East may not have support for that suit. Instead, West picks one of East's suits. The three hearts are strong enough to treat them as a four-card suit. West hopes 2♥ will be a reasonable contract if everyone passes.

## Responding to a Negative Double at the Two Level

The higher the level of interference, the more opportunity to defeat the opponent's contract, especially since responder will tend to have a stronger hand to make a negative double at a high level. The negative