

LESSON 2

Other Doubles

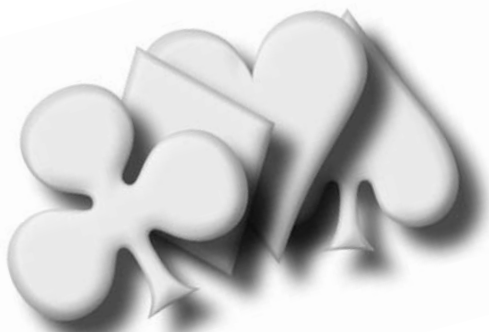


General Concepts

General Introduction

Group Activities

Sample Deals



GENERAL CONCEPTS

Other Doubles

The discussion on the use of the double continues. The double is used for a wide variety of purposes and covers the whole spectrum from straight takeout doubles to pure penalty doubles. The fact that many doubles lie somewhere in between is typically a source of confusion for students. A bidding misunderstanding over the meaning of a double can have major consequences.

The purpose of this lesson is to put the students more at ease with the use of the double, while making them aware that there is a whole world of possibilities.

Bidding

This lesson doesn't cover all of the uses of the double. The focus is primarily on differentiating situations where the double is clearly meant as a takeout double and those where it is clearly meant for penalty. As a general guideline, most low-level doubles are treated as takeout — with a few clear-cut exceptions.

This lesson doesn't cover some of the more conventional uses of the double, such as responsive doubles or support doubles. Most of the students will be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with concepts such as balancing doubles, lead-directing doubles and the use of the redouble.

Here are the topics covered:

Doubles That Are Primarily for Takeout

This section reviews the classic takeout double, which should be familiar to the students. The modern style is that doubles of opening bids up to and including 4♦ are for takeout. Doubles of 4♠ or higher are for penalty. A double of 4♥ is on the borderline — partner can take it out or leave it in.

This section also looks at more extended uses of the takeout double — by opener, by responder, by the overcaller and in balancing situations. The students should understand that the double is clearly intended as takeout in all of these situations.

Cooperative, Competitive and Optional Doubles

No attempt is made to distinguish among the terms “cooperative,” “competitive” and “optional.” The concept that some doubles lie halfway between takeout and penalty is introduced. In these situations, the doubler shows additional strength for the actions taken so far and asks partner to make an “intelligent” decision on whether to bid higher or pass and defend.

An important principle is the defensive potential of card combinations that lie “under” or “over” an opponent. Examples of this principle are introduced, but the students may find it a challenging concept.

Doubles That Are Primarily for Penalty

This section covers the situations where a double is clearly meant for penalty. Some of these are straightforward, but many require the students to listen closely to the auction and make appropriate inferences. The concept of doubling an artificial (conventional) bid is introduced. This is discussed further in the following section.

Lead-Directing Double

There is some overlap with the idea of doubling an opponent's artificial (conventional) bid, but this section takes the idea further and presents the concept of a Lightner double, a topic which is unlikely to be familiar to the students. Again, the concept is to listen carefully to the auction and use the available information to interpret the meaning of partner's double.

The Redouble

Most students are unfamiliar with the standard use of the redouble after partner's opening bid is doubled for takeout. This section covers how both responder and opener should handle the situation. It also ties into the use of the Truscott 2NT.

The S.O.S. Redouble

The use of the redouble as an escape mechanism when the partnership is in trouble isn't very common. It is part of standard bidding, however, and the students should be aware of the concept, so that there isn't a misunderstanding when playing with an unfamiliar partner. Redoubled contracts are usually expensive for one side or the other.

Play & Defense

The sample deals for this lesson focus on the bidding concepts that have already been introduced, and they don't present any challenging play concepts. It is difficult to ensure that the auction will proceed exactly as planned. In competitive bidding situations, either side might declare the contract. In partscore situations, the play and defense can become quite complex. The deals are designed so that declarer should make the contract if the bidding goes as intended.

On the first deal, East–West should reach a partscore in diamonds. Declarer should fall into taking at least nine tricks and probably ten. If North–South compete to the three level or higher, East–West should have an easy time defeating the contract.

On the second deal, North–South need to balance to get a reasonable result. If East–West are left to play in 2♥, they should make that contract. North–South can take at least eight tricks and likely nine in a spade contract. Once North–South reach 2♠, they should get a plus score, whether by playing the contract or defending if East–West push any higher.

The play on the third deal is very straightforward. The success or defeat of the game contract hinges on the opening lead, which will be determined from the auction.

The final contract on the fourth deal is unclear. If North–South don't handle the redouble correctly, they will probably play in 3NT, and declarer should have no difficulty taking at least nine tricks. If East–West declare the contract, it should be relatively easy for the defenders to limit declarer to three or four tricks, extracting a large penalty if the auction goes as intended.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The previous lesson covered the negative double, a form of takeout double. The use of the double for something other than penalty has mushroomed in recent years. Unfortunately, that has led to a lot of confusion. There are many situations in which disagreements arise even among experts. This lesson will try to clarify some of the more common situations, although there still will be lots of room for discussion.

You might start the lesson like this:

“The double is a versatile bid that can be put to many uses other than as a pure penalty double. The art of using the double for more than one purpose, however, is for both partners to clearly understand what the double means in each bidding situation.

“When you double an opponent’s contract at some point during the auction, partner needs to know whether the double is strictly for penalty, strictly for takeout or something in between. Experienced partnerships usually have a number of agreements to cover the majority of situations. Even so, there are often misunderstandings. This lesson will look at some common, and not so common, situations involving a double and the guidelines the partnership can use to avoid a mix-up.”

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Doubles That Are Primarily for Takeout

Introduction

“The takeout double is one of the game’s oldest conventions. It predates the modern game, coming from the days of auction bridge. It is a conventional use of the double that is part of the fibre of today’s competitive bidding and should be familiar to most students. Its use is commonly extended into a number of situations, and we’ll look at some of these.”

Instructions

“Sort the cards into suits. Give each player one suit and set up the following hand for North.

“In spades: two low cards.

“In hearts: the ace, the jack and two low cards.

“In diamonds: the ace, the jack and two low cards.

“In clubs: the king and two low cards.”

NORTH

♠ x x

♥ A J x x

♦ A J x x

♣ K x x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	Double		

Check that each table has the correct starting hand set up “dummy style” in front of North.

The Classic Takeout Double

“**If you were the dealer, what would you bid?** (1 ♦ .) With a balanced hand too weak to open 1NT, you would start with the longer minor suit, 1 ♦ .

“**Suppose, instead, West deals and opens the bidding 1 ♠. What would North call?** (Double.) With an opening bid, you would like to compete for the contract. The best way to do this is to make a takeout double. A direct takeout double shows:

- The values for at least an opening bid.
- Support for the unbid suits.

“What is the value of this hand when making a takeout double? (14 points.) When making a takeout double, you assume that you will be the dummy, since partner will be picking the suit and will become declarer. Under that assumption, value your hand using dummy points:

- 5 points for a void.
- 3 points for a singleton.
- 1 point for a doubleton.

“On that basis, this hand is worth 14 points: 13 HCPs plus 1 dummy point for the doubleton.

“Suppose North doubles 1♠, East passes and South advances to 2♣. If West passes, what does North call? (Pass.) Although you would have preferred partner to pick hearts or diamonds, you can’t afford to bid again with a minimum-strength hand. You forced South to say something, and South could have no points at all.

“To emphasize this, leave the North hand as it is and construct a hand in front of South.

“In spades: the queen and two low cards.

“In hearts: two low cards.

“In diamonds: three low cards.

“In clubs: the queen and four low cards.

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1♠	Double	Pass	2♣											
Pass	Pass	Pass												
♠ x x		♠ Q x x												
♥ A J x x		♥ x x												
♦ A J x x		♦ x x x												
♣ K x x		♣ Q x x x x												

“If these are the combined hands, the partnership is already more than high enough in 2♣, even though South has 4 HCPs and a five-card suit. South could have even less, so North must be very careful not to bid the same cards twice. North already promised an opening bid with the initial takeout double. It is up to South to take some stronger action with interest in reaching game.

“Change the South hand.

“In hearts: add the queen and a low card.

“In diamonds: take away a low card.

“In clubs: take away two low cards and add the ace.

NORTH

♠ x x

♥ A J x x

♦ A J x x

♣ K x x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	Double	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

SOUTH

♠ Q x x

♥ Q x x x

♦ x x

♣ A Q x x

“**Suppose West opens the bidding 1 ♠. What would North call?** (Double.)

North would make a takeout double.

“**If East passes, what call would South make?** (3 ♥.) First South has to decide which suit to bid. South has a choice of clubs or hearts. In such a situation, preference is usually given to the major suit, even if the minor suit is stronger. There are a couple of reasons:

- If the partnership can make a game, it is more likely to be in a major suit than in a minor suit, since the minor suit requires one more trick.
- The takeout doubler should have four-card support for an unbid major, but might have only three-card support — or worse — for an unbid minor.

“Having chosen the suit, South must then choose the level. Since South would have advanced to 2 ♥ with no points at all, South needs to jump to show some interest in game, 9 to 11 (12) points. With 12 (13) or more points, South should get the partnership to game, since North promises at least an opening bid. South should jump to 3 ♥, an invitational bid. It’s similar to raising a 1 ♥ opening to 3 ♥ as a limit raise.

“**What should North’s next call be if South responds 3 ♥?** (Pass.) With a minimum for the takeout double, North should decline the invitation by passing. 3 ♥ is high enough for the partnership.

“**Suppose that instead of opening 1 ♠, West opens 1 ♥. What would North call?** (Pass.) North doesn’t have support for spades, the unbid major, so North shouldn’t make a takeout double. It’s likely to get the partnership into trouble. Without a good five-card suit to overcall, North should pass. When the opponents open the bidding, you don’t have to enter the auction just because you have an opening bid. If your hand is unsuitable for a takeout double or an overcall, it’s best to keep quiet and await developments. You may get a chance to come back into the auction later — as we’ll discuss shortly.

“Let’s change the scenario again. Suppose West opens the bidding with a weak 2♠ bid rather than 1♠. What would North call? (Pass/Double.)

A double by North would still be a takeout double. The general agreement is that an immediate double of an opponent’s opening bid in a suit is for takeout through 4♦. A double of an opening bid of 4♠ or higher is for penalty. A double of 4♥ is the borderline. Partner can take it out or leave it in. In other words, the doubler should have support for the unbid suits if partner bids, but enough high-card strength to defeat the contract if partner chooses to pass. These are guidelines. Some partnerships choose to play that a double of an opponent’s opening bid can be for takeout through 4♠.

“Having said that, the requirements for making a takeout double increase as the level increases. North’s strength is borderline for a takeout double. With only 14 points, North is committing the partnership to compete at the three level. If South has nothing, the partnership could get into a lot of trouble. Even when South has some values, a takeout double by North on a minimum hand may lead to a poor result.

“Look at the situation from South’s point of view. If North does make a takeout double of 2♠, what call should South make? (4♥/3♥.) With 10 HCPs, South also has a borderline decision and might jump to 4♥. South will assume that North has more than a minimum takeout double to commit the partnership to the three level. Since South has more than could be expected, South may take the partnership to the game level. That would likely lead to a minus result on the combined hands.

“South might take a more conservative view, judging that the ♠Q is unlikely to be of much value, and the partnership might stop in 3♥. Even that contract is in some danger. As you can see, competition, especially at high levels, is always challenging. Both partners have judgment decisions to make, and it’s easy to get too high or stop too low.

“The increase in strength requirements for a takeout double as the level increases isn’t clear-cut. If the major suit situation were reversed — West opens 2♥ and North holds support for spades — a double on minimal values is a little safer. South would be able to respond 2♠, keeping the partnership at the two level. Even if South jumped to 3♠ with an invitational hand, the partnership would be one level lower. When judging whether to make a takeout double, you need to look carefully at each situation, taking a number of factors into account. Vulnerability, for example, also will affect the risk/reward factor in making a decision.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away a low card.

“In clubs: add a low card.

“Change the South hand.

“In hearts: take away the queen and add the king.

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2 ♠	Double	Pass	4 ♥											
Pass	Pass	Pass												

“**West opens 2 ♠. What would North do?** (Double.) With a singleton spade, this is a much better hand for a takeout double. North’s hand is now worth 16 points — 13 HCPs plus 3 dummy points for the singleton.

“**What call would South make?** (4 ♥.) With 11 HCPs and a doubleton, South should definitely take the partnership to the game level, when North is willing to make a takeout double of 2 ♠.

“As a general guideline, the partner with the appropriate shape should generally take the aggressive action in competitive situations. If North passed the opening 2 ♠ bid and East also passed, it would be difficult for South to bring the partnership into the auction. South has length in the opponent’s suit and no support for diamonds. So, if North doesn’t take any action, the partnership will miss a good game contract.

“**Suppose West opens the bidding 3 ♠. What would North call?** (Double.) The opening bid at the three level increases the risk again. However, North has the right shape and should probably take the aggressive position of making a takeout double. If North doesn’t, the partnership will likely miss a game contract, since South is unlikely to take any action. Of course, the takeout double could work poorly if South holds a very weak hand, but that is what competition is all about.

“**Suppose West were to open 4 ♠. What should North call?** (Pass.) A double of 4 ♠ or higher is for penalty, not for takeout. North doesn’t have enough to be sure of defeating 4 ♠ and should probably pass.

“Turn the South cards face down and focus on the North hand.

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2 ♠	Double	1 ♠	Pass						

“Suppose East is the dealer and opens 1♠. South passes and West raises to 2♠. What does North call? (Double.) A double by North is for takeout. It is North’s first opportunity to bid, and the opponents are still at the partscore level.

“Suppose East opens 1♠ and West responds 1NT. What call does North make? (Double.) A double is for takeout of spades, the only suit bid by the opponents. As will be discussed later, the double of an *opening* notrump bid is for penalty. However, the double of a 1NT response is for takeout in opener’s suit.

“If East opens 1♠ and West responds 2NT, what call does North make? (Pass/Double.) A double would be for takeout in spades. Whether North should double with this hand depends on the meaning of the 2NT response. If it’s a natural bid, showing a balanced hand of invitational strength or game-going strength, it would be unwise for North to come into the auction. Partner probably has nothing. If West’s 2NT response is artificial, showing a fit for spades, a takeout double of spades is more reasonable. It would be quite risky with this hand, but there’s more likelihood that North–South will find a suitable fit once East–West have announced a nine-card or longer spade fit.”

If the class questions this last statement, you could have them lay out a full deal in which North–South have a five-four spade fit. They will discover that East–West will always have an eight-card fit in at least one of the other suits. There isn’t enough room left for North–South to hold six cards in each of the other suits.

“Suppose East opens 1♦, South passes and West responds 1♠. What call does North make? (Double.) Double is still for takeout when it is made at your first opportunity and partner has not bid, even if the opponents have bid two suits. In this situation, the double is takeout for the *two* unbid suits, hearts and clubs.

“Now let’s suppose East opens the bidding 1♠, and both South and West pass. What call does North make? (Double.) North’s double in this situation is still for takeout, as it would be in the direct position — if West had opened 1♠. There’s a slight difference in that North is in the passout position. North has the option of passing the hand out in 1♠ instead of competing. That’s a little different from making a double in a ‘live’ auction — when the opponents will be able to keep the auction going if you pass.”

The Balancing Double

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add a low card.

“In diamonds: take away the ace.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ x x			1 ♠	Pass
♥ A J x x	Pass	Double		
♦ J x x				
♣ K x x x				

“**Would this hand be suitable for a takeout double if West opens the bidding 1 ♠?** (No.) You can count 9 HCPs plus 1 dummy point for the doubleton spade, but that isn’t enough for a direct takeout double. Partner would assume you have the values for an opening bid, and the partnership would likely get too high.

“**Now, suppose East opens the bidding 1 ♠ and this is followed by two passes. Is there any difference when you are in the passout seat?** (Yes.) In the passout position, it is common practice to make a takeout double with a hand that you would not make a takeout double on in the direct position. There are a couple of reasons for this:

- If you pass in the direct position, partner still has a chance to act, and you will likely get another opportunity to bid later in the auction. If you pass in the passout position, the opponents have automatically won the auction.
- There is an inference that partner holds some strength. East didn’t open with a strong two-bid, and West doesn’t have enough to respond. Your partnership is likely to hold at least half the total strength. Partner might even hold the values for an opening bid or more, but have a hand that is unsuitable for a direct overcall or takeout double.

“A double in this position is sometimes referred to as a balancing double. Despite your meager high-card strength, you are assuming that the overall strength is approximately balanced between the two partnerships. That being the case, you don’t want to let the opponents choose the trump suit if you have a better option.

“Defending 1 ♠ with this hand is not particularly appealing. Your side can quite likely make a partscore if you can find a suitable trump fit. Making a takeout double gives you the best chance of finding an acceptable trump suit.

“Let’s see what would happen if you do make a takeout double.

“Turn the South cards face up.

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“**If North doubles in the balancing position, what call will South make?** (3♥/2♥.) South has no way of knowing that North doesn’t have a full takeout double. North could have the previous hand with a singleton spade and the ♦ A. With 11 HCPs, South will probably make an invitational bid by jumping to 3♥. North, naturally, will reject the invitation.

“North–South might be a trick too high in 3♥, but it might make. Even down one won’t be a horrible result, since East–West would likely make the 1♠ contract if left to play there. In fact, they would probably take at least eight tricks.

“The general guideline is that actions in the balancing position can be made with about a king — 3 points — fewer than in the direct position. Keeping this in mind, South might be a little more conservative opposite North’s balancing double. South might judge to bid only 2♥. This works well on the actual hand, but could lead to a missed game if North held a stronger hand. The partnership has to use good judgment in such situations.

“In some auctions, partner can tell when the takeout double has been made with less than an opening bid.

“**Suppose North is the dealer and passes initially. East opens 1♦, South passes and West responds 1♠. What call might North make?** (Double.) As a passed hand, North still can make a takeout double. Such an action is risky since the opponents may hold most of the strength, but aggressive players might take a chance, especially when non vulnerable.

“**If North does double and East passes, what should South bid?** (2♥.) Since North passed originally, it’s very unlikely that the partnership can make a game contract. So, South should proceed cautiously. Despite the 11 HCPs, South should bid only 2♥. South should appreciate North’s effort to get the partnership into the auction and not undo the good work by getting the partnership too high.

“Let’s consider a more complex situation.

“**Suppose West is the dealer and opens the bidding 1 ♠. What call should North make?** (Pass.) North doesn’t have enough for an immediate takeout double.

“**North passes, East raises to 2 ♠ and South and West both pass. Now what does North call?** (Double.) This is similar to the earlier auction in which East opened 1 ♠ and South and West passed. North is in the balancing position. If North passes, the auction is over and East–West will play a partscore in their trump fit. North should stretch to take some action for a couple of reasons:

- Although North doesn’t have much, there is a strong inference that South holds some values. East had only enough to raise to the two level, and West showed a minimum opening bid by passing the response. East–West have fewer than 25 combined points — perhaps as few as 18 or 19 points. North–South should have approximately half the overall strength.
- East–West have found a fit, so it’s quite likely that North–South will have a fit in one of the other suits.

“In this situation, North should compete for the contract by making a balancing takeout double with a suitable hand.

“**What should South bid if North makes a balancing double?** (3 ♥.) Since North passed over the initial 1 ♠ opening, South knows that North doesn’t have a standard takeout double and can proceed cautiously, bidding only 3 ♥.

“That should be a reasonable spot for North–South on the combined hands. If 3 ♥ doesn’t make, East–West can probably make at least 2 ♠. In addition, by competing to 3 ♥, North–South might push the opponents to 3 ♠, a contract they might be able to defeat.

“One caution. The partnership needs to be very clear on the ground rules for a double in this situation. The opponents have stopped in a partscore *and* have found a fit. Most partnerships would treat North’s double as takeout. There are similar-sounding auctions, however, where North’s double would be for penalty, not for takeout. The important principle to keep in mind is that low level doubles are usually for takeout *if the opponents have found a fit*. If the opponents haven’t found a fit, North’s delayed double would be for penalty. We’ll look at such situations a little later.”

Responder's Takeout (Negative) Double

“Let's move on to another topic. Leave the North hand face up, but pick up the South cards and sort them back into suits.

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“So far, we have only looked at takeout doubles when the opponents have opened the bidding. There are other possible uses of the takeout double.

“**Suppose partner, South, opens the bidding 1 ♦ and West overcalls 1 ♠. What call does North make?** (Double.) This is the classic situation for a negative double. This is a form of takeout double for the unbid suits. So, responder can make a takeout double.”

Opener's Takeout Double

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away a low card.

“In hearts: take away a low card and add the king.

“In diamonds: add the ace.

“In clubs: take away a low card and add the queen.

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♠ x												
♥ A K J x												
♦ A J x x												
♣ K Q x x												

“**What would be North's opening bid?** (1 ♦.) With no five-card major, you would open in a minor suit. With four cards in both minors, common practice is to open 1 ♦.

“If East overcalls 1 ♠, South passes, and West raises to 2 ♠, what does North call? (Double.) Even though South didn’t bid after the 1 ♠ overcall, you have enough strength that the contract still might belong to your side. You can show the extra strength by doubling. Since the opponents have found a fit, your double is for takeout, not penalty. South already knows about your diamonds, so you are showing support for the unbid suits, hearts and clubs. If partner doesn’t have length in either of those suits, partner can return to your first-bid suit, diamonds. Your side should have a fit somewhere.

“Even if the opponents haven’t found a fit, opener’s double is for takeout if responder hasn’t bid or doubled.

“Suppose North opens 1 ♦, East passes, South passes and West bids 1 ♠. What call does North make? (Double.) Despite South’s pass, you still want to compete for the contract. Your double is for takeout, asking South to choose one of the unbid suits or to support your first-bid suit.

“Similarly, what call would North make if North opened 1 ♦, East overcalled 1 ♠, and both South and West passed? (Double.) You would reopen the bidding with a takeout double.

“Does North need this much strength to make a reopening double if East overcalls 1 ♠ and South and West pass? (No.) If the partnership uses negative doubles, you should always reopen with a double in this situation if you have shortness in the opponent’s suit and some support for the other suits. As discussed in the previous lesson, even though your double is for takeout, it allows South to convert it to a penalty double by passing with length and strength in the opponent’s suit.

“Responder’s immediate double of the 1 ♠ overcall would be for takeout not for penalty — a negative double. If South wants to make a penalty double of the overcall, South must pass and wait for you to make a reopening double.”

Ovecaller's Takeout Double

“You also can make a takeout double after you have intervened in the opponents' auction.

“**Suppose West opens the bidding 1♠. What call does North make?** (Double.) This would be a classic takeout double.

“**East raises to 2♠, South passes and West passes. What call does North make?** (Double.) With extra strength for the original double, you can double again. Since the opponents have found a fit, this is still a takeout double. You're just telling South you don't want to sell out to 2♠. Even though South didn't have enough to bid over the raise to 2♠, it's still possible the hand belongs to your side.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add the ace and a low card.

“In hearts: add a low card.

“In diamonds: take away the ace and the jack.

“In clubs: take away the queen.

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">WEST</th> <th style="width: 25%;">NORTH</th> <th style="width: 25%;">EAST</th> <th style="width: 25%;">SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Double</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	1♦	1♥	2♦	Pass	Pass	Double		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH													
1♦	1♥	2♦	Pass													
Pass	Double															
♠ A x x																
♥ A K J x x																
♦ x x																
♣ K x x																

“**Suppose West opens 1♦ and you overcall 1♥. East raises to 2♦. South and West both pass. What call does North make?** (Double.) You have a good hand for the overcall. South didn't have enough length or strength to support hearts, but it's still possible the contract belongs to your side. To compete, you can double. This is for takeout, since the opponents are at a low level and have found a fit.

“South should have a good picture of your hand from the auction. Your overcall showed at least a five-card heart suit. Your subsequent double shows some support for the unbid suits. South won't expect four-card support for the unbid suits, since you chose to overcall rather than double at your first opportunity. So, South will take this into account when deciding what call to make.

“South can bid spades or clubs with a five-card or longer suit or a reasonable four-card suit. With a poor holding in both spades and clubs, South can go back to your overcalled suit, hearts. Of course, South has other options, such as bidding notrump or converting your takeout double into a penalty double with length and strength in diamonds.”

Summary

“The takeout double is a very versatile bid. It often is used when the opponents have opened the bidding in a suit and your partner has not made a bid. A double below the game level is for takeout, but also can be used through 4♠ by partnership agreement.

“The takeout double also can be used later in the auction, if the opponents have found a fit and stopped at a low level. In the balancing position, a takeout double can be made with about a king less than in the direct position.

“Responder may make a takeout (negative) double when an opponent overcalls partner’s opening bid.

“A player may make a takeout double after initially intervening with a takeout double or an overcall.”

Cooperative, Competitive, and Optional Doubles

Introduction

“When partner makes a takeout double, you should do as partner requests — take the double out by bidding something. If you pass, you are converting partner’s double into a penalty double. To take such an action, you should have considerable length and strength in the opponents’ suit, since partner hasn’t promised much in the way of defensive tricks.

“You can count on one or two tricks from partner’s high-card strength, but partner has specifically shown shortness in the opponents’ suit. Unless you have length and strength in the opponents’ trump suit, they might make their contract, even if your side has the majority of the strength. The ruffing power of the trump suit may negate your high cards.

“Some doubles, however, fall somewhere between takeout and penalty. As mentioned earlier, the double of an opponent’s 4♥ opening bid is one such example. Partner can choose whether to pass for penalty or take the double out.

“Such a double is sometimes referred to as cooperative, competitive or optional. The distinction is beyond the scope of this lesson, but we’ll look at some common examples.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away the ace.

“In clubs: add a low card.

NORTH

♠ x x

♥ A K J x x

♦ x x

♣ K x x x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♦
2♠	Double		Pass

Cooperative Doubles in Action

“South is the dealer and opens 1♦. West passes. What does North respond? (1♥.)

“East overcalls 1♠. South passes and West raises to 2♠. What call does North make? (Double.) You have 11 HCPs plus 1 length point for the five-card suit. Since South has opened the bidding, it looks as though the contract belongs to your side. However, the opponents’ interference has made things awkward. If you pass, South will be unaware that you hold more than a minimum response, and the opponents may well buy the contract in 2♠. On the other hand, you have no clear-cut bid.

- South hasn’t raised your hearts, so you may not have a fit in that suit.
- You don’t want to bid notrump without strength in the opponents’ suit.
- You don’t have support for South’s suit.
- To show your second suit, you’d have to bid at the three level. This is forcing and might get the partnership too high, if South doesn’t have a fit for either of your suits.

“In such a situation, the most flexible call you can make is to double. Since the opponents are at a low level and have found a fit, the double isn’t strictly for penalty. You can’t be expected to hold much length and strength in the opponents’ suit.

“On the other hand, the double shows more strength than you previously promised with the 1♥ response. Your side should have the majority of strength. You haven’t yet found a fit, so the double does leave open the possibility of defending for penalty, if South doesn’t have a better option.

“South has many options:

- South could belatedly show support for your suit. That would likely be three-card support with a minimum hand, since South didn’t raise immediately.
- South could rebid diamonds with a six-card suit or a strong five-card suit. With a minimum opening bid, South might have chosen to pass rather than rebid the suit after East’s interference.
- South could bid clubs with four or more cards in that suit, looking for a fit.
- South could bid notrump with some strength in the opponents’ suit.
- South could pass and defend for penalty with some length and strength in the opponents’ suit.

“The situation would be similar if West jumped to 3♠ or to 4♠ instead of raising to 2♠. A double by North wouldn’t be a strict penalty double, since North is unlikely to hold much in spades when the opponents compete to the three or four level. On the other hand, North is showing enough strength that the partnership should be able to defeat the contract if South chooses to pass.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add a low card.

“In hearts: take away a low card.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ x x x				1♦
♥ A K J x	1♠	Double	2♠	Pass
♦ x x	Pass	Double		
♣ K x x x				

“**South opens the bidding 1♦ and West overcalls 1♠. What call does North make?** (Double.) This is the situation for a negative double, showing support for the unbid suits.

“**East raises to 2♠. South and West both pass. What call does North make?** (Double.) You have too much to sell out to the opponents’ 2♠ contract, but the best contract for your side is unclear. Double again. Your second double carries the message that you have extra strength. Since your initial double was for take-out, South won’t interpret the second double as a pure penalty double. Instead, it is cooperative. With a fit for one of your suits, South can take the double out. With no fit, South might choose to defend for penalty.”

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 1 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise One — More about Doubling

What call would East make with each of the following hands after the auction goes as indicated?

1)	WEST 1NT	NORTH 2♠	EAST ?	SOUTH	♠ Q J 9 6 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A J 8 4 ♣ J 10 3
2)	WEST 2♦	NORTH 2♠	EAST ?	SOUTH	♠ J 9 4 ♥ K Q 7 3 ♦ 8 5 ♣ K J 9 2
3)	WEST 1♥ Pass	NORTH 1♠ Pass	EAST 2♦ ?	SOUTH 2♠	♠ 9 5 3 ♥ 10 7 ♦ A K J 8 5 ♣ K 8 4
4)	WEST	NORTH 4♣	EAST ?	SOUTH	♠ 7 3 ♥ K Q 7 4 ♦ A 8 5 2 ♣ A J 9
5)	WEST Pass	NORTH Pass	EAST ?	SOUTH 1♣	♠ Q 8 5 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ A 8 5 2 ♣ K Q 10

Exercise One Answer — More about Doubling

- 1) Double (Penalty). Opposite West's 1NT opening bid, East should be able to extract a large penalty. After West opens 1NT, a double of an overcall is for penalty.
- 2) Pass. A double would be for penalty after West's weak two-bid is overcalled. Double would not be negative in this situation.
- 3) Double (Cooperative). Since the opponents have found a fit, East's double isn't primarily for penalty. It shows enough strength to compete further for the auction. Double is flexible, since there isn't another bid that would be more descriptive at this point.
- 4) Pass. A double would be for takeout, not penalty. With a low doubleton in spades, this is not the right shape for a takeout double. East hopes West will reopen with a double.
- 5) 1NT. In the balancing seat, when you reopen with 1NT it shows approximately 11–15 HCP and a balanced hand, with at least one stopper in the opponent's suit.

Deciding Whether to Bid or Defend

“If partner makes a cooperative double, you must choose whether to bid or defend.

“**What factors might affect your decision?** (Level/Vulnerability/Position.) One important factor is the level. At a low level, the opponents don’t need to take much more than half the tricks in their choice of trump suit to be successful. Even if you can defeat their contract by one trick, the score may not compensate for the contract your side could make.

“The situation changes as the level increases. The higher the level, the fewer tricks you need to defeat their contract. Defending for penalty becomes more appealing when the opponents are at the four level or higher, than when they are in a low-level partscore.

“Another factor is the vulnerability. This affects the rewards for bidding or defending. When your side is vulnerable, there is more to gain by bidding if you can make a game or slam. When their side is vulnerable, there is more to gain by defending if you can defeat the contract. At equal vulnerability, you will have to exercise your judgment.

“Another important factor is position.

“Take all of the cards and sort them into suits. Take the heart suit and put the heart king, jack and nine in front of West.

WEST
♥ K J 9

“Suppose the opponents reach a heart contract and this is your holding in the trump suit.

“**What are your prospects on defense with this holding?** (Depends.) It isn’t clear. Assuming partner doesn’t have any help in the heart suit, you might take two tricks, one trick or no tricks. It all depends on how the opponents’ high cards are situated.

“Let’s first suppose that the opponent on your right, South, has shown length and strength in the suit — perhaps by opening the bidding 1♥. Give South the ace, the queen, the ten and two low hearts. Give North three low hearts and East the remaining hearts.

	NORTH	
	♥ x x x	
WEST	■	EAST
♥ K J 9		♥ x x
	SOUTH	
	♥ A Q 10 x x	

“If this is the layout, West will get two tricks in the heart suit. West is sitting *over* — behind or to the left — of the opponent with the length and strength in the heart suit.

“Exchange the North and South hearts.

	NORTH	
	♥ A Q 10 x x	
WEST	■	EAST
♥ K J 9		♥ x x
	SOUTH	
	♥ x x x	

“If this is the layout, West may not take any tricks in the heart suit, provided there are enough entries to the South hand for declarer to take two finesses. West is sitting *under* — before or to the right of — the opponent with the length and strength in hearts.

“Of course, sometimes the opponents’ honor cards will be split between the two hands or it may be difficult to judge which opponent holds the high cards in the trump suit. The general idea, however, is that you would rather defend in the first situation — when your cards are favorably placed over the strength — than in the second situation — when your cards are unfavorably placed. Usually, you will have some indication from the auction.”

Summary

“In some auctions, you can double to show more strength than promised by your previous bidding. If the opponents have found a fit, you can’t be expected to hold too much length or strength in the opponents’ suit, so the double is cooperative, rather than strictly for takeout or penalty.

“The higher the level, the more frequently the partnership can choose to defend rather than bid after a cooperative double. On close decisions, you may have to use your judgment as to whether the lie of the cards favors defending or bidding.”

Doubles that are Primarily for Penalty

Introduction

“A double that isn’t for takeout and isn’t cooperative is meant for penalty. Partner isn’t expected to take the double out, unless partner has exceptional distribution or strength.

“A low-level penalty double is dangerous, since the opponents will usually get a game bonus if the contract is made. So, a penalty double is usually made when the opponents are at the game level or higher. Nonetheless, there are some low-level doubles that are commonly recognized as being for penalty. It’s important that both members of the partnership have the same understanding.”

Instructions

“Construct a hand in front of North.

“In spades: a low card.

“In hearts: the queen, the jack, the ten and two low cards.

“In diamonds, the ace and three low cards.

“In clubs: the ace, the queen and a low card.

NORTH

♠ x

♥ Q J 10 x x

♦ A x x x

♣ A Q x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Double		

“**West is the dealer and opens the bidding 1♥. What call does North make?** (Pass.) An immediate double would be for takeout. Without spade support, that would not work well. Since you don’t have a good suit to overcall, pass and await developments.

“**East raises to 2♥, South passes and West bids 4♥. What call does North make?** (Double.) A double at this point is clearly for penalty. If you wanted to make a takeout double, you would have doubled at your first opportunity. The opponents appear to have overreached themselves and, with the help of the unlucky trump break, you should be able to collect a substantial penalty.

“This penalty double is clear-cut and carries very little risk. Even though you are warning the opponents about the danger, it’s unlikely that the warning will be of much help to declarer. Even if declarer does find some incredible way to make the contract, the cost is not too severe. The opponents’ trick score would be doubled, and they would get a 50-point bonus.

“Let’s consider a different scenario.

“**Suppose West opens 1♥ and North passes, hoping for good things later in the auction. East responds 1NT, South passes and West rebids**

2♥. What call does North make? (Pass/Double.) First, it's important to know what a double means at this point. This sounds similar to an earlier auction in which you made a balancing double for takeout. That isn't the case here. A double would definitely be for penalty. Although the opponents are probably about to stop in a low-level partscore, there are several reasons why this is a penalty double:

- You had an opportunity to make a takeout double on the first round of the auction and didn't.
- You aren't in the balancing position. If you pass, both East and South will have an opportunity to keep the auction going.
- The opponents have not found a fit. East didn't support West's heart suit. East could have no hearts at all.
- You are sitting over the heart bidder. Your cards should be well-placed for defense.

“Having clarified that a double would be for penalty in this situation, you must next decide whether to double. A double of a low-level contract can be quite dangerous:

- Declarer needs to take fewer tricks, and a slight slip by the defense or a lucky lie of the cards may allow declarer to make the contract.
- If the doubled partscore does make, there is a large price to pay. The doubled trick score may be enough to give the opponents a game bonus in addition to the 50-point bonus for making a doubled contract.
- The double will warn declarer that the cards lie unfavorably, and declarer may plan the play accordingly, perhaps saving a trick or two that might otherwise have been lost through a different line of play.
- Knowing that the current contract could be in trouble, the opponents might run to a better spot — perhaps even one that makes.

“The decision is close. Despite these warnings, aggressive players might make a penalty double with this hand, especially in a duplicate game. At rubber bridge scoring or in a team game, most players would keep quiet, being happy with a small plus score if the contract goes down.

“Of course, there are other factors to consider. If the opponents are vulnerable, doubling becomes more attractive since the rewards are greater if you defeat the contract. If declarer is an expert, you might want to be more cautious than if declarer is less experienced. Good declarers sometimes have a way of making your ‘sure’ defensive tricks disappear into thin air. Also, there is the danger that South might misunderstand the double. Although you ‘know’ it is for penalty, South may not be sure. On this deal, South has at least five or six spades since neither opponent bid the suit. You don't want to double and hear South bid spades.

“Let’s try some other scenarios.

“Suppose South opens 1NT and West overcalls 2♥. What call does North make? (Double.) When the opponents intervene over a 1NT opening bid, a double is for penalty, unless the partnership has some special conventional agreement. It is not negative. The negative double only applies if partner opens in a suit at the one level. With this hand, you should make a penalty double of the 2♥ overcall. With the help of South’s 15 to 17 points, you should be able to defeat the contract more than enough tricks to compensate for any game you can make.

“There is a possibility that the opponents might run to spades, but South might be able to double that suit for penalty. If not, you can get the partnership to some suitable contract, forewarned about the lie of the cards from the opponents’ bidding.

“Suppose South opens a weak 2♠ and West overcalls 3♥. What call does North make? (Double.) Since South has already made a full descriptive bid with the weak two-bid, a double of the opponent’s overcall is for penalty. It is not negative. The negative double only applies after an opening suit bid at the one level. The situation would be similar if partner opened 3♠ and West overcalled 4♥. Double would be for penalty.

“There’s a slight danger of doubling when partner is known to hold a weak hand. The double, however, doesn’t give declarer much information that isn’t already available from the auction. One of the benefits of a preemptive opening bid is that the opponents occasionally misjudge the situation and bid on dubious values. You have to be prepared to penalize them when they do.

“Suppose South opens 1♠ and West overcalls 1NT. What call does North make? (Double.) Double of a 1NT overcall is for penalty, not for takeout. The negative double only applies after partner opens one of a suit and the next opponent overcalls in a suit, not in notrump. With South’s opening bid and your strength in the other suits, West is very unlikely to make 1NT, and it doesn’t look as though the opponents will have a better spot to run to.

“Suppose South opens 1♠ and West overcalls 2♥. What call does North make? (Pass.) Careful. This is a situation in which the negative double applies if that is your agreement. A double would be for takeout, not for penalty. You want to make a penalty double of 2♥, and the way to do that is by passing. If the opponents keep bidding, you will get to double at a higher level. If East passes, South is expected to reopen the bidding with a takeout double with shortness in the opponent’s suit. That will surely be the case here, since you and West must hold most of the heart suit. You will then pass to convert South’s takeout double into a penalty double.

“Suppose South opens 1♠ and West jumps to 3♥. What call does North make? (Double/Pass.) Careful. Whether you pass or double depends on your agreement about the level of negative doubles. If you play the negative

double through 2♠, you can double. Doubles of overcalls higher than 2♠ will be for penalty. If, however, you play the negative double through 3♠ or higher, you can't double for penalty. You would have to pass and wait for South to make a reopening double.

“Now let's suppose North is the opening bidder. What call would North make? (1♥.)

“East passes and South makes a limit raise to 3♥. West intervenes with a 4♣ overcall. What call does North make? (Double/4♥.) You have a choice. Knowing you have at least a nine-card fit, you could simply bid game in 4♥, which you would expect to make. Or, you could double West in 4♣. This would be a penalty double. You have already found a fit, so there is no reason to use a takeout double in this situation.

“Whether you double or bid on to game might depend on the vulnerability. If the opponents are vulnerable and you are not, for example, the penalty double is likely to result in a bigger score than bidding 4♥. If you are vulnerable and the opponents are not, you may not be able to defeat 4♣ enough tricks to compensate for your vulnerable game bonus. You'll have to use your judgment. The important thing to know is that you do have a penalty double available.

“Suppose you open 1♥, East passes and South responds 1♠. West now overcalls 2♦. What call does North make? (Pass.) Without a special conventional agreement, a double by you would be for penalty at this point.”

Some partnerships use the support double in this situation, but that is beyond the scope of the lesson. If any of the students ask about this, you can refer them to the Appendix in the textbook.

“Since South hasn't promised much strength with the 1♠ response, a penalty double might be a bit premature. You don't have enough overall strength or a strong enough holding in diamonds to expect to defeat 2♦. It would be better to pass for now. If that's the end of the auction, defending 2♦ undoubled should be fine. If West goes down a trick or two, you should be pleased enough since your side would have made a partscore at best.

“You still may get to defend for penalty. Suppose you pass, East passes and South doubles. Partner's double is cooperative, showing extra strength. With this knowledge, you might now choose to pass and defend for penalty, since your other options aren't much better.

“Suppose East opens the bidding 1♥, South doubles and West bids 2♥. What call does North make? (Pass/3NT.) It looks like North would really like to make a penalty double in this case. However, more modern bidding treats a double in this scenario as takeout for the other suits and not penalty. This takeout double has an official name – the responsive double. It is pretty easy to remember because there is an opening bid and partner takes some action and the responder raises the opener's original bid. Here are some examples of responsive doubles.

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	YOU
1 ♣	Double	2 ♣	Double (responsive)
1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♦	Double (responsive)

“Again, the scenario when responsive doubles apply is when there has been a ‘bid – action – raise’ to you. Notice the action by partner can be a takeout double or an overcall. Let’s look at one more auction.

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	YOU
1 ♥	Double	2 ♥	Double

“This example gets a bit more tricky. As you know, South’s double offers support for the unbid suits – particularly spades. If you had spades, wouldn’t you just bid spades over West’s 2 ♥ call? Hopefully, yes. Therefore, your double in this instance says, “I would like to compete but I don’t have spades with you, please pick a minor.”

“Back to the primary example, North can bid 3NT and have a good chance at making the contract. If North wants to make a penalty double, North must pass and hope that South reopens the bidding with a double that North can convert to penalty. This requires a lot of trust between partners. North’s decision whether to pass or bid 3NT could also be affected by the vulnerability of both sides.

“Suppose East opens 1 ♥, South overcalls 1 ♠ and West bids 2 ♥. What call does North make? (Pass/Double/2NT.) Again, this is a situation where a double by North is a responsive double. North has a number of options from which to choose. Aggressive players would probably not pass. They can tell from the bidding that partner is void in hearts – the question is where to play. Competitive bidding offers many challenges, and it is best to discuss with your partner how your partnership would like to bid in this scenario.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add the ace.

“In hearts: take away the jack.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ A x	1 ♠	Double		
♥ Q 10 x x				
♦ A x x x				
♣ A Q x				

“Suppose West opens the bidding 1 ♠. What call does North make? (Double/1NT.) You could make a takeout double, since you have an opening bid and support for the unbid suits. Or, you could overcall 1NT to show a balanced hand similar to an opening 1NT bid. Since the opponents are likely to lead spades if your side declares the contract, the takeout double might be preferable.

“Suppose, instead, West opens 1NT. What call does North make? (Pass/Double.) A double of an opening notrump bid is for penalty, not for takeout. That makes sense for several reasons:

- Unless you have a perfectly balanced hand, you won’t have support for all of the unbid suits.
- If you do have a balanced hand, you probably don’t want to suggest a suit contract.
- The 1NT opening makes it likely that the opponents have the balance of strength. It is risky to compete, unless you have a good suit or can find a suitable trump fit.

“A double of 1NT, therefore, shows a hand at least as strong as the opponent’s hand. Unless partner has a very unbalanced hand, partner is expected to leave the double in for penalty.

“Would it be a good idea for North to make a penalty double of 1NT? (No.) As a general guideline, it isn’t a good idea to make a penalty double of 1NT with scattered values and no clear-cut lead, even when you hold 16 or more points. Although your high cards are likely to be favorably placed since they are sitting *over* declarer’s high cards, you won’t have an easy time defending if the remaining points are equally split between the two sides. You have to lead *into* declarer’s strength, perhaps giving away a trick. Each time you regain the lead, you will be faced with the same problem. The tricks are likely to go back and forth, and declarer will often come out with seven or more tricks, making the contract.

“Also, your penalty double might push the opponents to a better spot. They might even be able to play in a contract that they couldn’t reach if you didn’t double. For example, some partnerships play that their conventional bids are “off” after a double of 1NT. This means responder could bid 2♣ as a natural sign-off bid rather than the Stayman convention.

“If you want to make a penalty double of a 1NT opening bid, it’s usually best to have a good suit to lead that will produce a lot of tricks.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: add the king and the jack.

“In diamonds: take away the ace and a low card.

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WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH									
♠ A x	1NT	Double										
♥ K Q J 10 x x												
♦ x x												
♣ A Q x												

“What call would North make if West opened the bidding 1NT? (Double.)

This is a much better hand for a penalty double, even though you still have only 16 HCPs. You have a clear-cut opening lead, and you can see that you should easily be able to defeat 1NT once you have driven out the ♥A to establish five winners in that suit.

“In addition, if the opponents run to some other contract, you will have the option of bidding your heart suit if you want to compete further.”

Summary

“In summary, a double is for penalty when it isn’t a takeout double or a cooperative double. This usually applies when:

- The opponents are at the game level or higher; or
- One partner has already made an accurate description of both the strength and distribution of the hand, for example, after partner has made an opening notrump bid, an opening weak two-bid, an opening three-bid, a takeout double or an overcall.
- The opponents open the bidding with a natural notrump bid.”

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 2 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Two — Yet More Doubles

What call would West make with each of the following hands after the auction goes as indicated?

1)	♠ 7 2 ♥ J 8 3 ♦ Q 10 8 4 3 ♣ J 7 4	WEST ? 	NORTH 1NT	EAST Double	SOUTH Pass
2)	♠ A J 8 3 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ K 8 4 3 ♣ 9 6	WEST Pass ? 	NORTH 2♣	EAST Double	SOUTH 1NT 2♥
3)	♠ J 7 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ Q 9 7 6 2	WEST Pass Pass ? 	NORTH 1♠ Pass	EAST Pass Double	SOUTH 2♠ Pass
4)	♠ J 9 7 4 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ J 10 7 5	WEST Pass ? 	NORTH 3♥	EAST 1♦ Double	SOUTH 1♥ Pass
5)	♠ K 8 5 ♥ Q 9 6 3 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ K 9 4	WEST Pass ? 	NORTH 1NT	EAST Double	SOUTH 1♠ 2♠

Exercise Two Answer — Yet More Doubles

- 1) Pass. East's double is for penalty. West has more than East could expect, so West's hand should be useful on defense.
- 2) Pass. East's double of the opponent's conventional Stayman response to 1NT shows length and strength in clubs. It is a suggestion that West lead a club against the opponents' final contract if South is declarer.
- 3) 3♣. The opponents have found a fit, so East is making a balancing double. West takes it out into the best suit. East should have at least three-card support for clubs, but doesn't have the strength for an immediate takeout double.
- 4) 3♠. East's double is for takeout, not penalty. The opponents have found a fit, and the double shows a strong opening bid with support for the unbid suits. West hopes that East will have four-card support for spades. With only three-card support, East should have extra strength to compensate.
- 5) 3♥. East's double of the 1NT response is a takeout double of spades. With 8 high-card points and a fit for East's likely four-card heart suit, West enters the auction.

The Lead-Directing Double

Introduction

“The double is such a versatile bid that it can sometimes be used to help the partnership on defense. This is easiest to see with some examples.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away the king, the queen and the jack.

“In clubs: add the jack and two low cards.

NORTH	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">WEST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">NORTH</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">EAST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">♠ A x</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">♥ 10 x x</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">2♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Double</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">♦ x x</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">♣ A Q J x x x</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;"></td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	♠ A x		1NT	Pass	♥ 10 x x	2♣	Double		♦ x x				♣ A Q J x x x			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH																		
♠ A x		1NT	Pass																		
♥ 10 x x	2♣	Double																			
♦ x x																					
♣ A Q J x x x																					

“You hold this hand and East, on your left, opens 1NT. South passes and West bids 2♣, the Stayman convention. What call does North make? (Double.) West’s 2♣ bid is totally artificial (conventional). The opponents obviously have no intention of playing with clubs as the trump suit, so it won’t do much good to double the 2♣ bid for penalty. Nonetheless, the 2♣ response makes it awkward for you to show your club suit. You could overcall 3♣, but that may get the partnership too high, especially in light of the 1NT opening on your left.

“The standard agreement is that a double of an opponent’s artificial-suit bid is *lead-directing*. It shows strength in that suit and asks partner to lead the suit if your side is defending. The double isn’t for penalty, although you should have enough length in the suit to defeat the contract if the opponents do choose to play in that suit — unusual, but it’s been known to happen.

“You have enough length and strength in clubs to suggest that suit as the best opening lead for your side. If you were to keep quiet and the opponents were to reach 3NT, South would be unlikely to lead a club since that is probably South’s shortest suit. You wouldn’t be too happy if South led a suit other than clubs, so you can let South know that by doubling the artificial bid.

“Although this type of double is for lead-directing purposes, it can sometimes help the partnership compete. South now knows that you have some length and strength in clubs. With a good fit for clubs, South might decide to enter the auction. With a poor fit, South will keep quiet and wait to make the opening lead.

“Of course, a lead-directing double gives information to the opponents as well as partner. You’ll have to judge whether such an action has more to gain than to lose.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: add the king and the queen.

“In clubs: take away the ace and the queen.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ A x			1 ♠	Pass
♥ K Q 10 x x	3 ♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
♦ x x	5 ♥	Double		
♣ J x x x				

“Suppose East is the dealer and opens the bidding 1 ♠. South passes, and West jumps to 3 ♠. This isn’t a good time for you to enter the auction. You pass, and East bids 4NT, the Blackwood convention. Partner passes, and East responds 5 ♥, showing two aces.

“**What call does North make?**(Double.) Having found a spade fit, the opponents aren’t going to play in hearts, so it doesn’t make much sense to double for penalty. However, you would like South to lead a heart, especially if the opponents reach a slam. Any other lead is unlikely to do much good for your side. Time to make a lead-directing double.

“Your double could help the opponents judge whether or not to bid a slam. If you pass, however, the opponents might bid and make a slam, which could be defeated if South knew enough to lead a heart. You’ll have to decide.

“With an experienced partner, you would almost guarantee a non-heart lead if you passed at this point. Since you didn’t double the heart bid when you had a chance, partner might draw the inference that your strength is in clubs or diamonds. With nothing else to go on, partner would probably pick one of those suits.

“Let’s try a different auction.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ A x			1NT	Pass
♥ K Q 10 x x	2 ♥			
♦ x x				
♣ J x x x				

“East opens 1NT, South passes and West responds 2♥. The opponents are using Jacoby transfer bids, so the 2♥ response actually shows five or more spades. What call does North make? (Pass/Double.) Since the 2♥ response is artificial (conventional), you could make a lead-directing double at this point. You’ll have to judge whether that is a wise thing to do. The opponents could easily have all the missing points and might even have an eight-card heart fit. Even with a six- or seven-card fit, they may choose to play in 2♥ doubled — perhaps after redoubling. A double could work out well, but is a risky venture. It’s probably best to pass.

“Let’s consider another scenario.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away a low card and add the jack.

NORTH ♠ A x ♥ K Q J 10 x ♦ x x ♣ J x x x	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">WEST</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">NORTH</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">EAST</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">3NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Double</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass	3NT	Double	1NT	Pass
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH										
1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass										
3NT	Double	1NT	Pass										

“Suppose East opens the bidding 1♣, South passes and West responds 1♥. What call does North make? (Pass.) A double would be for takeout, showing the two unbid suits, diamonds and spades. That isn’t what you want to do. It isn’t usually a good idea to try to play in the suit bid by the opponents. In fact, a bid of 2♥ at this point is likely to carry a completely different meaning, which will be discussed in a later lesson. So, the best choice is to pass for now.

“East rebids 1NT, and West raises this to 3NT. If North passes, what is likely to happen? (South will lead a diamond or a spade against 3NT.) The 3NT bid will end the auction, and South will be on lead. South is unlikely to lead one of the opponents’ suits and, with nothing better to go on, will probably lead a spade or a diamond.

“After any lead except a heart, defeating 3NT will be difficult. Once the ♠A has been driven out, you won’t have an entry even if you can establish some heart tricks.

“What suit would North like South to lead? (Hearts.) You’d really like South to lead a heart. If West has only a four-card heart suit, you can establish four heart winners while you still have the ♠A as an entry.

“Fortunately, that’s exactly what a double asks for in this situation. An out-of-the-blue double in a situation like this isn’t very practical as a takeout double. If the opponents have enough combined strength to freely bid to a game contract, a penalty double is also uncommon. The standard agreement, therefore, is that such a double calls for an unusual lead — with the first priority being dummy’s first-bid suit if it hasn’t been bid more than once.

“Of course, partner will have to be on the same wavelength if you use this type of lead-directing double. If partner doesn’t lead a heart, the result could be quite unpleasant — perhaps two or three overtricks. It could be even worse if the opponents choose to redouble.

“An experienced partnership will use this form of lead-directing double in many other situations — some of which will severely test the nerves of both partners. For example, suppose the opponents’ bidding is less informative.

“East opens 1NT, and West raises to 3NT. What call does North make? (Double/Pass.) There is no first-bid suit by dummy to ask for. If you pass, however, South is unlikely to lead a heart. A double at this point is still lead-directing, but carries the message, ‘I can defeat the contract if you can find the right lead!’ What it suggests is that South shouldn’t make the normal lead of fourth from the longest and strongest.

“Whether or not South will find a heart lead remains to be seen, but the double probably gives you the best chance. South is more likely to choose a major suit than a minor suit, since the opponents haven’t looked for a major-suit fit. Partner also will tend to pick a shorter suit without any high cards in it, since that suit is most likely to be where your length and strength lie.

“Such tactics aren’t for the fainthearted. The general guideline for a lead-directing double of the opponents’ 3NT contract is that it asks for one of the following leads in order of priority:

- The lead of the suit bid by the opening leader. In other words, if partner opened or overcalled a suit, you are asking for partner to lead that suit, even if you haven’t shown support for it.
- The lead of the suit bid by the doubler. In other words, if you have bid a suit, you are asking partner to lead your suit, even though the opponents have bid notrump.
- The lead of dummy’s first-bid suit, if it has not been rebid.
- An unusual lead, as in the last example.

“A lead-directing double is sometimes referred to as a Lightner double. This is an expansion of the original idea developed by Theodore Lightner in the early days of contract bridge. Lightner felt that if the opponents voluntarily bid to a slam contract, it was unlikely that they would be defeated by more than one trick, so there’s little to be gained from a straight penalty double. It is better to use the double to conventionally ask for an unusual lead. That is usually a side suit bid by the opponents.

- “Change the North hand.
- “In spades: add a low card.
- “In hearts: take away all five cards.
- “In diamonds: add four low cards.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ A x x</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ x x x x x x</p> <p>♣ J x x x</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WEST</th> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Double</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH														
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass														
3 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass														
Pass	Double																

“Suppose West opens the bidding 1 ♥, you pass and East responds 1 ♠. West jumps to 3 ♠, and East takes the partnership to 6 ♠, perhaps checking for aces along the way.

“South is on lead. With nothing to go on, South will likely lead a club or a diamond, one of the unbid suits. It’s usually not a good idea to lead a suit that has been bid by the opponents. However, you would really like South to lead a heart. You’ll then get a ruff and the ♠A to defeat the contract. If South doesn’t lead a heart, declarer will probably be able to drive out your ♠A and draw trumps before taking any heart winners.

“**What call does North make?** (Double.) Your best chance is to make a Lightner double, asking for an unusual lead. Hopefully, South will be looking at a lot of hearts and can guess that you are void. There’s no guarantee, but at least you have made South aware of the possibility.

“It would be a tougher decision if you didn’t hold the ♠A. Experienced players would probably still double, hoping that their partner held a trick somewhere, and the contract would be defeated with the unusual ruff. There’s no guarantee, however, and such tactics aren’t for the conservative player.”

Summary

“Without specific agreements to the contrary, a double of an opponent’s artificial suit bid is lead-directing when the opponents are likely to buy the contract. An out-of-the blue double of the opponents’ game or slam contract usually asks for an unusual lead — provided the doubler isn’t on lead!”

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 3 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Three — Lead-directing Doubles

What opening lead would East make with each of the following hands after the auction goes as shown?

1)	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	♠ J 10 9 4 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q J 8 7 5 ♣ 8 3 ‡ <i>Jacoby transfer</i>
	Double	1NT	Pass	2♥‡	
	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	
		Pass	Pass		
2)	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	♠ 6 ♥ J 8 5 3 ♦ Q J 8 3 ♣ 10 9 6 2
	Double	1NT	Pass	3NT	
		Pass	Pass	Pass	
3)	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	♠ J 10 9 5 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 10 8 7 5 2 ♣ 9 3
	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦	
	Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT	
	Double	5♣	Pass	6♥	
		Pass	Pass	Pass	
4)	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	♠ K J 8 5 3 ♥ K 7 ♦ Q J 10 8 3 ♣ 5
	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	
	Double	2NT	Pass	3NT	
		Pass	Pass	Pass	
5)	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	♠ K 5 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ 8 7 3 2 ♣ 9 5 4 3
	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	
	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	
	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣	
	Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass	

Exercise Three Answer — Lead-directing Doubles

- 1) ♥9. West's double of the conventional 2♥ transfer bid asks East to lead a heart.
- 2) ♠6. West has made a lead-directing double of the opponents' 3NT contract, asking for an unusual lead. It looks as though West has a long and strong spade suit.
- 3) A diamond. West's Lightner double asks for an unusual lead. In this situation, it usually calls for the lead of dummy's first bid suit. West is likely to be void in diamonds and hoping to get a ruff to go along with a trick in another suit.
- 4) ♠5. West's unusual double asks East to lead a spade, even though West didn't support spades. West figures to have a doubleton ace or queen in East's suit, not enough to support, but enough to help out.
- 5) A diamond. There is no clear-cut opening lead. The only clue is that West had opportunities to double the conventional 5♥ response and the conventional 6♣ response to Blackwood. West didn't double either of those bids, so perhaps West's strength is in diamonds.

The Redouble

Introduction

“The redouble is one of the most infrequently used bids. It was originally used after an opponent doubled you for penalty and you thought you could make your contract. Redoubling increased the ante. It is still used that way, but it can be used in other ways as well. The most common situation is after partner’s opening suit bid at the one level has been doubled for takeout.”

Instructions

- “Change the North hand.
- “In spades: add the jack.
- “In hearts: add a low card.
- “In diamonds: take away three low cards and add the king.
- “In clubs: take away a low card and add the queen.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ A J x x				1 ♥
♥ x	Double	Redouble		
♦ K x x x				
♣ Q J x x				

“**Suppose South opens the bidding 1♥ and West passes. What would North respond?** (1♠.) You would look for a fit by showing your spade suit. Unless a fit can be found or partner has a little extra strength, you may stop in a partscore rather than get to game.

“**Now suppose South’s opening 1♥ bid is doubled for takeout by West. Has anything changed?** (No/Yes.) In one sense, nothing has changed, since the double hasn’t taken up any room in the auction. North still could respond 1♠, and the partnership could continue to bid as normal. Some partnerships do exactly that — ignore the double completely.

“The takeout double, on the other hand, has given you some information and opened up new possibilities:

- Since South has an opening bid and West’s double promises an opening bid, you now know where most of the high cards are located. There’s not much left for East.
- West’s double has told you something about the distribution. Typically, West will be short in hearts and have length in spades, diamonds and clubs. It’s quite possible, therefore, that your side doesn’t have a good fit in any suit.

- Instead of simply bidding to your side’s best contract, you have the option of defending, now that West has brought the opponents into the auction. Since your side appears to have the majority of the strength, you might be able to double the opponents’ contract and collect a sizeable penalty.
- The double has given you an additional call, the redouble.

“When partner’s opening suit bid is doubled for takeout, the traditional meaning of the redouble is to send the message, ‘I have 10 or more HCPs, so the deal belongs to our side.’ Responder’s hand will typically fall into one of the following categories:

- A hand with which responder is interested in doubling the opponents for penalty. Responder plans to make a penalty double at the next opportunity if appropriate. If not, the partnership may play in a notrump contract.
- A hand with 10 or more HCPs and a good suit. Responder plans to show the suit at the next opportunity.
- A hand with 10 or more HCPs and support for opener’s suit. Responder plans to show support at the next opportunity.

“Successful use of the redouble requires cooperation from opener. Since responder can have a variety of hands, opener should give responder an opportunity to describe the type of hand. Opener should bid only with unusual distribution or to cooperate with partner by doubling the opponents for penalty.

“To see this more clearly, leave the North hand on the table and construct a hand in front of South.

“In spades: three low cards.

“In hearts: the ace, the king and three low cards.

“In diamonds: the queen and two low cards.

“In clubs: the ace and a low card.

NORTH ♠ A J x x ♥ x ♦ K x x x ♣ Q J x x	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">WEST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">NORTH</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">EAST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Double</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Redouble</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">2 ♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Double</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	Double	Redouble	2 ♣	1 ♥	Pass	Double	Pass	Pass	SOUTH ♠ x x x ♥ A K x x x ♦ Q x x ♣ A x
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH											
Double	Redouble	2 ♣	1 ♥											
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass											

“What would be South’s opening bid? (1 ♥.)

“West doubles. What does North call? (Redouble.) With 11 HCPs, North starts with a redouble.

“**Since North has only a singleton heart, is there any danger that everyone might pass at this point?** (Not really.) It’s possible, but unlikely. Even if East passes, West is unlikely to pass. Since West is short in hearts, West won’t want to defend 1♥ redoubled, which would give North–South a game bonus if it makes. Also, North–South have the majority of the strength. If 1♥ redoubled is the final contract, South should be able to take at least seven tricks — and redoubled overtricks are worth a lot.

“**Suppose East bids 2♣ after North’s redouble. What should South call?** (Pass.) Without a normal opening bid, South should simply pass to wait and see what type of hand North holds.

“**South passes and West passes. What does North call?** (Double.) With shortness in partner’s suit, length in the opponents’ suit and enough strength to take at least three or four tricks, North should double for penalty. Combined with South’s opening bid, the partnership should be able to get a large penalty. Even a small penalty might be enough, since it isn’t a sure thing that North–South can make a game contract.

“**East passes North’s double. What does South call?** (Pass.) With a normal opening bid, South has no reason to override partner’s decision to defend for penalty.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away the ace and a low card.

“In hearts: add a low card.

“In diamonds: add the ace.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ J x				1♥
♥ x x	Double	Redouble	1♠	Pass
♦ A K x x x	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
♣ Q J x x				

“**South opens 1♥ and West doubles. What call does North make?** (Redouble.) With 11 HCPs, North starts with a redouble.

“**East bids 1♠. What does South call?** (Pass.) South doesn’t quite have enough in spades to cooperate by doubling for penalty, so South passes and waits to hear what North has to say.

“**South and West pass. What call does North make?** (2♦.) North doesn’t have enough length or strength in spades to double for penalty, so North bids the diamond suit. If the opponents had bid diamonds or clubs, North could double for penalty.

“East passes North’s 2♦ bid. What does South call? (3♦.) Since North has shown 10 *or more* points, North’s 2♦ bid is *forcing*. The situation is the same as if West had passed South’s opening 1♥ bid and North had responded 2♦. A new suit by responder is forcing. With support for diamonds, South can raise to the three level and the auction will continue from there. With nothing extra for the redouble, North will probably pass, and the partnership will settle in their best contract, just as if West had not interfered.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: add a low card.

“In diamonds: take away a low card.

NORTH	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">WEST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">NORTH</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">EAST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Double</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Redouble</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">2♥</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	Double	Redouble	1♠	1♥	Pass	2♥		Pass	SOUTH
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Double	Redouble	1♠	1♥											
Pass	2♥		Pass											
♠ J x			♠ x x x											
♥ x x x			♥ A K x x x											
♦ A K x x			♦ Q x x											
♣ Q J x x			♣ A x											

“South opens 1♥ and West doubles. What call does North make? (Redouble.) With 11 HCPs, North starts with a redouble.

“East bids 1♠, South passes and West passes. What call does North make? (2♥.) North doesn’t want to double 1♠ for penalty. Instead, North shows heart support. Although North has 11 HCPs, there’s no need to jump to 3♥. The redouble already promised 10 or more points. North doesn’t have much extra. After a redouble, a jump to 3♥ would be forcing.”

When Responder Doesn't Redouble

“The use of the redouble after a takeout double is complex and it might seem easier to simply ignore the double and bid as if the opponent passed. The real benefit of using the redouble, however, is the effect it has when responder doesn't redouble!

“Since responder can redouble with 10 or more HCPs, if responder doesn't redouble, opener can assume responder has fewer than 10 points. A new suit by responder at the one level is still treated as forcing, but a new suit at the two level is not forcing. It merely shows a five-card or longer suit with fewer than 10 points.”

If one of the students asks why a new suit at the one level is forcing, since a new suit at the two level is not forcing, you may have to skirt around the issue since it is a little complex. You can say that there are some types of hands with 10 or more points that are awkward to describe if you can't start with a natural bid at the one level. Leave it at that.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away a low card.

“In diamonds: take away the ace.

“In clubs: add two low cards.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ J x</p> <p>♥ x x</p> <p>♦ K x x</p> <p>♣ Q J x x x x</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">WEST</td> <td style="width: 25%;">NORTH</td> <td style="width: 25%;">EAST</td> <td style="width: 25%;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double</td> <td>2 ♣</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH				1 ♥	Double	2 ♣			<p>SOUTH</p> <p>♠ x x x</p> <p>♥ A K x x x</p> <p>♦ Q x x</p> <p>♣ A x</p>
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH											
			1 ♥											
Double	2 ♣													

“**South opens 1 ♥ and West doubles. What call does North make? (2 ♣.)**

North can afford to show the club suit by bidding 2 ♣. Since North could redouble and then bid clubs with 10 or more HCPs, the 2 ♣ bid shows a reasonable suit but fewer than 10 points. South can pass, and the partnership has reached its best spot.

“If the partnership doesn't use the redouble, North will have difficulty showing the club suit without getting the partnership too high.

- “Change the North hand
 “In hearts: add the queen and a low card.
 “In diamonds: take away the king.
 “In clubs: take away the queen.

NORTH ♠ J x ♥ Q x x x ♦ x x ♣ J x x x x	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">WEST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">NORTH</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">EAST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Double</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">3♥</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♥</td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	Double	3♥		1♥	SOUTH ♠ x x x ♥ A K x x x ♦ Q x x ♣ A x
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH							
Double	3♥		1♥							

“**South opens 1♥ and West doubles. What call does North make?** (3♥/2♥/Pass.) With only 4 HCPs, North could pass, but that makes it easy for East–West to find their best spot. North might raise to 2♥ to take some bidding room away from the opponents, but it won’t be too difficult for East to enter the bidding with a little something.

“The modern style is to jump to 3♥ with the North hand, as a weak preemptive bid. North knows the partnership has at least a nine-card fit, so it will be difficult for the opponents to double 3♥ and get a large penalty, even if South holds a minimum opening bid. If South does have a minimum, opening bid, East–West can probably make a game contract — or at least a partscore. The more hearts North–South hold, the worse their prospects on defense. By jumping to 3♥, North takes a lot of bidding room away from the opponents, and they may misjudge the situation, bidding too much or too little.

“How does South know that North doesn’t have a limit raise with 11 or 12 points? Because North could redouble with 10 or more HCPs. The redouble plays a part, even though it isn’t used. It affects the meaning of North’s responses. Most partnerships treat the jump raise of opener’s suit as a weak bid after the takeout double.”

2NT as a Limit Raise (Jordan)

This topic was discussed previously, but it is a good time to review this convention.

“Although responder can redouble with 10 or more HCPs and a four-card or longer fit with opener’s suit, this can sometimes lead to an awkward situation.

“Change the North hand.

“In diamonds: add the ace.

“In clubs: take away two low cards and add the queen.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ J x</p> <p>♥ Q x x x</p> <p>♦ A x x</p> <p>♣ Q J x x</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">WEST</td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">NORTH</td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">EAST</td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Double</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1 ♥</td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	Double	2NT		1 ♥	<p>SOUTH</p> <p>♠ x x x</p> <p>♥ A K x x x</p> <p>♦ Q x x</p> <p>♣ A x</p>
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH							
Double	2NT		1 ♥							

“Suppose South opens the bidding 1 ♥, West doubles and North redoubles. North has 10 HCPs and plans to show heart support on the next round of bidding. Unfortunately, the opponents find their fit and get in the way.

“After North’s redouble, East jumps to 2♠. South passes and West raises to 3♠. What does North do now? (Pass/4♥/Double.) North is in an awkward position. North doesn’t have the right type of hand to double 3♠ for penalty. North doesn’t have enough to put the partnership into a game contract of 4♥. Having shown 10 or more points, North could pass and leave the decision to South, but South doesn’t know that North has such excellent support for hearts. North’s redouble covers a wide range of hand types.

“Because of this danger, most partnerships conventionally use a jump to 2NT by responder to show a limit raise or better in opener’s suit. There are a number of reasons for this:

- The 2NT response isn’t needed to show a strong balanced hand. Responder always could start with a redouble and then double the opponents in their contract or bid notrump with a hand unsuitable for a penalty double.
- The partnership doesn’t need to use 2NT as the Jacoby 2NT convention after a takeout double. The primary purpose of Jacoby 2NT is to explore slam possibilities. Slam is very unlikely if one of the opponents has enough strength to make a takeout double.
- The 2NT bid allows responder to describe the hand right away. If the opponents bid, opener will be in a good position to decide what to do.
- The 2NT bid takes away some bidding room from the opponents, making it difficult for them to find their best spot.

- The jump raise of opener's suit can be used as a preemptive bid — as discussed earlier.

“Let's see how this convention might be put to use on this hand.

“South opens the bidding 1♥ and West doubles. What call does North make? (2NT.) With the values for a limit raise in opener's suit, North uses the artificial (conventional) 2NT response.

“If East passes, what does South call? (3♥.) With a minimum opening bid, South puts the partnership in 3♥, essentially declining North's invitation. It's similar to the situation in which opener bids 1♥ and responder makes a limit raise to 3♥. With a minimum, opener would pass, and the partnership would rest in 3♥.

“If South bids 3♥ and West passes, what does North call? (Pass.) South has rejected the invitation, so North should settle for a partscore in hearts. The 2NT response shows a limit raise *or better*. With 25 or more combined points, North would take the partnership to 4♥, even though South bid only 3♥.

“Suppose South opens 1♥, West doubles, North bids 2NT and East bids 3♠. What does South call now? (Pass.) South knows the partnership doesn't have enough for game if North has only a limit raise in hearts, so South can comfortably pass and choose to defend.

“If East bids 3♠ and both South and West pass, what does North call? (Pass.) North has described the hand with the 2NT response. South has rejected the invitation by passing 3♠, so North should accept this decision and pass as well.”

Summary

“When partner's opening suit bid is doubled for takeout, the usual partnership agreements are:

- A redouble shows 10 or more points and interest in doubling the opponents for penalty. Responder usually won't have a fit with opener's suit.
- A new suit at the one level shows 6 or more points. This is forcing, but opener knows that responder is unlikely to have 10 or more points.
- A new suit at the two level shows a five-card or longer suit, but is non forcing, since responder could have redoubled and then bid the suit with a strong hand.
- A jump raise of opener's suit to the three level shows four-card or longer support but a weak hand.
- A jump to 2NT shows four-card or longer support for opener's suit and 10 or more points.”

S.O.S. Redoubles

Introduction

“In addition to the standard situations in which the redouble is used, many partnerships put the redouble to conventional use when the partnership has been doubled for penalties in a low-level contract. The redouble sends the message, ‘Partner, please rescue us from this doubled contract!’ This is referred to as an S.O.S. redouble.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away all four cards.

“In diamonds: take away the ace and add four low cards.

“In clubs: add a low card.

NORTH ♠ J x ♥ — ♦ x x x x x x ♣ Q J x x x	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">WEST</td> <td style="width: 25%;">NORTH</td> <td style="width: 25%;">EAST</td> <td style="width: 25%;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>2 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Double</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Redouble</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 ♦</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH			1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double	Pass	Pass	Pass	Redouble	Pass	3 ♦				SOUTH ♠ x x x ♥ A K x x x ♦ Q x x ♣ A x
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH																			
		1 ♠	2 ♥																			
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass																			
Pass	Pass	Redouble	Pass																			
3 ♦																						

“**Suppose East opens the bidding 1 ♠. What call does South make?** (2 ♥/Pass.) South doesn’t have a great hand for an overcall at the two level. Some players might pass, but most would probably overcall 2 ♥.

“**Suppose South does overcall 2 ♥ and West passes. What call does North make?** (Pass.) North doesn’t like the 2 ♥ contract, but bidding would just get the partnership into worse trouble, since a new-suit bid would be forcing.

“**North passes and East doubles. South passes and so does West. What is going on?** East–West are playing negative doubles, and it sounds as though West has a penalty double of the 2 ♥ overcall. West passed initially and waited for East to reopen the bidding with a takeout double. When East did double, West converted it into a penalty double by passing.

“**What does North do now?** (Redouble/3 ♦/Pass.) North could pass and leave partner to play in the 2 ♥ doubled contract. This is unlikely to lead to a good result, however. The partnership may have a better contract. North could bid 3 ♦, hoping that will be a better spot, but that could make matters worse if South has a singleton or void in diamonds.

“Instead, North can redouble. There’s not much to be gained by using the redouble in this situation to say, ‘We’re going to make the contract.’ If 2 ♥ doubled is going to make, that should be a good enough score, so North could pass rather than redouble. Instead, the redouble can be used as a rescue call saying, ‘Get us out of here!’

“If North does make an S.O.S. redouble, what should South do? (Bid 3 ♦.) Having been warned that 2 ♥ is a terrible contract, South should pick one of the unbid suits. With more cards in diamonds than clubs, South can bid 3 ♦.

“3 ♦ may not make, but it will be much less expensive than going down in 2 ♥ doubled. The opponents may not even double the 3 ♦ contract. They may decide it’s better to bid a contract of their own.”

Summary

“The S.O.S. redouble is rare, but it’s important that the partnership be on the same wavelength. A misunderstanding about the meaning of a redouble can be quite expensive.”

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 4 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Four — All about Redoubles

What call does West make with each of the following hands, after the auction goes as indicated?

1)	♠ 6 ♥ A Q 7 3 ♦ K Q 9 8 4 ♣ 10 6 2	WEST ?	NORTH Pass	EAST 1 ♠	SOUTH Double
2)	♠ J 7 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ K J 10 9 7 3 ♣ Q 5	WEST ?	NORTH	EAST 1 ♥	SOUTH Double
3)	♠ K J 8 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A K 9 6 2 ♣ Q 5	WEST 1 ♦ ?	NORTH Double	EAST Redbl	SOUTH 1 ♥
4)	♠ 9 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ A Q J 8 4 ♣ K 7 4 2	WEST 1 ♦ ?	NORTH Double	EAST 2 ♠	SOUTH Pass
5)	♠ J 9 8 7 3 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 10 8 3	WEST Pass ?	NORTH Pass	EAST 1 ♦ Redbl	SOUTH Double Pass

Exercise Four Answer — All about Redoubles

- 1) Redouble. With 11 high-card points but no fit for East's suit, West starts with a redouble. If the opponents bid hearts or diamonds, West can double for penalty. If they bid clubs, West shows the diamond suit, unless East doubles first.
- 2) 2 ♦. This would be forcing without the interference. Over the takeout double, showing the diamond suit doesn't promise much strength. With 10 or more high-card points, West could redouble first and then bid diamonds.
- 3) Pass. East's redouble says the hand belongs to East–West, but it covers several possibilities. West wants to see what East plans to do next. East might want to double the opponents in 1 ♥ for penalty. If not, West will be well-placed to decide what to do after hearing East's next bid.
- 4) Pass. After the takeout double, the standard partnership agreement is that a jump in a new suit is weak, not strong. East probably has a good six-card or longer spade suit with very little outside. West should not get the partnership any higher.
- 5) 1 ♠. East's redouble is for rescue, an S.O.S. redouble. East would pass to play with diamonds as trump. West bids the longest suit and hopes to get the partnership out of trouble. East should have at least three-card support for spades.

SAMPLE DEALS – LESSON 2*

Bid and Play — Deal 1: Opener Makes A Takeout Double

Guidelines for Teachers: There are no challenging play concepts in this group of Bid and Play deals. If the bidding goes as intended, declarer should make the contract. On the first deal, East-West should reach a partscore in diamonds. Declarer should fall into taking at least nine tricks and probably ten. If North-South compete to the three level or higher in spades, East-West should have an easy time defeating the contract.

Introduction

“In competitive auctions, anything can happen. Let’s play a deal that shows how opener can make a takeout double to get partner to bid and then let’s see what happens.”

Instructions

“North is the dealer. Take your hands and start the bidding. When you reach a final contract, play the hand.”

(E–Z Deal Cards: #2, Deal 1 — Dealer, North)

Dealer: North	♠ Q J 6 2											
Vul: None	♥ Q 9 7 3											
	♦ 10 4											
	♣ K 7 5											
♠ 9 5 4		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 8 5			♥ A K 10 4 2									
♦ J 9 7 5 2			♦ K Q 8									
♣ J 9 8			♣ A Q 6 3									
	♠ A K 10 7 3											
	♥ J 6											
	♦ A 6 3											
	♣ 10 4 2											

Suggested Bidding

Most tables will end with West as declarer in 3♦, but some may allow North-South to play a contract in spades. Let the tables play the deal in whatever contract they come to.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

* The explanation of each deal is the same as the material in the student text. Teachers should use this information as a starting point for an interactive discussion with the students covering the main points of the hand.

“After North passes, East opens 1♥. South has a good five-card suit and overcalls 1♠. With only 2 high-card points and no support for partner’s suit, West passes. North has enough to raise partner’s overcall to the two level. This serves a dual purpose. If South has a strong overcall, the partnership can compete for the contract and may belong in game. If South has a light overcall, North’s raise will make it more difficult for East–West to find their best spot.

“East has a strong hand — 18 HCPs plus 1 for the five-card suit. Even though West didn’t bid after the 1♠ overcall, it’s still possible that the hand belongs to East–West. East can compete with a double. Since the opponents have found a fit and are still at a low level, the double is for takeout, not penalty. East has already shown the five-card heart suit. The double shows support for the unbid suits, diamonds and clubs. It’s a more flexible choice than bidding 3♣, which would keep diamonds out of the picture.

“South doesn’t have enough to go to the three level after a single raise from partner. Now West must bid something. Since East has promised support for diamonds, West bids diamonds at the three level, even with a weak five-card suit.

“North might consider competing to the three level with a maximum raise and four-card support, but will probably pass. If North passes, East, who has already shown a strong hand with the opening bid and the subsequent double, passes also. Since West hasn’t shown any strength, the partnership is probably high enough. The auction will end with West as declarer in a diamond partscore.”

After the hand has been played, find out what contracts were played and discuss their merits.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let’s review the play and defense.

“North is on lead against 3♦ and starts with the ♠Q, top of touching honors in partner’s suit.”

Suggested Play

“In 3♦, West has three spade losers, one diamond loser and one club loser. Unless the defenders lead diamonds right away, West should be able to ruff at least one of the spade losers in dummy. If the defenders never switch to trumps, West might get to ruff two spade losers in the dummy. Declarer hopes not to lose a trick to the ♦10, but will likely be okay, since North’s ♦10 is doubleton.

“Declarer also may be able to avoid a club loser by establishing an extra heart winner in dummy on which to discard a club. Since North has the ♣K, declarer won’t have a club loser. With the lack of entries to the West hand, this may not be easy, but it is possible. Suppose the defenders take

a spade winner and then lead the \spadesuit A and another diamond to prevent declarer from ruffing two spade losers in dummy. Declarer wins the second diamond in dummy, plays the \heartsuit A and \heartsuit K and ruffs a heart. Declarer ruffs a spade loser in dummy, then ruffs another heart. Declarer draws the defenders' remaining trump and then takes the club finesse. Either a club loser or a spade loser can be discarded on dummy's heart winner. Declarer loses only three tricks."

Suggested Defense

"Declarer is likely to take 10 tricks in a diamond contract. There isn't much the defenders can do to prevent this, unless North finds an initial diamond lead. That will prevent declarer from ruffing any spade losers. Declarer still can take nine tricks by establishing an extra winner in hearts on which to discard one of the losers.

"If North–South compete to 3 \spadesuit , East–West should defeat that contract. East–West should get two heart tricks, one diamond trick and two club tricks."

Bid and Play – Deal 2: The Balancing Double

Guidelines for Teachers: In competitive bidding situations, either side may declare the contract. North–South need to balance to get a reasonable result. If East–West are left to play in 2♥, they should make that contract. North–South can take at least eight tricks and likely nine in a spade contract. Once North–South reach 2♠, they should get a plus score, whether by playing the contract or defending if East–West push any higher.

Introduction

“Let’s play a deal that demonstrates how the balancing double can keep the auction going when the opponents appear to be stopping at a low level. Let’s see what happens.”

Instructions

“East is the dealer. Take your hands and start the bidding. Stop when you have completed the auction.”

(E–Z Deal Cards: #2, Deal 2 — Dealer, East)

Dealer: East	♠ A 10 4 3										
Vul: N–S	♥ 6 5 4										
	♦ Q 9 8										
	♣ A 6 5										
♠ J 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K Q 8		♥ A J 10 7 3									
♦ 5 4 3		♦ A 10 2									
♣ Q 9 7 4 2		♣ J 8									
	♠ Q 8 6 2										
	♥ 9 2										
	♦ K J 7 6										
	♣ K 10 3										

Suggested Bidding

When it appears that all of the tables have completed the auction, review how the bidding should have gone. North must bid 2♠ following a reopening or balancing double to demonstrate the point of the lesson.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

“East opens the bidding 1♥. With only 9 HCPs, South doesn’t have enough to compete directly with a takeout double. North would expect a better hand, and the partnership might get too high. After South passes, West raises to 2♥ with three-card support and 8 HCPs.

“With a balanced 10 points, North has no reason to enter the auction at this point. North passes and East, with a minimum-strength opening bid, also passes. The auction comes back to South, who is in the *balancing*, or *re-opening*, position. South has the option of passing and letting East–West buy the contract for 2♥, or making a call that will keep the auction going.

“Although South has only 9 HCPs, there is a strong inference that North–South have about half of the total strength on this deal. West has shown 6 to 10 points* with the raise to the two level, and East has shown a minimum-strength opening bid by passing the raise. North is marked with about 10 points. With support for all of the unbid suits, South can compete for the contract by making a takeout double. South’s double is for takeout, since the opponents have found a fit and are at a low level.

“When South doubles and West passes, North can bid 2♠. Although North has 10 HCPs, there’s no need to jump. South didn’t make a takeout double on the first round of bidding, so North can conclude that partner doesn’t have a full opening bid with support for the unbid suits. South is competing for a partscore. North’s 2♠ bid will end the auction.”

When everyone understands the proper bids and the final contract, the students can proceed to play out the cards.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let’s review the play and defense.

“East leads and doesn’t have an attractive choice of opening leads. A trump lead and the ♣J, hoping to get a ruff in that suit, are possibilities. East will probably choose the ♥A, however, looking to take tricks in the suit that East–West have bid and raised.”

Suggested Play

“Even if the missing spades divide 3–2, North has two potential spade losers. North also has three heart losers, one diamond loser and one club loser. North can hope to avoid losing more than one trump trick by leading toward the ♠Q, hoping East holds the ♠K. One of the heart losers could be ruffed in the dummy. Another possibility is to try to establish an extra diamond winner on which to discard the club loser. That will work if the missing diamonds are divided 3–3 or the ♦10 falls.

* Based on the partnership agreement that opener may have a 12-point hand.

“Whatever North chooses to do should work. The defenders’ trumps are divided 3–2 with East holding the ♠K. Declarer can eventually ruff a heart loser in dummy. Declarer also will get to discard the club loser on South’s fourth diamond, provided the defenders don’t lead clubs early on. Only four tricks are lost, one spade, two hearts and one diamond.”

Suggested Defense

“The defenders cannot prevent declarer from taking at least eight tricks. By leading clubs early on, the defenders may be able to establish a club winner, or East may be able to get a club ruff. If they take their heart tricks early, however, West won’t be able to regain the lead. West needs to play a third round of clubs before declarer can drive out East’s ♦A and establish an extra diamond winner.

“East–West might do better to compete to 3♥. That contract will likely be defeated one trick. The defenders can get one spade trick, two diamonds and two clubs, if they are careful. Down one in 3♥ would be less than the value of the opponents’ 2♠ contract.

“The important point is for North–South to get a plus score, either by playing in 2♠ or by pushing East–West to 3♥. If North–South let East–West play in 2♥, East is likely to make that contract.”

Bid and Play — Deal 3: The Lead-Directing Double

Guidelines for Teachers: The play on this deal is very straightforward. The success or defeat of the game contract hinges on the opening lead, which will be determined from the auction.

Introduction

“Let’s play a deal that shows how a double can be used by the defending side to get a lead that has a good chance of defeating the contract. Let’s see what happens.”

Instructions

“South is the dealer. Take your hands and start the bidding. Stop when you have completed the auction.”

(E–Z Deal Cards: #2, Deal 3 — Dealer, South)

Dealer: South	♠ J 9 8 7										
Vul: E–W	♥ Q 6										
	♦ Q 6 5										
	♣ A K J 2										
♠ 5 3 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K Q 10
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J 10 9 8		♥ 5 4 2									
♦ 9 7		♦ A 8 3 2									
♣ 10 8 6 5		♣ 9 4									
	♠ 6 4										
	♥ A K 7 3										
	♦ K J 10 4										
	♣ Q 7 3										

Suggested Bidding

When it appears that all of the tables have completed the auction, review how the bidding should have gone. Make sure all tables understand the use of the double as lead-directing.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

“With a balanced hand and 13 HCPs, South opens the bidding 1♦. West passes and North responds 1♠, looking for a major-suit fit. East has a nice hand, but a double at this point would be for takeout, asking West to choose clubs or hearts as a trump suit. So, East passes. South rebids 1NT to show a minimum-strength balanced hand. With 13 HCPs, North raises to game in notrump.

“At this point, East should make a lead-directing double. East knows that with nothing better to go on, West is likely to lead one of the unbid suits. East would like West to lead a spade, dummy’s first-bid suit. To alert West to make an unusual lead, East doubles. North–South have nothing further to say, so the double should end the auction.”

When everyone understands the proper bids and the final contract, the students can proceed to play out the cards.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let’s review the play and defense.

“West’s natural lead is the ♥J, top of a sequence in one of the unbid suits. East’s double, however, should steer West away from making the normal lead. Since neither East nor West has bid a suit during the auction, the standard interpretation of East’s unusual double is a request to lead dummy’s first-bid suit. West should lead a spade.”

Suggested Play

“Declarer has seven sure tricks, three in hearts and four in clubs. If West doesn’t lead a spade, South should plan to establish extra tricks in the diamond suit.

“Declarer will make the contract if West leads something other than a spade on opening lead. Suppose West leads a heart. Declarer wins and leads a diamond to drive out East’s ♦A. East can take three top spade tricks, but dummy’s ♠J will prevent the defenders from taking any more tricks.

“If West leads a spade, declarer has no chance to make the contract. Declarer can try a low spade from dummy, hoping West holds the ♠10, but that doesn’t work.”

Suggested Defense

“Everything depends on the opening lead. If West leads a spade, the defenders set the contract. If West leads anything else, declarer will take nine tricks.

“The opportunity to make a lead-directing double doesn’t arise often, but when it does, the partnership should use it. East should recognize that a spade lead will defeat the contract. Either the ♠J will be in dummy and be trapped, or it will be in one of the other two hands and fall under the top three spade honors. Declarer is unlikely to hold four spades, since South didn’t raise North’s suit during the auction. The only way to get West to lead North’s suit is to double and hope West recognizes the situation.

“Holding the ♦A, East can visualize exactly how the spade lead will result in the defeat of the contract. Doubling would be more difficult if East held only the four spade tricks and did not hold the ♦A. Nonetheless, East should probably double anyway, hoping West can come up with a trick somewhere after the spade lead. If not ...”

Bid and Play — Deal 4: Doubling for Penalty

Guidelines for Teachers: The final contract on this deal is unclear. If North-South don't handle the redouble correctly, they will probably play in 3NT, and declarer should have no difficulty taking at least nine tricks. If North-South allow East-West to win the contract, North-South should easily limit declarer to three or four tricks, extracting a large penalty if the auction goes as intended.

Introduction

“In a competitive auction, anyone can become declarer. Let's see what happens when a redouble puts the non-doubling side into a position of having no good place to play the hand.”

Instructions

“West is the dealer. Take your hands and start the bidding. When you reach a final contract, play out the hand.”

(E-Z Deal Cards: #2, Deal 4 — Dealer, West)

Dealer: West	♠ A K J 8 2					
Vul: Both	♥ 5 2					
	♦ K Q 6 5					
	♣ 10 5					
♠ Q 7 6 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9 3	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 7 6 4		♥ A J 9 3				
♦ 10 8 3		♦ A 9 2				
♣ 7 4 2		♣ A 8 6 3				
	♠ 10 5					
	♥ K Q 10 8					
	♦ J 7 4					
	♣ K Q J 9					

Suggested Bidding

At most tables, East will become declarer in a doubled contract. Let them play the hand out and then review how the bidding should have gone.

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let's review the bidding, the play and the defense.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♠	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	2 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

“After West passes, North opens the bidding 1 ♠. With an opening bid and support for all of the unbid suits, East makes a takeout double.

“With 12 HCPs and no good fit with North’s suit, South starts with a redouble. This announces that the partnership holds the balance of power. West has no preference for any of the unbid suits and passes. It would not be a good idea for West to bid 1NT with such a weak hand and the knowledge that partner is short in hearts.

“With a normal opening bid and a hand suitable for defending, North passes rather than bid a second suit. North waits to hear more about the nature of South’s redouble. Getting no preference from partner, East bids 2 ♣, the cheapest available suit. With good defense against clubs, South makes a penalty double. West has nowhere to go and passes. North passes also, respecting partner’s decision.

“East might try to find a better spot, but to no avail. South will double 2 ♥ for penalty. North will double 2 ♦ for penalty. East–West have no safe landing spot.”

Suggested Opening Lead

“If South is on lead against 2 ♣ doubled, South should start with the ♣K. It’s generally a good idea to lead trumps against a low-level contract that has been doubled for penalty. The trump lead prevents declarer from taking tricks by ruffing with low trump cards.”

Suggested Play

“If East is declarer in a doubled partscore, taking more than the three aces will be difficult. Unless the defenders slip up, there’s not much possibility for a fourth trick. East might get a trick with the ♥J, but that is still down four.”

Suggested Defense

“North–South should have little difficulty collecting a penalty of at least 800 points (down three doubled and vulnerable). They might get 1100 or even 1400 with perfect defense.

“North–South can make 3NT, but that is not nearly as good a result as defeating the opponents three or more tricks in a vulnerable, doubled contract. To get themselves in a position to collect a substantial penalty after East intervenes, they need to understand the mechanics of the redouble. Otherwise, East–West might escape.

“East’s takeout double is quite reasonable. East might be cautious once West passes initially, but most players would take a chance on a takeout double with the East cards. Unfortunately, it leads to a poor result on this deal.”

