



## More on the Takeout Double

The takeout double is the most flexible way of entering the bidding when an opponent has opened.

The requirements are: Opening strength  
Support for all the unbid suits  
A shortage in the suit opened  
A hand unsuitable for an overcall, or a jump overcall, or a 1NT overcall

Some examples:

RHO opens 1♦

♠KQ87  
♥AJ42  
♦6  
♣K943  
Perfect minimum  
takeout double

♠KJ98  
♥AQ63  
♦98  
♣K104  
Less perfect, but 4-4 in  
the majors makes this OK

♠95  
♥KQJ5  
♦K76  
♣K732  
Pass. Double should have  
support for both majors

♠K53  
♥J86  
♦A984  
♣KQ7  
Pass. Too flat. Too  
many diamonds

***Do not make a takeout double unless you can cope with a response in any unbid major***

### The takeout double with a strong hand

Occasionally you have a hand that must take some action, but it is too strong to overcall or bid 1NT. Balanced hands with 19+HCP, and hands too strong to overcall or jump overcall, start with a takeout double. Doubling then bidding a new suit or no-trump shows a hand too strong for a simple overcall.

♠AKQ87  
♥A62  
♦6  
♣KQ43  
Too strong to overcall  
1♠. And 2♠ shows a  
6+card suit. **Double**,  
then bid spades

♠9  
♥AKQJ963  
♦A8  
♣KQ4  
Too strong to overcall.  
4♥ is preemptive.  
**Double** first, then bid  
4♥ at your next turn

♠AQ76  
♥AKQJ65  
♦7  
♣32  
**Double**, then raise  
spades. If partner  
bids clubs you can  
bid hearts next.

♠AK  
♥K43  
♦AQ84  
♣KJ96  
19HCP is too strong to  
overcall 1NT. **Double**  
then bid notrump to  
show 19-21

### Responding to a takeout double

**Remember** If RHO passes you MUST bid. Even with 0 points.

- Bid your best suit. (Sometimes you have to bid a 3-card suit if opener has bid your longest suit)
- Prefer a major to a minor when there is a choice
- You are 'raising' partner who has effectively bid all the unbid suits at once
- With enough for a limit raise of an opening bid of one of a suit to three - make a jump response
- To bid 1NT you need 6-9 HCP and stoppers in opener's suit (where partner is short)  
(If RHO has bid a new suit partner will have stoppers in that)

**If RHO bids** he relieves you of your responsibility to take out the double.

Now if you bid you show enough to respond to an opening bid at the 1-level. Your options are:

- Bid an unbid 4+card suit, jumping if you are worth a limit raise to the 3-level.
- Bid no-trump with stoppers in LHO's suit and no 4+card major
- When RHO bids a new suit double is penalty - that is the suit you would have bid yourself
- When RHO raises his partner double is **responsive**, showing 2 places to play, letting partner choose



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Eg The bidding starts 1♦-Dbl-2♦-?

♠874  
♥92  
♦86432  
♣Q43

**Pass.** Thank goodness you no longer have to bid 1♠, as you would have had to do if RHO had not bid

♠KJ96  
♥K3  
♦9843  
♣J104

Bid **2♠**. You would be happy to raise a 1♠ opener to 2♠.

♠KQ76  
♥QJ65  
♦9764  
♣2

**Double.** Asking partner to bid his better major. Double shows **two places to play.**

♠86  
♥K43  
♦QJ108  
♣KJ96

**1NT.** 10-12 HCP with a diamond stopper. Partner will have a stopper in spades.