



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
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♠KJ98 ♥AQ63 ♦98 ♣K104 Less perfect, but 4-4 in the majors makes this OK
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♠95 ♥KQJ5 ♦K76 ♣K732 Pass. Double should have support for both majors
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♠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
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♠9 ♥AKQJ963 ♦A8 ♣KQ4 Too strong to overcall. 4♥ is preemptive. Double first, then bid 4♥ at your next turn
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♠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.