



## Lesson 48 Examples

### Examples of the takeout double

♠ K1042  
 ♥ KQ64  
 ♦ KJ52  
 ♣ 6

A perfect double of a 1♣ opener - minimum points but perfect distribution. With support for all the unbid suits you can afford to double quite light – you almost certainly have an 8-card fit where you can play.

♠ Q83  
 ♥ AK3  
 ♦ Q9754  
 ♣ Q7

If RHO opens 1♠ you cannot overcall 2♦ (this suit is not good enough). You have opening values, but no special length in the unbid suits. With a balanced 12-13HCP it is best to pass.

♠ A93  
 ♥ AQ8  
 ♦ QJ83  
 ♣ 984

A bad double of 1♣: 4333 shape, no 4 card major, minimum opening points

♠ AJ32  
 ♥ AQ97  
 ♦ J53  
 ♣ J4

Much better, with 4-cards in both majors and shorter clubs. The relative weakness in diamonds is less important.

♠ AQ10 ♥ K103 ♦ K83 ♣ 8743	♠ KJ742 ♥ J985 ♦ Q10 ♣ J2	♠ 9865 ♥ 7 ♦ 9762 ♣ AKQ5
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N  
 W E  
 S

♠ 3  
 ♥ AQ642  
 ♦ AJ54  
 ♣ 1096

A hand from the World Championships in Chile. South opened 1♥ and the great Norwegian star Helgemo made a frivolous takeout double. North made a pre-emptive raise to 3♥. As East Helness decided to bid 4♠, expecting a 4-4 fit. North doubled for penalties, and that cost 1100.

At the other table in the match the Dutch West passed over 1♥. He did not have four spades, his hand was not short in hearts, and he had only 12 HCP. The Norwegian North-South played in 3♥ and went down.

### The Takeout double on hands that are too strong for any other action.

♠ AKQ965  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ AQ3  
 ♣ J7

Too strong for a jump overcall, also too strong for a simple overcall of 1♠! So we start with “double”, then bid spades next time. **Double then bid a new suit shows a strong hand – 17HCP or more.**

♠ K6  
 ♥ AKQ8764  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ AK6

Far too strong for any overcall. Start with a double, then jump to game in hearts. A very strong sequence. Note that doubling then bidding a new suit cancels the original meaning of the double - you no longer promise support for all unbid suits.

♠ KJ7  
 ♥ AQ7  
 ♦ AJ103  
 ♣ AJ9

You want to bid 1NT, but that shows a good 15-18HCP, not 20. With a balanced hand too strong for 1NT start with “double”, then bid NT at your next turn. Eg 1♦ - dbl - 1♠ - Pass - 1NT. **Double then 1NT shows 19-21 HCP balanced.**



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### Responding to the takeout double

#### A When Third Hand Passes:

eg

1♦ - Dble - Pass - ?

♠Q63  
♥95  
♦J6432  
♣762

Horrible! But you must not pass just because you are weak. Bid 1♠, your cheapest 3-card suit

♠K1043  
♥986  
♦K7  
♣Q973

A happy 1♠. With a choice bid a major rather than a minor.

♠AQ965  
♥62  
♦K65  
♣543

The 5-card suit makes this worth a jump to 2♠ - you could be much worse! Imagine partner opened 1♠ and you are raising him.

♠AJ9654  
♥3  
♦K7  
♣10863

Worth a jump to 3♠. If partner does not have support he has a strong hand.

♠K73  
♥96  
♦QJ106  
♣Q943

1NT. You have stoppers in diamonds and can rely on partner to stop the majors. 1NT shows 6-9 HCP

♠9  
♥Q63  
♦987  
♣KQJ764

3♣. It is rare to jump in a minor, but this suit is well worth bidding.

♠95  
♥K5  
♦KJ6  
♣AQ9753

3NT. Diamond stoppers plus a long minor you hope to run. Partner will guard the majors

♠KQ86  
♥KJ86  
♦A984  
♣7

2♦. Bidding **their** suit is a **cuebid**, showing opening strength and forcing to game. Now you look for the best fit

#### B When Third Hand Raises

eg

1♦ - Dble - 2♦ - ?

RHO has relieved you of your responsibility to bid, so if you do you show some values.

♠K854  
♥96  
♦K62  
♣10943

2♠. When you have enough to raise an opening bid of 1♠ to 2♠ you have enough to bid now. By doubling partner has effectively bid both majors at once.

♠K1065  
♥Q1063  
♦987  
♣K4

Dbl. If partner opened 1♥ or 1♠ you would raise, but you do not know which is his better major. You can show both majors at once with a **responsive double**, a return takeout double saying "you choose".

♠K10932  
♥3  
♦86  
♣Q9843

2♠. You can afford to add points for distribution when partner has shown length in the majors. Bid spades while you have the chance.

#### C When Third Hand bids a new suit

eg

1♦ - Dble - 1♠ - ?

♠KJ94  
♥96  
♦A832  
♣1054

Dbl. This double says "I would have happily bid 1♠ if RHO had not pinched my bid." At least 4 spades and the values to raise an opening bid of 1♠ to 2♠. If everybody passes you will defend, but that rarely happens.

♠65  
♥K1063  
♦J63  
♣K1043

2♥. The fact that RHO has bid does not prevent you from making your normal response. You would raise an opening bid of 1♥ to 2♥, so you can bid 2♥ now.

♠92  
♥K3  
♦KJ105  
♣KQ543

2NT. In response to a double 2NT shows about 10-12 HCP and a double stopper in diamonds. No need to worry about a spade stopper - partner has spades.