



Negative Doubles

A **Negative** Double is a form of takeout double, showing length in the unbid suits. Specifically, it is used by the responder to the opening bid when Right Hand Opponent has overcalled.

Negative doubles are used only when partner has opened one of a suit, an **unlimited bid**. When he has opened 1NT, a **limit bid**, double is Penalty.

The Negative Double allows responder to show 4-card majors.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>♠763</i>	East is worth a bid, but does not have the 10 HCP needed for a 2-over-1 response. The negative double shows 4 hearts in a hand that would respond 1♥ without the overcall.
1♦	1♠	Dbl	♥Q1095 ♦J8 ♣KQ95	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>♠A984</i>	Playing Negative doubles you can show precisely four spades over a 1♥ overcall. With a 5+card spade suit you bid 1♠. This allows partner to raise with 3-card support.
1♣	1♥	Dbl	♥95 ♦AJ94 ♣762	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>♠AJ73</i>	In this auction the negative double shows 4-4 in the majors with limited values. 1♥ or 1♠ show 4 cards without length in the other major.
1♣	1♦	Dbl	♥A864 ♦4 ♣7652	

Note that when you play Negative Doubles a change of suit normally shows 5+cards.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>♠64</i>	Although you have length in both unbid suits it is best to show your 5-card heart suit when you have 10+ HCP.
1♦	1♠	2♥	♥AQ1095 ♦J8 ♣AQ62	Who will bid hearts if you do not?

Opener's rebid after a Negative Double

When you have 4-card support for partner's known 4-card major make the same limit 'raises' as you would if he had responded in his major in an uninterrupted auction. (These bids are NOT reverses)

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>♠A83</i>	Partner has shown 4 hearts, just as if he had been allowed to bid 1♥. You would raise 1♥ to 2♥ without any intervention, so you bid 2♥ now. (If South raises partner's spades you should stretch to bid 3♥ with the known 8-card fit)
1♣	1♠	Dbl	Pass	♥KJ42 ♦4 ♣KQ943	
2♥					
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>♠AK6</i>	This time you would raise a 1♥ response to 3♥ to show extra values, so you jump to 3♥ now. (If South raises partner's spades you stretch to 4♥ since 3♥ might be weaker)
1♣	1♠	Dbl	Pass	♥KJ83 ♦9 ♣KQ1072	
3♥					

When you do not have 4-card support make the most natural response that you can find.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>♠AQ3</i>	<i>♠93</i>	<i>♠A832</i>
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass	♥K2 ♦AJ943 ♣Q93	♥K2 ♦KQJ54 ♣AJ83	♥42 ♦AQ986 ♣Q9
?				1NT. You need a stopper in spades.	2♣. Just as if partner had bid 1♥.	2♦. A sixth ♦ would be nice!



Negative Doubles

The Penalty Pass

Playing Negative doubles means you cannot make Penalty Doubles – with a hand suitable for a penalty double you just have to Pass. With extra values and a shortage in opponent's suit partner will re-open the bidding with a takeout double which you can *convert* to a penalty double by passing.

West North East South
1♦ 1♠ Pass Pass
Dbl Pass **Pass**

West can see that there are a lot of points missing here. extra values
With short spades and Quick Tricks West makes a *takeout double*.
East needs good trump to hope for a large penalty by Passing