



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.

West	North	East	♠763	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	
West	North	East	♠A984	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	
West	North	East	♠AJ73	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.

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

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)

West	North	East	South	♠A83	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	
2♥				♦4	
				♣KQ943	
West	North	East	South	♠AK6	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	
3♥				♦9	
				♣KQ1072	

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

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



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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.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	<i>Pass</i>	

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