

## CARD-SHOWING (“DSI”) OR (“ACTION”) DOUBLES

A “Card-Showing Double” is a double that does not promise any particular distribution, rather it shows general high-card strength and asks Partner to take some appropriate intelligent action, either to bid on, or to “*Pass*,” thereby converting the double for penalties. When in doubt, assume that any low-level double is anything but a penalty double. **Penalty Doubles rarely occur at the one - or two-level.**

Sometimes a double just means (“DSI”) “I think this is our hand, **Do Something Intelligent;**” i.e., “*Partner, I have cards, but no clear action, you make the decision!*”

Here are some examples, where in each example, you show a maximum for your previous bid(s) and ask Partner to take appropriate action.

(1)  
(You)

♠AJ863	♥952	♦A3	♣Q98
<u>PARD</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
1♦	P	1♠	2♥
P	P	“DBL”	

No call other than a “**DSI Double**” makes sense here. Your team holds the majority of the high-card points. “*Partner, either bid on, or “Pass” and convert for penalties!*”

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(2)  
(You)

♠AT9	♥Q76	♦K865	♣863
<u>PARD</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
			1♣
DBL	1-NT	P	2♣
P	P	“DBL”	

It is not likely that you hold a Club stack, so Partner is not likely to perceive your “**Double**” as one made for penalties. You are, alternatively, showing values with no clear direction. It is losing bridge to sell out for 2C, but there is no need to guess what is best to do. Seek Partner’s input!

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(3)  
(You)

♠T96	♥A6	♦KJ65	♣8632
<u>PARD</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
			1♣
1♥	DBL	P	1♠
P	P	“DBL”	

It is highly unlikely that you hold a Spade stack and are making a penalty double as you did not act when it was your first turn to bid. This is obviously a “**DSI**” desperation scenario. Selling out at 1S is rarely winning bridge!