

USING “NEGATIVE DOUBLES”

1. Only the Responder to an opening bid by Partner can make a negative double, and it must be at his/her first opportunity, made immediately subsequent to an intervening overcall other than an overcall of 1-NT by would-be Responder’s RHO.

a) South West North East
 1C 1H Db1. _____ (A Negative Double) It evidences 4 pieces or more, or at least 3-pieces (tolerance) for Spades, as well as for Diamonds. North is lacking either the HCP’s to go to the 2-level, 5 Spade pieces **or both.**)

b) 1B 1-NT Db1. _____ (This is a penalty double, not negative, since it follows a 1-NT overcall.)

c) 1H 1S Pass 2S
 3H 3S Db1. _____ (This is a penalty double, not negative since it does not come immediately subsequent to the first overcall. It is a delayed double, clearly for penalties!)

2. Bidding a negative Double followed by a follow-up rebid of a Minor suit evidences 6-pieces in addition to the 4-card implied Major.

You Hold: XXX AXXX KXXXXX --

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1S	Db1.	Pass
2C	Pass	2D	

(The 2D bid shows Diamond length and a hand not strong enough to have responded 2D initially. It also evidences 4-Hearts. Think of a negative double followed by a suit as if Responder were trying to put the brakes on the bidding.)

3. Negative Doubles promise suits with a minimum of 4-pieces and as few as 6 HCP’s, but are unlimited as to their maximum HCP value.

You Hold: XX AXXX AKXX QXX (Game values)

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North (You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1S	Db1.	

4. When both Minors have been bid at the 1-level, a negative double promises four cards in each of the un-bid Majors, or at the very least, 4-pieces of one, and 3-pieces (“Tolerance”) for the other.

You Hold: AJXX KQXX XX AXX

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North (You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1D	???	

(Use the negative double.)

5. When both Minors have been mentioned a negative double shows either both un-bid Majors, or 4-card support for one of the Majors plus primary support for Opener’s suit. Re-read this tip!!

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North (You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1D	???	

You Hold: a) AQXX KXXX XX XXX (Use the negative double!)
 b) JXXX XX XX AKXXX (Double! If Partner bids Hearts,

return to Clubs.)

6. When counting points in preparation for a negative double, **do not include Jacks and Queens in the Opponent's suit, unless you are intending to rebid NT, or are a masochist.**

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1D	1S	???	

You Hold: a) **QX KXXX JXX XXXX** (Pass! Your hand, devoid of consideration of the Spade Queen, is too weak to bid a negative double.)
 b) **QX AXXX KXX XXXX** (Double! The hand is strong enough.)
 c) **AQX QXXX XX QXXX** (Double! You can rebid No-Trump later if Opener does not bid Hearts.)

7. A 5-card Major suit can be shown at the 2-level by bidding the suit outright with 10(+) HCP's, but necessitates the negative double with 7-9 HCP's.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1D	1S	???	

You Hold: a) **XX AKXXX KXX XXX** (Bid 2H, you are just strong enough.)
 b) **XXX AQXXX QX XXX** (Double and hope to bid Hearts at the 2-level, denying the strength for a direct 2H response.)

8. A negative double followed by a new suit is **not** forcing. If Responder is desirous of forcing, he/she must use a **cue-bid** of the Opponent's suit.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1S	Dbl.	P
2C	Pass	???	

You Hold: a) **XXX AXXX KXXXXX** --- (Bid 2D, not forcing, shows a hand too weak to have responded a 2D bid directly.)
 b) **AKJX KQXX XX XXX** (Bid "3C" to create a force to game.)

9. A negative double followed by a raise of Partner's second suit is **not** forcing, it is invitational.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1S	Dbl.	P
2H	Pass	???	

You Hold: a) **AX AJXX KXXX XXX** (Raise to 3H! You have invitational strength with 8-losers.)
 b) **AX AJXX AKXX XXX** (Raise to 4H. "The one who knows, goes"!)

10. A negative double followed by a 2-NT rebid is invitational showing 10-12 HCP's.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1S	Dbl.	2S
Pass	Pass	???	

You Hold: a) **AJX QJXX AX XXXX** (Bid 2-NT, invitational)
 b) **AJX QJXX AQ XXXX** (Bid 3-NT, "He who knows, goes".)

11. If, after you make a negative double, your LHO raises your RHO, and the bidding comes back to you, a repeat double is for takeout, showing extra values (10+ HCP's).

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1S	Dbl.	2S
Pass	Pass	???	

You Hold: **AQXX XXX KJXX XX** (Double again to show Partner that you have extra values and it is your side's hand with the majority of the HCP's.)

12. When most of your strength is in the Opponent's suit, avoid a negative double. It is very misleading, under these circumstances, if you use the negative double. Either bid NT or pass. *Reread this tip!!*

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1S	???	

You Hold: a) KXXX AXXX JX JXX (Respond 1-NT, showing 8-10 HCP's with at least one stopper in the Opponent's overcall suit.)

b) XXXX KQJX XX XXX (Pass. It would be fool hardy to double with this hand, even though you have four Spades. It would also be a blunder to bid 1-NT. Your hand is not strong enough. Patience is a great virtue, even in bridge.)

13. If you pass a 1-level overcall and Partner reopens with a Take-out double, any bid you make shows less than it would have shown in the direct-action position had you used the negative double in the first place.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1C	1H	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	???	

You Hold: a) XXX AJXX XXX XXX (Bid 1-NT. It shows 5-7 HCP's with a stopper in the Opponent's overcall suit.)

b) XXXX AJX XXX XXX (Bid 1S, Shows 4-Spades with fewer high-card points than would have been necessary to have invoked a negative double previously.)

c) XX XXXXX XXX XXX (Toss a coin and bid 2C or 2D. Your hand has no stoppers in Hearts, so you cannot bid 1-NT.)

14. When using negative doubles, you, of course, cannot make an immediate penalty double. Opener will not be capable of discerning the difference, and must legitimately presume your double to be "Negative". With a strong 5- or 6-card holding in the Opponent's overcall suit, do not gasp, just "Pass" in tempo in order to be ethical.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North(You)</u>	<u>East</u>
1D	2C	???	

You Hold: XXX QXX XX AKXXX (Pass. Hopefully Partner will reopen the bidding with a Take-out double which you will pass converting it to a penalty double. Notice you satisfy the Rules of 10 & 12.)