

Support Doubles and Re-Doubles

A “Support Double” is any “double” or “re-double” used by an Opening Bidder to show 3-card support for Responder’s presumed 4-card new suit response in a competitive auction scenario. The “Support Double” is usable as long as the Overcaller does *not* raise the bidding level above the 2-level of the suit introduced by the Responder’s call. A “Penalty Double” of a 1-level or a 2-level Overcall is rarely successful, in any event; but, a “double,” of a jump-overcall by an Opponent over Partner’s response remains a “Penalty Double,” as before.

With 4-card or better support, standard bidding allows Opener to evidence primary support for his/her responding-Partner’s 4-card or longer suit. We are all accustomed to such bidding sequences such as:

(a)	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	1D	Pass	1H	1S
	2H			

Here, in response to South’s presumed minimum of a 4-card Heart suit, North has shown 4 or more Heart support with a minimum 11-15 HCP count (a seven- or eight-loser hand) original opening bid.

The ability for Opener to show 4-card support for any new suit bid by Responder is standard, as we have just seen. If there be bidding interference, however, by Opener’s right-hand Opponent (RHO), it would be beneficial if Opener also had an additional bidding method to show 3-card support, as well, in case, by chance, Responder had responded with a 5-card suit.

“Support Doubles” and “Support Re-Doubles” serve this purpose, and are both alertable.

All of the following bidding sequences are examples of a “Support Double” or “Re-Double”

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
(1)	1C <u>“Double”</u>	P	1S	2H
(2)	1D <u>“Double”</u>	P	1H	1S
(3)	1D <u>“Re-Double”</u>	Pass	1S	“Double”

If, alternatively, Opener does not make a “Support Double” or “Re-Double,” and instead, either (1) “passes,” (2) re-bids his/her own, originally-bid suit, or (3) bids another suit or even No-Trump, at his/her re-bid opportunity, the implication is that (1) Opener does *not* hold 3-card support, or (2) that Opener will show support later, if it is present.

In all of the following examples, the primary message is that Opener has fewer than 3-card support for Responder’s suit because, in the first, a new suit was bid, in the second, Opener has “passed,” and in the third, Opener has re-bid his/her own original suit, showing, a 6th piece.

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
(1)	1D 2C	Pass	1H	1S
(2)	1D Pass	Pass	1S	“Double”
(3)	1H 2H	Pass	1S	2C