

### TIPS FOR TOPS - 3

1. When responding to Partner's Take-Out Double in a suit, make a non-jump response with 0-8 HCP's, a jump response with 9-11 HCP's, and a cue-bid or game response with 12 or more HCP's.

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

- (a) **AJXXX XXX KX QXX** (Respond 2S (Invitational but is Non-Forcing))  
 (b) **AJXXX XXX QXX XX** (Respond 1S - Do not jump)  
 (c) **AXX XX AJXX KJXX** (Respond "2H", you are too strong to make a jump response. It suggests game but denies four Spades else you would have jumped to 4S.)

2. When responding to Partner's Take-Out, with a 4-card Major and a 5-card Minor respond in the Major; with a 4-card Major and a 6-card Minor, respond in the Minor.

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

- (a) **KXXX XX QXXXX XX** (Respond 1S)  
 (b) **KXXX XX QXXXXX X** (Respond 2D, you will bid Spades later if afforded the opportunity.)

3. After making a minimum response to Partner's Take-Out Double showing 0-8 HCP's, the Responder may bid once more opposite a silent Partner, but only with 6-8 HCP's and either a 5-card suit, a strong 4-card suit, or a second suit as well.

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

- (a) **KQJX XXX JXXX XX** (Respond 2S, Partner must have Spade support for having previously made the take-out double and you have 8 HCP's.)  
 (b) **KXXX XXX JXXX XX** (Pass, you only have 5 HCP's.)  
 (c) **XXXX KXX KXX QXX** (Pass, you have the HCP's to bid but your Spade suit is too weak and contains only four pieces.)  
 (d) **KXXX XX KXXXX QX** (Respond 2S, you have both the necessary points and a second 5-card suit.)  
 (e) **XXXXX KXX KXX QX** (Respond 2S, you have the points and a 5-card Spade suit as well.)

4. With minimum opening values do not bid again after making a Take-Out Double unless Partner makes a forcing bid or bids a second suit giving you a choice. If you do raise Partners forced response to your take-out double, it shows primary support (4-pieces) and 16-18 HCP's (6-Losers); i.e., more than minimum opening values that your original take-out double showed, and is invitational to game.

**Example:**

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

- (a) **AKXX QXX AX KJXX** (Raise Partner to 2S, you have more than a minimum.)  
 (b) **AKXX X AXXX JXXX** (Pass, you hold minimum values for your original Take-Out Double.)

5. A jump raise of Partner's forced response to your take-out double evidences 19-21 support points (5-Losers) as well as primary support for Responder's bid suit. The same 19-21 is evidenced by a jump-shift into your own 5-card suit.

**Example:**

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u> (You)	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
1H	Db1.	Pass	1S
Pass	?		

- (a) AKXX X AQX KXXXX (Jump Raise to 3S, Highly Invitational)  
 (b) AQX KQX X AKJXXX (Bid 3C, Highly Invitational)

6. Doubling for Take-Out twice, or even three times, does not alter the original meaning of the double. Even though you might sound as if you were a broken record, each successive double below game-level evidences more and more strength. A second double shows 16-18 HCP's, and a third double shows 18-20 HCP's. Only after the second or third double takes place at the game level, is it to be construed as a penalty double and not for take-out.

**Example:** You Hold: AQXX X AQXX AKJX

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u> (You)	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	
1H	Db1.	2H	Pass	
Pass	Db1.	3H	Pass	
Pass	???			(Double again.)

7. When using Blackwood, if, after inquiring for Aces, Partner bids a new previously-un-bid suit subsequent to your response, bid 5-NT. Do not worry, just do it! The hand is missing 2 Aces and Partner desires to exit into a 5-NT contract.

**Example:**

<u>South</u>	<u>North</u> (You)
1H	3H
4-NT	"5D"
"5S"	"???"

(Bid 5NT, it is not for you to reason why?)

8. A "double" of an opening 4H preempt is takeout oriented. The Doubler must have at least three Spades. An overcall of "4-NT" is the "Unusual No Trump" bid asking for the Minors.

**Examples:**

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u> (You)
4H	??

- (a) AQXX X KQXX AKXX ("Double" for Take-Out.)  
 (b) X X AJXXX AQXXXX (Overcall "4-NT", "Unusual" for the Minors.)

A "double" of an opening 4S preempt, however, is for penalties, not for take-out.

A "4-NT" bid is the take-out overcall for this specific singular circumstance.

**Examples:**

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u> (You)
4S	??

- (a) KX AQX KQXXX AXX ("Double" for penalties.)  
 (b) X AKXX KJXX AQXX (Bid "4-NT", A Take-Out)

9. A new suit response by Responder, who, in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> position, had previously "Passed", is not forcing.

**Example:**

<u>East</u> (You)	<u>West</u> (Partner)
Pass	1S
2H	?? (With fewer

than 14 HCP's, minimum opening values, West can pass since game is highly unlikely.)