

NEGATIVE DOUBLE

By Ginny Schuett

- Who: Only the responder can make a negative double
 What: The bid is “double” at responder’s first turn to call
 When: Only when responder’s partner opened AND the opponent interfered with a suit bid
 Why: To find the major suit fit
 How High: Usually thru 2♠ but partners can agree higher

A double of an overcall shows four cards in the unbid major(s). (By agreement, can show the unbid suits.)

There is no upper limit for point count and practically no lower limit – 5 or 6 high card points are ample for a low level negative double, with the proper distribution

SECOND TIME AROUND

Opener---Bid the limit of the combined hands, giving partner the minimum shown by his bid.

Doubler---Bid the limit of your hand on your second opportunity to bid. Pass with a minimum.

Exercises:

	Partner		Opponent		You
	1♣		1♠		?
1. ♠ xx	2. ♠ xxx	3. ♠ xxx	4. ♠ AJx	5. ♠ xx	6. ♠ xxxx
♥ AKJx	♥ AJxx	♥ KQJxx	♥ Kx	♥ KQJxx	♥ Kxxx
♦ Qxxx	♦ AKxx	♦ xx	♦ xxxx	♦ Axx	♦ Jxxx
♣ xxx	♣ Qx	♣ Qxx	♣ Jxxx	♣ Jxx	♣ x

	Partner		Opponent		You
	1♦		1♥		?
7. ♠ Jxxx	8. ♠ KJxx	9. ♠ Jxx	10. ♠ QJxxx	11. ♠ QJxxx	
♥ Kx	♥ xx	♥ Kxx	♥ xxx	♥ xxx	
♦ Kxxx	♦ AKxx	♦ xxxx	♦ xx	♦ AK	
♣ xxx	♣ Kxx	♣ Axx	♣ Axx	♣ Kxx	

	You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent	
	1♦	1♠	X	Pass	
	?				
12. ♠Ax	13. ♠ x	14. ♠ xx	15. ♠ AJx	16. ♠ Jxx	17. ♠ xxx
♥Axxx	♥AJxx	♥AJxx	♥ xx	♥ Kx	♥ Qx
♦ KJxxx	♦AKxxx	♦AKxx	♦AKQxxx	♦ AKxxx	♦ AQxx
♣ xx	♣ Kxx	♣ AKx	♣ Ax	♣ Qxx	♣ KQxx

	Partner	Opponent	You
	1♠	2♣	?
18. ♠ xx	♥AJ10	♦ Q10xx	♣ KJ9x

	You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
	1♠	2♣	P	p
	?			
19. ♠ AQxxx	♥ KQx	♦ Jxxx	♣ x	
20. ♠ KQ10xx	♥ AQxxx	♦ Kx	♣ x	

NEGATIVE DOUBLE – Answers to Exercises
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1. Double – typical double showing 4 hearts with medium strength. If partner jumps in hearts, you will bid game, otherwise you should pass if partner only bids 2H.
2. Double – full opening bid strength, bid you first need to find out if partner has 4H, and then bid game, the full value of your hand. If partner bids 1NT, raise to 3NT.
3. Double – not enough points to bid 2H (shows 10+).
4. 1NT – no interest in hearts and have 8-10 and 1 ½ spade stoppers. This is much better than 2C - it scores more, requires fewer tricks, and often your partner might only have 3 clubs.
5. 2H – with five card suit and 10+ go ahead and bid 2H.
6. Pass – tempting to stretch to double, but with singleton in partner's opening minor, dangerous. If partner reopens with double, just bid 2H.
7. Double – typical double showing 4 spades with minimum strength. You intend to pass partner's natural rebid.
8. Double – full opening bid strength, bid you first need to find out if partner has 4S, and then bid game, the full value of your hand. If partner bids 1NT, raise to 3NT.
9. 1NT – no interest in spades and have 8-10 and 1 heart stopper. 1NT for all the same reasons as #4, although in this case 2D is a weak alternative. When partner opens 1D, they have 4 diamonds unless they are 4-4-3-2, so 2D is logical option here, but we prefer 1NT.
10. 1S – shows 5+ card suit, in this case with minimum hand.
11. 1S – shows 5+ card suit, in this case with full opening hand. A negative double shows exactly 4 card spades and 1S shows 5 or more. 1S is forcing 1 round and describes your hand perfectly. If partner bids 1NT, raise to 3NT.
12. 2H – partner shows 4+ hearts, so bid 2H at the lowest level showing a minimum hand.
13. 3H – shows 4 card hearts and invitational values. Partner will raise on anything more than a minimum.
14. 4H – shows maximum hand with expectation to make game even if partner has a minimum of 6 points.
15. 3NT – Bid the full limit of your hand. If partner has as little as the K of hearts and K of clubs with 2+ diamonds, 3NT is a favorite.
16. 2D – Without a sure spade stopper and no interest in hearts, rebid your suit.
17. 2C – bid your second suit without a spade stopper and no interest in hearts.
18. Pass – You want partner to reopen the bidding with double and you will pass for penalty to convert his takeout double to penalize the 2C bidder.
19. Double - you should make a reopening double. This is how you penalize the opponents when partner has a trump stack. If this is the case, they will just pass the reopening double. The key is you are short in their suit and have 3 or more card support for all unbid suits. Note if partner does bid a suit, they are very likely very weak, so avoid any raise later.
20. Double – this is close between double and 2H, but if partner wants to penalize 2C, you have plenty. If partner now bids 2D, you should bid 2H.