

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

	♠ A 9 5		
	♥ Q 6 4 3		
	♦ J 5		
	♣ A Q 10 7		
♠ 4 3		♠ K Q J 6 2	
♥ 10 9 7		♥ K 5	
♦ A Q 8 3		♦ 10 7 2	
♣ 6 5 4 2		♣ K 9 3	
	♠ 10 8 7		
	♥ A J 8 2		
	♦ K 9 6 4		
	♣ J 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♠	Dbl
Pass	2 ♥	All pass	

1. A Negative Double -- (ND just in this lesson for ease!) -- is always a response, and it happens in third seat after Opener and Overcaller. If there's no overcall, there is no ND. When partner opens a minor, and RHO overcalls a major, the Negative Double by you shows the other major. It has these finer points:

- RHO overcalls ♥s, your ND shows exactly 4 ♠s.
- RHO overcalls ♥s, you BID ♠s instead to show 5 or more.
- RHO overcalls ♠s, you BID 2 ♥s to show 5+ pieces and 10+ points.
- RHO overcalls ♠, if you don't have BOTH 5+ pcs and 10+ pts, you make the ND.
- Partner opens ♥s, and RHO overcalls ♠s, your ND shows both minors.
- Partner opens ♠s, and RHO overcalls ♥s, your ND shows both minors.
- Partner opens a major, and RHO jumps in the other major, ND is both minors.
- Partner opens a ♣, and RHO overcalls a ♦, ND shows both majors.

BOTTOM LINE with a ND is it's actually bidding a specified suit or suits. It takes up no bidding space, and you need the same points to bid it as you to make a bid on that same level. (1-level, at least 6 pts; 2-level, at least 8 pts.)

About this hand:

2. Responder has a minimum, sees North with a minimum rebid, and passes 2♥. Opening lead is the ♠K. Counting losers, Declarer finds 2 ♠s, 1 ♥, 2 ♦s and 1 ♣ - one too many.

3. Missing the ♥10, the correct play is a low ♥ to the ♥J, and if it holds play the ♥A, hoping that there is a ♥K doubleton, and it drops under the Ace. Now the ♥ loser is eliminated.

4. Short entries to the Declarer's hand, try the club finesse now. If it fails, there is no problem as we'll still make the hand.

5. If the ♦A is behind the ♦K, also no problem. Always imagine the worst scenario before playing out the hand.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ Q 8		
	♥ J 8 6 5		
	♦ J 5 4		
	♣ K J 9 5		
♠ A J 10 7 6	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 4 3	
♥ 4 3		♥ K 10 7	
♦ 10 9 7		♦ K 8 6	
♣ Q 7 6		♣ 10 4 3 2	
	♠ K 5 2		
	♥ A Q 9 2		
	♦ A Q 3 2		
	♣ A 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
1 ♠	Dbl	2 ♠	4 ♥
All pass			

1. With that very strong hand, opener opens 1♦. The 1-level overcall by West promises 2 of the top 3-5 honors with a 5-card suit. Responder makes a Negative Double, promising at least a 4-card ♥ suit (and not necessarily the other minor), with 6+ HCP. (If Responder held *both 5 pieces in ♥s and 10+ points*, she would have bid 2♥ instead of the Negative Double.) Opener jumps to game, describing her hand as strong enough to bid game even if Responder only has 6 points.

2. Despite ♠ support, we do not lead the ♠ A, as partner does not promise the King, and we need to keep the Ace behind the King in the South, if it's there. So the opening lead is the ♦ 10. Dummy plays low, and East does not insert the ♦ K. Seeing dummy's ♦ J, East keeps the ♦ K behind it, to cover it.

3. Declarer plays a ♠ toward the ♠ Q, TESTING West ... who needs to duck this trick. That ♠ K is SOMEWHERE!

(1) If it's in East, partner will win this trick; and

(2) if it's in Declarer's hand, dummy will win this trick, and West will snag the ♠ K later with the ♠ A; but

(3) if West takes that ♠ A right now, Declarer will then win both the ♠ Q and the ♠ K, giving the opponents an extra trick. (Never a good defensive plan!)

4. Having won the ♠ Q in dummy, Declarer plays a small ♥ to the ♥ Q, then cashes the ♥ A. (Their ♥ K is now the only trump left, and it's high - so we continue playing and let them ruff in whenever they wish.) Declarer plays a ♠, (and loses to West), intending to trump the last one in the dummy next. West continues with the ♦ 9, won by Declarer. (Defenders' remaining ♦ is now high.) Declarer ruffs the ♠ K in dummy, plays a ♣ to the ♣ A, then finesses one up to the ♣ J. Next comes the ♣ K, pitching a ♦ loser from Declarer's hand. Ruffing the last ♣, the contract is made, losing the last 2 tricks.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

	♠ 8 5 2		
	♥ 10 5 2		
	♦ 9 2		
	♣ A 8 4 3 2		
♠ 9 7 4 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K Q 6	
♥ A 8		♥ 9 7 6	
♦ 8 5 3		♦ A K 10 7 6	
♣ K 9 6 5		♣ 7	
	♠ J 10		
	♥ K Q J 4 3		
	♦ Q J 4		
	♣ Q J 10		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♦	1 ♥
Dbl	2 ♥	4 ♠	All pass

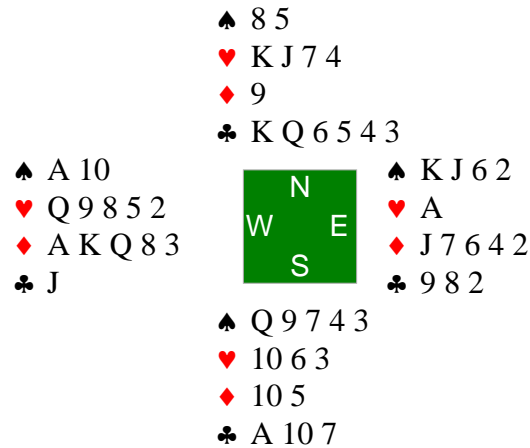
"Negative Doubles -- the Do's + Don'ts by Responder!"

1. You should never bypass a major suit, just because it's not gorgeous. Some Wests might think that 1 NT, showing 6- a bad 10 with a ♥ stopper is what should happen here. But using a Negative Double, it costs nothing to show a 4-card ♠ suit no matter how ugly the cards are! No bidding space was taken, opener now knows there's a fit, and opener's hand just grew in strength! After a fit is found, and East can count shortness, East can jump to game in ♠s. If West bids 1 NT, you'll never get to game anywhere. Sure, on that ♥ lead you'll make exactly 1 NT, but isn't 620 a better score than 90? ;)

2. Declarer counts losers in a suit contract: 1 ♥ loser, 1 ♦ and 1 ♣. Nothing to do but play the hand... and congratulate partner later for using that Negative Double.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	2 ♣	Dbl	3 ♣
3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♦	All pass		

1. Holding 5/5 in 2 suits, you always open the higher-ranking one. Yes, the ♦s are prettier, but you can mention those if you don't find the major suit fit! Then LHO overcalls ♣s, showing 2 of the top 3 honors and a 6-card suit (at the 2-level). Responder must show the 4 ♠s with a Negative Double, as a free bid of 2♠ would show 11 HCP and a 5-card suit! We guarantee 4 ♠s and may also have the other minor, but not promising that. Advancer must raise to 3♣ with support.

2. Opener has extreme shape and loves his second suit. Responder now should strive to bid NT, instead of keeping with a minor. But Responder holds no stopper in ♣s, and with at least 9 red cards in West's hand, East knows that partner is short in the clubs. Toss in there that East has a singleton in partner's first suit, so East bypasses NT and raises to 4♦.

3. Opener always accepts this invitation holding an outside singleton, and such great shape.

4. Counting losers, Declarer finds 1 ♣ and some ♥s. The plan will be to ruff the ♥s in East to set up Declarer's master hand, and they'll make 12 tricks!