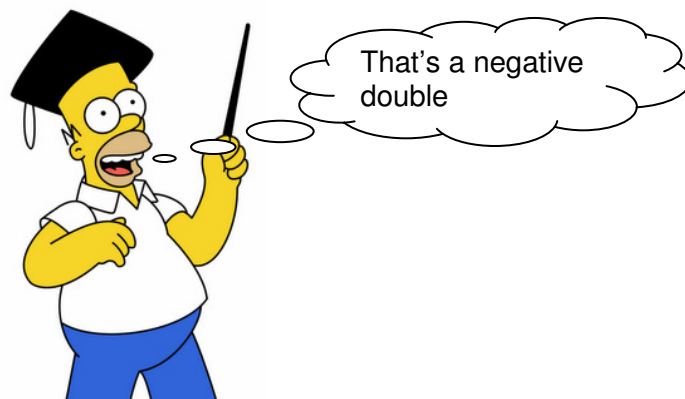


Cardiff Bridge Tutors

How to use Negative Doubles

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	X	



What are Negative Doubles?

When the opponents overcall it can sometimes make responding to your partner's opening bid difficult.

Example.

You are East holding this hand with 9 HCP.

♠ K 7
♥ K J 5 3
♦ Q 7 6 2
♣ 5 3 2

The bidding goes

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠		

What can you bid?

You would have bid 1♥ if North hadn't interfered but what now?

Bidding 2♥ is a jump shift showing 16+ points and is not an option!

Bidding 1NT denies your 4 card major but that is your only option.

If West had opened with this hand they will have to bid 2♣ and miss a ♥ contract.

♠ J 10 3
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ A
♣ A 9 7 6 4

This came about because West wanted to bid the other major but had no way of showing that.

A Negative Double allows you to say to your partner

"I would have bid a major if the opposition hadn't interfered"

Or

"I have both majors over their minor suit overcall"

When do you use Negative Doubles?

When the opposition have interfered following your partner's opening bid and you want to show a major or choice of majors over a minor suit.

This might be when:-

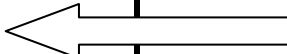
- You want to show ♥s after a ♠ overcall
- You want to show ♠s after a ♥ overcall
- You want to show a choice of majors after a minor suit overcall

What do you need to use Negative Doubles?

- At least four cards in your major(s).
- The same number of points as if the overcall hadn't happened.

How will my Partner know that it is a Negative Double for takeout?

By partnership agreement, your convention card will show it in this section:

COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS	
Agreements after opening of one of a suit and overcall by opponents	
Level to which negative doubles apply	2♠ 

Remember!

Doubles below the 3 level are for Takeout!

Except!

1NT **X**

Time to look at some examples.

1. A Negative Double – showing ♥s after a ♠ overcall.

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	X	

Partner,
I would have bid 1♥
but the opposition
interfered

West rebids as if East had bid 1♥.

2. A Negative Double – showing ♠s after a ♥ overcall.

Q. Why not just bid ♠s over the ♥s?

A. So that you can show whether you are holding 4 or 5 ♠s

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	X	

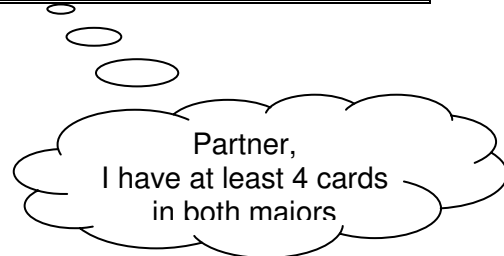
Partner,
I have 4♠s

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	1♠	

Partner,
I have 5♠s

3. A Negative Double – showing both majors after a minor overcall.

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	X	



Negative Doubles and the Losing Trick Count.

A Negative Double at the one level is a change of suit and represents 8 losers.

<p> ♠ AQ95 ♥ 53 ♦ J10 ♣ AQJ42 ♠ 84 ♠ 732 ♥ AK76 ♥ J109 ♦ 832 ♦ AK954 ♣ K976 ♣ 108 ♠ KJ106 ♥ Q842 ♦ Q76 ♣ 53 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West(10)</th> <th>North(14)</th> <th>East(8)</th> <th>South(8)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West(10)	North(14)	East(8)	South(8)		1♣	1♦	Dbl	2♦	2♠	Pass	All Pass				
West(10)	North(14)	East(8)	South(8)														
	1♣	1♦	Dbl														
2♦	2♠	Pass	All Pass														
<p> ♠ 987 ♥ AK10 ♦ 10842 ♣ J106 ♠ KJ106 ♠ A432 ♥ Q84 ♥ 976 ♦ J7 ♦ AKQ53 ♣ 5432 ♣ 9 ♠ Q5 ♥ J532 ♦ 96 ♣ AKQ87 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West(7)</th> <th>North(8)</th> <th>East(13)</th> <th>South(12)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West(7)	North(8)	East(13)	South(12)			1♦	2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass				
West(7)	North(8)	East(13)	South(12)														
		1♦	2♣														
Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass														
<p> ♠ 87 ♥ QJ102 ♦ J10 ♣ K10842 ♠ AJ653 ♠ 109 ♥ 974 ♥ AK86 ♦ K32 ♦ 954 ♣ 95 ♣ Q763 ♠ KQ42 ♥ 53 ♦ AQ876 ♣ AJ </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West(8)</th> <th>North(7)</th> <th>East(9)</th> <th>South(16)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South is able to show a balanced hand with 15-16 HCP after North's negative double says that they have a 4 card ♥ suit.</p>	West(8)	North(7)	East(9)	South(16)				1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT	All Pass			
West(8)	North(7)	East(9)	South(16)														
			1♦														
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT														
All Pass																	
<p> ♠ KJ1087 ♥ 64 ♦ Q95 ♣ QJ9 ♠ 5 ♠ Q94 ♥ Q875 ♥ AJ1092 ♦ AK8764 ♦ 2 ♣ A2 ♣ K1053 ♠ A632 ♥ K3 ♦ J103 ♣ 8764 </p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West(13)</th> <th>North(9)</th> <th>East(10)</th> <th>South(8)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East's negative double shows at least 4 ♥s and 8 losers. West has 5¹/₂ losers and so bids game. East assumes that West has 6 losers and with 7¹/₂ losers tries a risky slam bid</p>	West(13)	North(9)	East(10)	South(8)	1♦	1♠	Dbl	3♠	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass
West(13)	North(9)	East(10)	South(8)														
1♦	1♠	Dbl	3♠														
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass														
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass														