

# IMPROVERS' LESSONS

## Welcome

Teachers: Christine Egelmeer  
Linda Thornton  
Lynne Geursen



# Lesson Ten

## Doubles



# What type of DOUBLES are there?

- **TAKEOUT DOUBLE** – asks your partner to choose a suit
- **PENALTY DOUBLE** – tells partner you think the contract will fail



There are two types of double



# TAKEOUT DOUBLE



A **DOUBLE** is for takeout if:

- It is a double of a suit bid and it is your first opportunity to bid, or
- Later in the auction, when there are at least 2 unbid suits

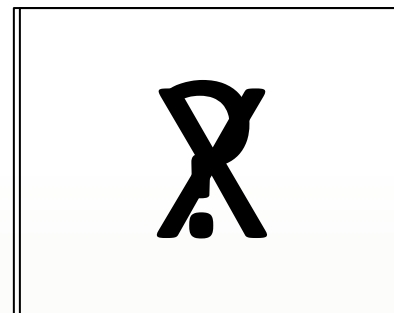
This double can be made by either player in the partnership



# THE BASIC TAKEOUT DOUBLE

Use when you have 12+ HCP and at least 3 cards in each of the **unbid** suits

*Opposition opens 1♣ ... what do you bid?*



*Shows an opening hand, requiring partner to bid*

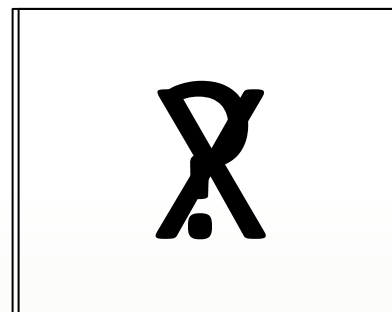
You should have a shortage in the opponent's suit



# DOUBLE AND SUIT REBID

Use when you have 16+ HCP and an unbalanced hand – double first, then bid your long suit

*Opposition opens 1♣ ... what do you bid?*



*Double shows an opening hand asking partner to bid.  
You will bid the heart suit later*

**The hand is too strong to overcall your suit  
immediately**



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH





East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣		





East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass
1♠			

*West responds to East's takeout X with their best suit*



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass
1♠	2♣		

*West responds to East's takeout X with their best suit*



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♥	

*West responds to East's takeout X with their best suit*

*East changes the suit to hearts – now showing 16+ and a good 5+ heart suit*



# DOUBLE AND NOTRUMP REBID

Use when you have a balanced 19+ with a hold in their suit – double first, then bid Notrumps

*Opposition opens 1♣ ... what do you bid?*



*Double shows an opening hand asking partner to bid.  
You then bid Notrumps to show 19+*

**This hand is too strong to bid 1NT immediately**





East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	?	





East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass
1♠			

*West responds to East's takeout X with their best suit*



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass
1♠	Pass		

*West responds to East's takeout X with their best suit*



East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	X	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	

*West responds to East's takeout X with their best suit*  
*East bids 1NT to show 19+ HCP, and a hold in ♣'s*  
*With 15-18 HCP, East would bid 1NT immediately*

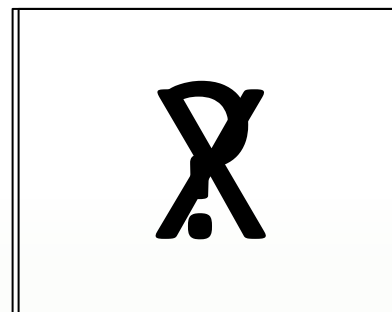


# NEGATIVE DOUBLE

Use when your partner opens, the opponents overcall a suit and you have tolerance for the unbid suits

*Partner opens 1 ♦ and opposition overcalls 1 ♥*

*What do you bid?*



*Double shows 6+ at the 1-level and 10+ at the 2-level  
and asks partner to make an appropriate bid*

**NB: The negative double guarantees  
4 of any unbid major**





East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	1♥	?	





# East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	1♥	X	

*This is a **negative double**, showing the other two suits*



# East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	1♥	X	Pass
1♠			

*This is a **negative double**, showing the other two suits*



# East



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	1♥	X	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	

*This is a **negative double**, showing the other two suits  
3♠ is inviting to game*



# THE PENALTY DOUBLE



A **DOUBLE** is for penalties if:

- It is a double of a 1NT contract
- It is double of a high level contract
- The opposition make an artificial bid
- The opposition have an obvious misfit

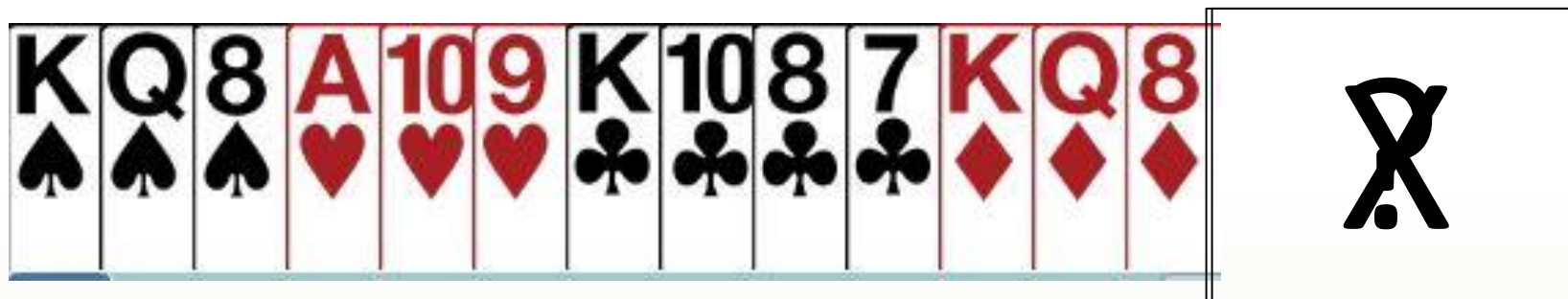
This double can be made by either player in the partnership and must be sure to take the contract light



# THE PENALTY DOUBLE

The opponents open 1NT and you have 16+HCP

*Opposition opens 1NT (12-14) ... what do you bid?*



*This double is aiming to penalise*

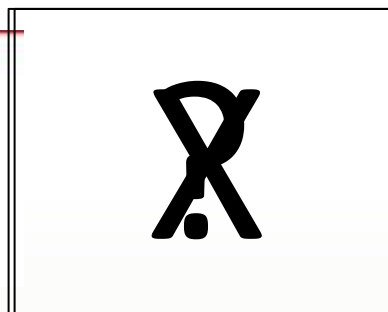
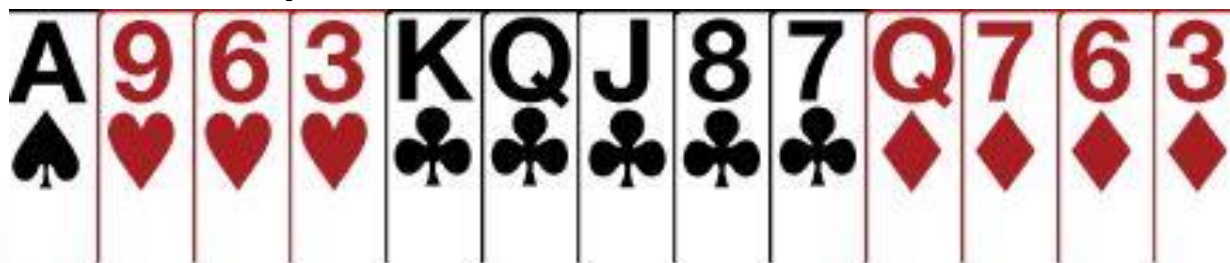
If your partner is weak (0-5) they should bid their lowest 4 card suit. Otherwise they pass.



# THE PENALTY DOUBLE

Use this double when a suit has been bid artificially by the opponents

*Opposition opens 1NT and responder bids 2♣ (Stayman), what do you bid?*



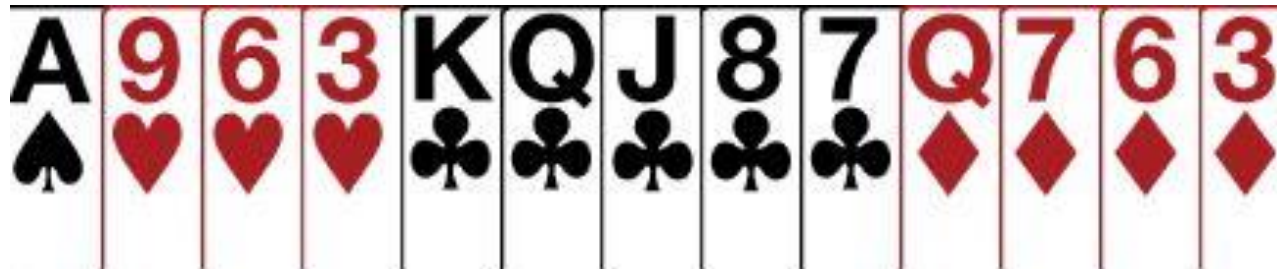
*Shows a hand with a good club suit. Often called a Lead Directional Double*

If defending, partner knows to lead a ♣, or bid 3♣ if they have a good fit





South

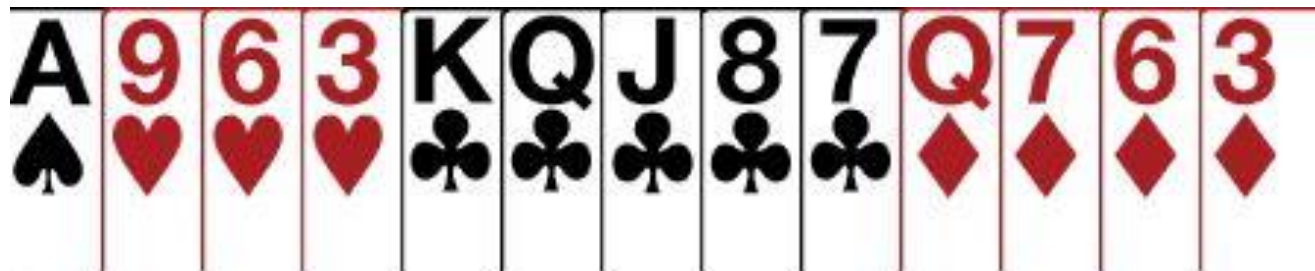


WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	Pass	2♣	?





South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	Pass	2♣	X
2♥			

*X to show a good club suit*



South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	Pass	2♣	X
2♥	3♣		

*X to show a good club suit*

*Partner can then bid clubs with good support*



# THE PENALTY DOUBLE

Use when the opponents have bid to the 4-level or 5-level and you have good trumps and quick outside tricks

*Opponents bids to 4♥. What do you bid?*



*You are aiming to get a bigger score*

**Your aces and trumps should produce at least 4 tricks**



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	?		



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass		

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	

*North must pass at the outset*





North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass

*North must pass at the outset*





North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥			

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass		

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	?		



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	X		

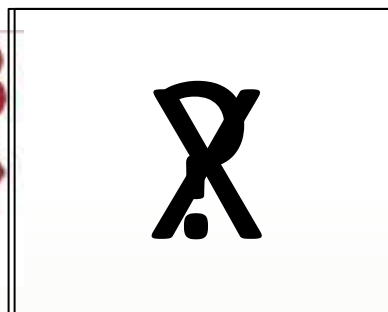
*X with good trumps and outside quick tricks*



# THE PENALTY DOUBLE

Use when the opponents have bid to the 3-level and you have 5 good trumps and quick outside tricks

*Opposition have bid to 3 ♥ ... what do you bid?*



*Shows a hand with 5 good trumps  
and quick outside tricks*

**You must have quick outside tricks as well as trumps**





North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	?		



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass		

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣			

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass		

*North must pass at the outset*





North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥			

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	?		

*North must pass at the outset*



North



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	X		

*North must pass at the outset*

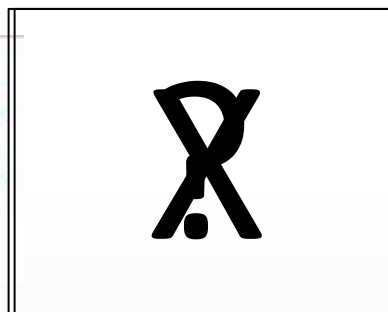




# THE PENALTY DOUBLE

Use when the opponents have an obvious misfit

*Opposition have bid to 3 ♥ but have a misfit ... what do you bid?*



*Shows a hand with 5 good trumps  
and quick outside tricks*

Be careful you don't encourage the opposition to find a better contract



South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass		



South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	



South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass

*South must pass at the outset*



South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥			

*South must pass at the outset*



South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass		

*South must pass at the outset*





South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	

*South must pass at the outset*



South



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	X

*South must pass at the outset*



# IMPROVERS' LESSONS

Please contact me if you have any questions

**NZB**♣**ridge**

