

Doubles

Revised March 6, 2014
Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club
Warren Watson

An Opening Takeout double shows:

- 3 or 4 cards in the unbid suits (usually 4 in the unbid majors)
- 2 cards or less in the doubled suit
 - exception: offshape double
 - 18 high card points allow one to correct
 - Otherwise a pass and an apology are needed.
- 12 or more high card points or really good shape, then maybe a really good 11
- 9 to 11 HCP's by a passed hand with good shape
 - 1NT overcall is 15-18
 - a double followed by 1NT is 19-20
 - a double followed by 2NT is 21-22
 - a double followed by 3NT is 23+

A double also shows:

- Strong Hand (18+ high card points)
- A very strong hand (20+ high card points)
 - Double then cuebid

Simple Overcall

- 7 (one-level not vulnerable) to 17
- 10 (one-level vulnerable) to 17
- Two level full opening and a good six card suit or distributional

It is now generally accepted that the opponents are more frequent with weak jumps. Therefore with 16 or 17 points, it is still better to overcall and get your suit in at a low level.

Examples

Your right hand opponent bids 1♦, would you double with the following?

♠ AJ109	♠ AJ109	♠ AJ	♠ AJ109	♠ A3
♥ KQ65	♥ KQ65	♥ KQ65	♥ KQ65	♥ AKJ105
♦ QJ109	♦ ---	♦ QJ108	♦ KJ10	♦ Q4
♣ 3	♣ J10983	♣ J109	♣ K9	♣ K932
No	Yes	No	No (1NT)	No (bid 1♥)

A Rule of Thumb:

When the difference in length of the suits shown by the double is less than two, then you have the correct shape to double with minimum points.

Responses:

You cannot confuse a hand with points and a hand without points. They must have different bids. When RHO passes, you have to bid with nothing. With points, you jump or cuebid.

1♣	Dbl	P	???	
			simplest bid	0-7
			single jump	8-12
			2♣ (cuebid)	13+ or 8+ (pick a major, partner)

When RHO bids, you make a free bid with something (5+ and good fit or more than one fit) and pass with nothing. You are off the hook.

When RHO redoubles, you still must bid unless you have the exact same length in every unbid suit, then you make a pass demanding partner to bid. Bidding over a redouble shows no values.

1♣	Dbl	1♦	???	
			Pass	0-7
			simplest bid	5-8 (bad 8)
			single jump	8-12
			2♣ (cuebid)	13+ or 8+ (pick a major, partner)

Examples

1♣	Dbl	2♣	???			
♠ KQJ104		♠ J10	♠ KQJ105	♠ AJ109	♠ A3	
♥ 3		♥ KQ65	♥ 6532	♥ Q652	♥ 984	
♦ 10932		♦ 1053	♦ 2	♦ 10983	♦ KQ43	
♣ 1087		♣ J1098	♣ J109	♣ 9	♣ KQJ10	
2♠		P	2♠	Dbl	3NT	