

# Dealing with Doubles

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## **1 The Situation: Partner opens 1 of a suit. RHO doubles.**

1.1 What does it mean? Two possibilities:

1.1.1 Takeout with at least three-card support for all other suits with 13+ support points: there are several variations.

1.1.1.1 Four cards required in unbid majors.

1.1.1.2 Shortness required in the opener's suit.

1.1.1.3 Equal level conversion: "Min Offshape T/O" on the convention card.

1.1.2 A hand that was too strong to overcall. The level is specified in the "SIMPLE OVERCALL" section.

1.2 What has been lost?

1.2.1 No bidding room at all!

1.2.2 Conventions: Jacoby 2NT, Inverted Minors, Others?

1.3 What has been gained?

1.3.1 The knowledge that RHO probably has at least close to an opening hand.

1.3.2 Tentative knowledge of RHO's distribution.

1.4 Redouble and 2NT need to be defined. These are specified in the "OVER OPP'S T/O DOUBLE" section on the convention card.

## **2 Raises show length; they might be weaker than without interference.**

## **3 Redouble shows strength.**

3.1 Most play that it shows at least invitational values. If so, it is NOT alertable.

3.2 Some play that it denies support. This is most useful if there is another way to show three-card support.

## **4 Most people play 2NT as Jordan, which is alertable in all its forms.**

4.1 It almost always shows invitational values or better.

4.2 It shows four-card support for a major suit bid by opener.

4.3 It shows five-card support if opener bid clubs. How many pieces are promised for diamonds depends on the partnership. Not everyone plays Jordan after a minor suit opening.

4.4 Following bids can be defined.

## **5 More complicated options are possible.**

5.1 A system called Manfield uses relays to provide for seventeen combinations of bids, including nine different ways to show support for partner's suit.

5.2 Others play less complicated approaches.

Next week: Dealing with overcalls by the opponent in the indirect seat.