

The Advancer (part 3): Responsive Double

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1 The responsive double is poorly named. I prefer Two-Suit Advancer (TSA) Double.

- 1.1 It always shows exactly two specified suits.
- 1.2 It can only be done by advancer after partner's double or an overcall.
- 1.3 Both opponents must have bid the same suit. (Bid) - Dbl or Overcall - (Raise)

2 Partner has doubled. Examples: (1♠)-Dbl-(2♠)-? or (1♣)-Dbl-(2♣)-?

- 2.1 If the opponents have bid a major:
 - 2.1.1 Double shows at least four cards in both minors.
 - 2.1.2 If you have a major and a minor, bid the major.
- 2.2 If the opponents have bid a minor:
 - 2.2.1 Double shows at least four cards in both majors.
 - 2.2.2 If you have a major and a minor, bid the major.
- 2.3 Suggested strength (adjust for vulnerability):
 - 2.3.1 2-level: 6+ support points. Don't count shortness in the opponents' suit.
 - 2.3.2 3-level: 9+ support points. Don't count shortness in the opponents' suit.
 - 2.3.3 3-level: 12+ support points. Don't count shortness in the opponents' suit.

3 Partner has overcalled. Examples: (1♠)-2♦-(2♠)-? or (1♣)-1♥-(2♣)-?

- 3.1 Double always shows at least four cards in the unbid suits.
- 3.2 Since partner could have as few as eight or ten points, the suggested strength levels are a little higher, but you can count shortness in the opponents' suit.

SPECIAL DOUBLES	
After Overcall: Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/>
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> thru 3♠
Responsive	<input type="checkbox"/> thru 3♠ Maximal <input type="checkbox"/>

4 What is the upper limit?

- 4.1 Most players play that TSA doubles are on through 3♠ or 4♠.
- 4.2 A case can be made for using them at much higher levels. For example, suppose that the bidding had gone (2♦)-Dbl-(5♦), and you have 5-5 in the majors with 13+ hcp. Wouldn't it be useful to let your partner pick a major?

5 These are not TSA doubles:

- 5.1 Opener can never make a TSA double: 1♣-(1♦)-P-(3♦)-Dbl.
- 5.2 Advancer after responder has bid a different suit: (1♥)-Dbl-(2♦)-Dbl.
- 5.3 Advancer doubles to show major-minor two-suiter after LHO opens, partner doubles, and RHO raises.
- 5.4 Discuss with partner what double means in these situations.

Next week: Advancing after three suits have been bid.