

Negative Doubles

strength in other suits by responder

Oh How I Love to Double

Let me count the ways!

- * Penalty - anyone, "I want to defend"
- * Take Out - overcaller, "partner bid something"
- * Negative - responder, "values in other suits"
- * Responsive - advancer, "values in other suits"
- * Balancing - 4th seat, "partner bid something"
- * Protection - opener, "did you trap pass?"
- * ... and many more

Negative Double

What does it mean?

- * Support for the unbid suits
- * 4 cards in all unbid majors
- * Enough strength to justify a bid at the expected level (but there is no upper limit)

- * ~6 points @ 1 level
- * ~8 points @ 2 level
- * ~10 points @ 3 level

* The auction: 1♣-(1♥)-???

* ♠KQxx ♥xx ♦Jxxx ♣xxx
(double)

* ♠KQxxx ♥x ♦Jxxx ♣xxx
(1♠)

Negative Double

(when is it applicable?)

- * Used by responder after a simple overcall
- * Denies support when partner opens a major
- * SAYC standard is “through 2♠”
 - * e.g. 1♠-(3♦)-X is penalty NOT negative
- * The auction: 1♠-(2♦)-???
- * ♠xx ♥KJxx ♦xxx ♣Axxx (double)
- * ♠xx ♥KJxxx ♦xx ♣Axxx (2♥)

Negative Double

An Exception (of course)

- * Consider: 1 ♦ -(1 ♠)-X
- * Q: Why did Responder negative double
A: Because he can't bid his suit directly
- * Responder is either short in length or short in strength
- * Double with either of these hands:
 - * ♠xx ♥KQxx ♦xxx ♣KQxx
 - * ♠xxx ♥QJxxxx ♦xx ♣Ax

Negative Double

Another Exception (of course)

- * Consider:
 - * A: 1♣-(1♦)-X-
 - * B: 1♣-(1♦)-1♠-
- * How many major suit cards does responder hold for auction A? (4+ & 4+)
- * How many ♥s does responder hold for auction B? (<=3)
- * How many ♠s does responder hold for auction B? (4+)

Negative Double

Examples

* ♠ Kx ♥ KJTxxx ♦ xx ♣ xxx

* 1♠-(2♦)-X-(P)- 2♣-(P)-??? (2♥)

* ♠ AQxxx ♥ Kxx ♦ AJxx ♣ x

* 1♠-(3♣)-X-(P)-??? (P)

* ♠ KJxx ♥ AQxx ♦ QJxx ♣ x [1♠-(2♣)-???] (3♣)

* ♠ AKTx ♥ KQJx ♦ KQxx ♣ x

* 1♦-(2♣)-X-P- ??? (3♣)

* ♠ AJTx ♥ xxxx ♦ QJ ♣ Axx

* 1♦-(1♥)-X-P- 1♠-P-??? (4♠)