

2-Card Rosenkranz Doubles

By Henry Jackson

After Partner Has Overcalled

You have ♠ K 2 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ A 7 5 4 ♣ Q 8 4 2 after
1 ♥ - 1 ♠ - 2 ♥ - ?

- A raise seems right but
- Partner may go too high believing that you have 3+ spades (law of total tricks)
- Opponents may win the bid and partner may lead the ♠ A and another ♠. You may not be able to get back to him for a ruff.

A Simple Better Choice

- Playing 2-card Rosenkranz, a double of responder's raise (or new suit) promises precisely Ax or Kx in partner's overcall suit.

The Defense Has Been Improved

- After your double, partner knows exactly how many trumps you side holds (law of total tricks).
- If opener passes your double, partner simply rebids his suit.
- If Opener competes, partner knows when to quit.

The Defense Has Been Improved Con't

- If the opponent win the bid, partner can under lead his top honor safely even if his suit is **headed by the A Q.**
- If you raised instead of doubling, partner knows that you have at least 3 cards in his suit.

What If Responder Doubles?

After a negative double by responder, your redouble again shows precisely the Ax or Kx in partner's suit.

When Not to Use

- Even though you have Ax or Kx, do not double when you have little else to help partner.
- Also do not double when you have a limit raise plus. A cue bid may get you to a game if partner has a very long suit.