

The Dastardly World of Doubles!

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Darrel VanDyke, darrelvan@gmail.com

Why do we have conventions? What is a convention?

- Support
- Negative
- Penalty
- Take-out
- Responsive
- Balancing
- Action

Support

Always 5th action. Repeat ... never 3 or 4... learn to recognize this sequence:

Opener	LHO	Responder/partner	RHO
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1D	pass	1H	1S
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Double

- 5TH action, promises EXACTLY 3 of partner's suit
3 could be of any value, doesn't guarantee any values but number of cards

Negative

Opener	LHO	Responder/partner	RHO
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1D	1H	Double	- Promises 4+ of other major
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1S (in this example)

Opener guidelines: bid major partner has hinted at

bid NT

rebid opening suit (usually promises 6)

jump to show extras

Penalty

Be careful – always weigh risk/reward*; if opponents are sacrificing, make them pay a little if double seems reasonable

Opener	LHO	Responder/partner	RHO
1D	pass	1H	1S
2H	pass	4H	5S

???

❖ Do you bid 5H?

❖ If you don't think you can make 5H, but know that you and partner have more than ½ of points so.... Make'm pay! DOUBLE!

* Says opponents bid 3H and you hold hearts AKx and partner has even opened. You double. You set them -100 ; if they by chance pull off making 3H doubled, their score is +730; was the risk/reward justified?

Take Out

My agreement with my partner is any bid through 2 level OR at 3 level if it is first opportunity to bid then **DOUBLE IS A DEMAND BID BY PARTNER. (otherwise it is a penalty double).** What is your agreement?

Opener	LHO	Responder/partner	RHO
pass	1D	pass	2D
<u>double</u>			

Opener	LHO	Responder/partner	RHO
1D	pass	3D	<u>double</u>

Opener	LHO	Responder/partner	RHO
pass	1D	pass	2D
Double	pass	pass	pass

How many would fall out of their seat if partner passed a double at the 2 level?

What if partner held D AT98765?

RESPONSIVE (always a take-out)

Opener (overcaller/you)	Responder (LHO)	Advancer/Partner
1D	double	2D (same suit) double

In this sequence, partner has doubled for some reason and we are trying to find a fit

- Over minors it shows at LEAST 4/4 in majors
- Over majors it shows at LEAST 4/4 in minors

“Balancing” DOUBLE (always a take-out)

Opener (overcall/partner) Responder (partner) RHO

1D pass pass double

Responder’s “pass” tells you a wealth of information – basically that opponents are weak and your side should be able to compete in the auction. Double with 10+; always try to calculate where points could be.

If you have 5 card major, usually best to mention it here instead of double.

<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px; margin-bottom: 10px;">1</div>	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px; margin-bottom: 10px;">2</div>
<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px; margin-bottom: 10px;">3</div>	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px; margin-bottom: 10px;">4</div>

5

N frj22	♠AJ432 ♥J1043 ♦Q94 ♣4
W runamuck8	♠KQ7 ♥A65 ♦K63 ♣J963
E B_Kzoo	♠65 ♥Q982 ♦A1082 ♣AKQ
S dvanrijn	♠1098 ♥K7 ♦J75 ♣108752

Bidding: 1♠ 1♠ Dbl Pa 1NT Pass 2♠ Pa 2NT Pass 3NT Pa Pass Pass

3NT West 0 0

6

N frj22	♠K9764 ♥AQ543 ♦A7 ♣4
W runamuck8	♠A32 ♥106 ♦KQ86 ♣AKQ5
E B_Kzoo	♠Q5 ♥KJ982 ♦943 ♣1073
S dvanrijn	♠J108 ♥7 ♦J1052 ♣J9862

Bidding: 1♠ Pass Pass Dbl Pass 2♥ 2♠ 2NT 3♠ Pass Pass Pass

3♠ North 0 0

7

N frj22	♠K72 ♥1092 ♦105 ♣AJ974
W runamuck8	♠J4 ♥A8 ♦KJ976 ♣Q1032
E B_Kzoo	♠A1095 ♥KQJ4 ♦84 ♣K65
S dvanrijn	♠Q863 ♥7653 ♦AQ32 ♣8

Bidding: Pass Pass 1♣ Dbl Pass 1♦ Pass 1NT Pass 2NT Pass Pass Pass

2NT East 0 0

8

N frj22	♠K852 ♥10 ♦A642 ♣AK54
W runamuck8	♠Q943 ♥K3 ♦KQ10983 ♣10
E B_Kzoo	♠AJ7 ♥AQJ8 ♦J5 ♣J632
S dvanrijn	♠106 ♥976542 ♦7 ♣Q987

Bidding: 1♦ Dbl Pass Pass Pass

1♦ North 0 0

09-2-A

NORTH

♠ J 10 7 6
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ A J 8
♣ 8 4

WEST **EAST**

♠ A K 9 3 ♠ Q 5 4
♥ 6 5 ♥ 10 4 2
♦ K 7 4 3 2 ♦ Q 10 9 5
♣ Q 9 ♣ A J 6

SOUTH

♠ 8 2
♥ A Q J 3
♦ 6
♣ K 10 7 5 3 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦	Dbl.	2♣
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

Opening Lead: Spade king

ACTION DOUBLE (95.3% of the time take-out)

Opener	LHO	Responder/partner	RHO
3D (preempt)	3H	pass	pass
DOUBLE?			

- We all know that pre-empter is not supposed to bid again – right?
- But What if he has a few extra values AND a shortness in Opponent's suit?
- And throw in perhaps favorable vulnerability?
- Double! Unless partner has wonderful opponent trump suit, it is a take-out, otherwise he could pass and take the chances.

Common Sense

Points matter

Vulnerability matters

Opponent's opening suit matters

You hear	You	You	You	You	You	You
1D open on	hold:	hold:	hold:	hold:	hold:	hold:
your right:	S J964	S J964	<u>S KQ642</u>	<u>S KQ642</u>	S Q642	S 8642
	H JT876	H JT876	H AT8	H J876	H A876	H A876
	D	D 8	D J9	D 5	D 53	D 3
	C 9862	C A86	C A86	C A86	C A86	C A864

- “Guidelines”**
- Ideal world you have 4-4-4-1 or 5-4-4-0 distribution; X with 10+
 - 4-4-3 in unbid suits; X with 12+
 - As your distribution becomes more balanced, you need more points
 - When you X 1S, remember you are forcing partner to respond at 2 level
 - If you have a doubleton or singleton or void in one of unbid suits, very risky to X



The Worlds of Doubles



- Learn to recognize when you can use them
- At least recognize them if your opponents are using them – this will help you visualize the shapes of their holdings
- Doubles are nothing but a convention – make sure you and your partner are 100% in sync in using them*
- Can help in lead directing for partner
- Mistakes will happen – it's part of bridge; get with your partner after play (never during play please) and discuss doubling scenarios you used and maybe ones you could have use.
- Make sure your "convention card" reflects your doubles
- If you are every unsure of opponents "double" – just ask 😊
- Have fun – it's just a game

Questions?

Upcoming webinars

October 2: Opener's Strength-Showing Rebids, Mary Jane Orock

October 9: Intermediate Webinar

Darrel VanDyke

darrelvan@gmail.com

Our club is called *BAFLAC* and we usually play out of the
Flower Mound Senior Center – come join us!

Thank you for your participation – enjoy the game