

## THE RESPONSIVE DOUBLE

In the world of modern competitive bridge, (when both sides are bidding) it is seldom right to allow your opponents to play a hand at the two level after they have discovered that they have an eight-card or longer fit.

THE FACT IS: If they have a fit, then your side also has a fit. This is a statistical fact. All you have to do is find out what your fit is (they have already discovered theirs).

If they are willing to sell out at the 2 level, then your side very likely has the balance of the strength; 20 points to them and 20 points to your side (approximately of course)

**The following is the commonest form of the RESPONSIVE double:  
Opening bid on your left, overcall of a suit by partner, raise of opener's suit on your right.**

West North East South  
1D 1S 2D ?

When you say Double in this seat, it is a take-out double for the two unbid suits. It cannot be a penalty double as they (opponents) have bid and raised a suit. It would be rare for you to make a penalty double when they are in a partial (not game) and they have a fit.

Your double denies S support (you would simply raise S 's if you could) and North will now bid accordingly.

You need 8 or more points to make a responsive double.

North (your partner) has

S AKJxx  
H xxx  
D AJx  
C xx

He now bids 2NT.

TO HELP YOU REMEMBER WHEN A DOUBLE IS A RESPONSIVE DOUBLE:

REMEMBER **O.B.A.R.**

Opener has bid and responder has raised or  
Opening bid and raise

i.e. NOT

W N E S

**The following is the other form of the RESPONSIVE double:  
Opening bid on your left, TOD (Takeout double) by partner, raise of opener's suit on your right**

***You will only use the responsive double in these two scenarios (this one and the one above)***

West North East South  
1H Dbl 2H ?

and you have this hand

S xx H xxx D AJxx C KJxx

So...which minor suit should you bid??? If you pick C's, the doubler (your partner) will have D's. If you pick D's, he will have C's. Life in the big city. Say Double...that is a responsive double and **he** will have to pick. (It is kind of like Passing the buck!)

NOTE THAT SINCE Spades are the only unbid major, then IF YOU HAD Spades, you would have bid them. Your responsive double denies 4 Spades when Spades is the only unbid major.

The responsive double shows TWO HOMES in which to play. Partner has to choose the best home.

Another example:

			you
West	North	East	South
1D	Dbl	2D	?
			DOUBLE

The responsive double says: "I have enough enough points to bid, but I do not wish to choose a suit. Partner, you choose!"

NOTE THAT THIS WOULD STILL BE A RESPONSIVE even if East had bid 3D, unlike support doubles which only must be played up to and including 2H by opponent

You have

S Kxxx  
H Kxxx  
D xxx  
C Qx

Which major suit should you bid. As in above scenario, whichever one you pick will be wrong, therefore don't pick one at all, pass the buck back to your partner and make her pick one. Partner will now bid the suit in which she has 4 cards.

Here's another one:

			You
West	North	East	South
1D	1S	2D	?

This time, partner overcalled and you (South) have S Qx H KJxx D xx C K10xxx

You will say Double and this will show both unbid suits. Note that if partner had made a TOD, you would be able to bid 2H as she has support for H's when she makes a TOD, but when she has merely overcalled, you need her to pick one of your suits. Partner might have the following:

S AKxxxx H Qx D xxx C Qx

After you Double, she will simply rebid her Spades.

But possibly your partner has:

S AKxxx H Qxxx D xx C Qx

Now you can find your Heart fit.

Or partner might have:

S AKxxx H x D xxx C QJxx

Now partner will choose 3C as her next bid and you will pass with the hand above.

S Qx H KJxx D xx C K10xxx

Acknowledgements:

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