

## “Double” and Its Many Meanings

There are thirteen (13) “Doubles” in the game of bridge. Each one has a vastly different meaning as to intent, distribution, and strength; yet all are similarly presented during the bidding process, simply, by the use of the word “Double”. For one Partner to fully understand the meaning of the specific “Double” that the other Partner intends at any particular time, Partnerships must have agreement and a full appreciation of the varied bidding environments in which doubles are employed. In realty, the environment is unique for each “double” available for use.

**Balancing Double:** - A re-opening Take-Out double made in the close-out (4<sup>th</sup>) seat by a Player whose opposition has dropped the bidding at a low level. Such doubles can be made with fewer HCP’s than one made in the direct (2<sup>nd</sup>) seat.

**Examples:** 1H – P -- 1-NT -- P (or) 1D – P – P -- Dbl.  
P -- Dbl.

**Conventional Doubles:** - A number of doubles, each an integral part of a list of conventions (“DONT”, “DOPI”, “DOPE”, “DEPO”, “Brozel”, to name just a few), and each with a specific meaning associated with the convention of which it is a part.

**Examples:** 1-NT --- Dbl. (A part of the “DONT” Convention) - An interference overcall asking Partner to “puppet” “2C” so that the overcalling Partner can evidence his/her 6-card or longer suit with which he/she wishes to interfere.

1-NT --- Dbl. (A part of the “Brozel” Convention) - An interference overcall asking Partner to “puppet” “2C” so that the overcalling Partner can evidence his/her single suit with which he/she wishes to interfere.

1S ---- P ---- 3S ---- P  
4-NT -“5H” – Dbl. (Shows zero Aces in the “DOPI” Convention used to show the number of Aces subsequent to Blackwood by Partner and interference by one’s RHO.

**Lead-Directing Double:** – A double by a would-be Defender requesting the lead of that suit, subsequent to an artificial bid by the opposition on their way to their final contract.

**Examples:** 1-NT --- P --- “2D” --- Dbl. (or) 1S ---- P ---- 3S ---- P  
4-NT -- P --- “5H” -- Dbl.

**Lightner Double:** - A specific lead-directing double asking for an unusual lead against a slam bid; usually that of the lead of the first suit bid by Dummy.

**Example:** 1S --- P --- 3S --- P  
4-NT – P -- “5H” - P  
6S -- Dbl.

**Maximal Double:** – A double opposite Partner’s negative double. It shows an opening hand with HCP count greater (at least one King better) than minimum opening count.

**Example:** 1D --- 1S --- Dbl. --- 2S  
Dbl.

**Negative Double:** - A double by a Responder to an opening suit bid, following an intervening overcall by the Opponents, and presented at Responder’s first opportunity to bid. It evidences that the Responder does not meet one or both requirements as to the necessary high-card points or the suit length for a response to Opener’s bid, but yet Responder would like to show his/her 6 HCP’s or more.

**Examples:** 1C -- 1S -- Dbl. (or) 1C -- 2H -- Dbl.

