

RESPONSIVE DOUBLES

Definition: A “Responsive” Double is a Take-Out by a Responder to an Overcaller following an immediate raise to the 2- or 3-level over Partner’s Takeout Double (Examples 1 & 2), or Partner’s overcall (Example 3), or over a supported weak 2-bid following Partner’s Take-Out Double (Example 4). The use of this form of Double communicates descriptive information about Responder’s hand and says: **“Partner, I have scattered strength, I have no specific long suit, but I wish us to compete further. You bid your best suit and I will have support for it!”**

“Responsive” Doubles are alertable!

<u>Example 1:</u>	<u>West</u> 1D	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 2D	<u>South</u> ???
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South Holds: JXXX (It would be foolish for South to Pass
QXXX with this holding, yet he/she is not
X nearly strong enough to make a “3D” Cue-bid.
QXXX Not wanting to guess which Major suit to bid,
South makes a “Responsive” Double. Since it is
highly unlikely for South to desire to make a penalty double, even if East
had raised directly to 3D, South is merely showing values; i.e., a desire to
compete further with no specific choice as to which of the remaining un-bid
suits to choose.)

<u>Example 2:</u>	<u>West</u> 1S	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 2S	<u>South</u> ???
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South Holds: XXX (This would be ideal for a Responsive Double,
AJX and, indeed, would be the case even if the
QXXX opposition had bid Clubs, Diamond, or even
JXX Hearts.)

<u>Example 3:</u>	<u>West</u> 1H	<u>North</u> 2C	<u>East</u> 2H	<u>South</u> ???
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South Holds: KXXX (Here North has shown a simple overcall
XXX at the 2-Level (10-15 HCP’s) and a 5-card
AXXX or longer Club suit. South, wishing to
XX compete further, but not having support for
Partner, and with no clear choice of his/her
own, makes a “Responsive” Double showing values and length in the two un-bid
suits. North is now free to make a choice as to whether to re-bid his/her
Clubs if 6 cards or longer, else bid one of the remaining suits as an
alternative knowing South has values and length in the remaining two suits.)

<u>Example 4:</u>	<u>West</u> 2H	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 3H	<u>South</u> ???
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South Holds: KXXX (Partnerships must agree to at which levels
X a Double over both Minor and Major suit
AXXX supported Pre-empts warrant the use of
QXXX Responsive Doubles.)

Strength Required For a Responsive Double: The minimum strength required for a responsive double varies slightly with the preceding level of the auction, and will vary with the level at which the prospective user is forcing Partner to bid. Even with a balanced hand, a double at the 2-level requires about 6 HCP's, and that at the 3-level about 9 HCP's. As one's hand becomes more distributional, even fewer HCP's are necessary.

Maximum Bidding Level For Use of a Responsive Double: Each Partnership must agree as to exactly how high this type of Double should apply. "Responsive" through 4D is a common agreement, but it is up to each Partnership as to what level, beyond which, such a bid necessarily becomes a Penalty Double, as an alternative meaning (Example 5).

<u>Example 5:</u>	<u>West</u> 1D	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 4D	<u>South</u> <u>Double (Penalty)</u>
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Note: *Some Partnerships play Responsive Doubles through 2S, and others through 3S.*

Condition Eliciting Prohibition of the Use of a Responsive Double: One must not make Responsive Doubles in response to a Take-out Double with hands that are suited to bid No- Trump (Examples 6 & 7).

<u>Example 6:</u>	<u>West</u> 1H	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 2H	<u>South</u> ???
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South Holds: AX (South, here, should respond, 2-NT!)
KJXX
QXXX
XXX

<u>Example 7:</u>	<u>West</u> 1H	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 2H	<u>South</u> ???
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South Holds: XX (A Responsive Double is never made with
AQ excessive strength in the Opponent's suit.
KQXXX Here, South should respond 3-NT.)
JXXX
