

## RESPONSIVE vs. ROSENKRANZ DOUBLES

All “doubles”, and there are many, are intended to present a specific message to Partner. Each double is distinguishable from any other double by the bidding environment in which it is used. “Responsive” and “Rosenkranz” doubles occur in very similar, yet unique bidding circumstance, and the message that each is intended to give Partner is distinctly different.

Some “doubles” are alertable, and some are not. “Responsive” and “Rosenkranz” doubles *are both alertable*.

**A. 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!”**

<u>Example 1:</u>	<u>West</u> 1D	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 2D	<u>South</u> ???
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<u>South Holds:</u>	JXXX QXXX X QXXX	(It would be foolish for South to Pass with this holding, yet he/she is not nearly strong enough to make a “3D” Cue-bid. Not wanting to guess which Major suit to bid, South makes a “ <b>Responsive</b> ” Double. Since it is
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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.)

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<u>Example 2:</u>	<u>West</u> 1S	<u>North</u> Dbl.	<u>East</u> 2S	<u>South</u> ???
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<u>South Holds:</u>	XXX AJX QXXX JXX	(This would be ideal for a Responsive Double, and, indeed, would be the case even if the opposition had bid Clubs, Diamond, or even Hearts.)
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<u>Example 3:</u>	<u>West</u> 1H	<u>North</u> 2C	<u>East</u> 2H	<u>South</u> ???
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<u>South Holds:</u>	KXXX XXX AXXX XX	(Here North has shown a simple overcall at the 2-Level (10-15 HCP’s) and a 5-card or longer Club suit. South, wishing to compete further, but not having support for
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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.)

**Example 4:**            West            North            East            South  
                              2H                    Dbl.                3H                ???

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).

**Example 5:**            West            North            East            South  
                              1D                    Dbl.                4D                Double (Penalty)

**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).

**Example 6:**            West            North            East            South  
                              1H                    Dbl.                2H                ???

South Holds:        AX                (South, here, should respond, 2-NT!)  
                              KJXX  
                              QXXX  
                              XXX

**Example 7:**            West            North            East            South  
                              1H                    Dbl.                2H                ???

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

**B. A “Rosenkranz” Double or Redouble**, used by a Responder to an Overcall, shows 3-card or better support for Partner’s overcall suit and the presence of either an Ace or a King of that suit. It is employed only after the Responder to the Opponent’s opening bid has followed either with a forcing response of a new, 2<sup>nd</sup>, suit (Example 1), else, with a “Negative” Double (Example 2). If instead, Overcaller’s Partner (the “Advancer”) makes a raise to the 2-level in overcaller’s suit, as in Example 3, the Advancer denies possession of either top honor in that suit.

<b><u>Example 1:</u></b>	<u>West</u> 1C	<u>North</u> 1H	<u>East</u> 1S	<u>South</u> <b>Dbl.</b>
<u>South Holds:</u>	XX KJX XXXX AXXX	(A “Rosenkranz” Double showing at least a 3-card or longer support for Partner’s overcall, Heart, suit, six or more HCP’s accompanied by the HA or HK.)		

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<b><u>Example 2:</u></b>	<u>West</u> 1C	<u>North</u> 1H	<u>East</u> Dbl. (Neg.)	<u>South</u> <b>Re-Dbl.</b>
<u>South Holds:</u>	XX KJX XXXX AXXX	(A “Rosenkranz” Re-Double showing at least a 3-card or longer support for Partner’s overcall, Heart, suit, six or more HCP’s accompanied by the HA or HK.)		

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<b><u>Example 3:</u></b>	<u>West</u> 1C	<u>North</u> 1H	<u>East</u> 1S	<u>South</u> <b>2H</b>
<u>South Holds:</u>	XX KJX XXXX AXXX	(Showing 3 or more Hearts, at least 6 or more HCP’s, but an absence of either the Ace or King of Hearts as a result of the lack of use of the “Rosenkranz” Double.)		

**Similarities Between Responsive and Rosenkranz Doubles:**

1. They are both used by a Responder (“Advancer”) to Partner’s overcall
2. They both show at least 6 or more HCP’s and an interest in competing in the auction
3. They are both forcing and not meant for penalty
4. They are both alertable.

**Differences Between Responsive and Rosenkranz Doubles:**

1. “Responsive” Doubles occur only when a single suit has been bid and raised by the two Opponents, whereas, in the case of the use of a “Rosenkranz” Double, the Opponents have either bid two different suits or used the “Negative” double implying at least one additional suit held by Opener’s responding Partner.
2. “Responsive” Doubles occur only in the form of a “Double,” whereas, “Rosenkranz” Doubles can occur both as a “Double” or a “Re-Double.”
3. “Responsive” Doubles evidence the presence of the two un-bid suits, whereas, a “Rosenkranz” Double or Re-Double shows support for Partner’s overcall suit and holding either the Ace or the King of that suit.