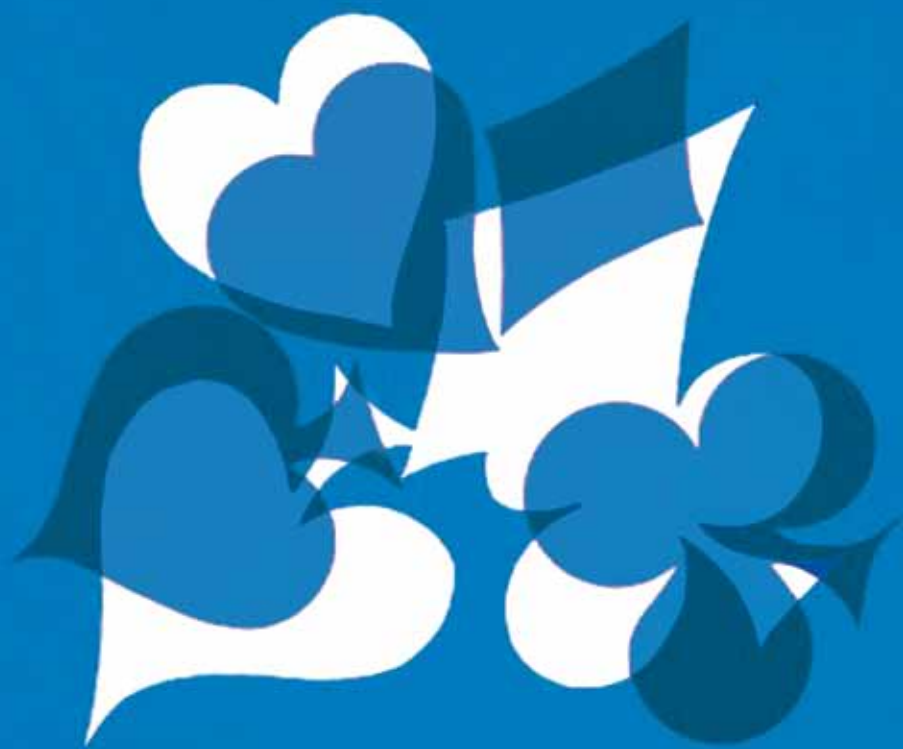


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

# RESPONSIVE DOUBLES AND SNAPDRAGON DOUBLES

Patty Tucker



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## **eBooklets on Competitive Doubles**

Takeout Doubles

Negative Doubles

Responsive Doubles and Snapdragon Doubles

Balancing Doubles and Re-opening Doubles

Support Doubles

Maximal Doubles

These booklets may be purchased as a single volume in digital or paper format under the title *Competitive Doubles*, one of eight books in Patty Tucker's Winning Bridge Conventions Series.



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# RESPONSIVE DOUBLES AND SNAPDRAGON DOUBLES

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## Competitive Doubles

Types of takeout doubles are the most common doubles used in competitive situations and account for the majority of all doubles. They are simply doubles designed to show a desire for partner to bid one of the suits not yet bid. The point range varies depending on:

- Position you are in – opener, responder, overcaller, or responder to overcaller (sometimes called Advancer); and
- Level at which partner's response is forced to be made.

The suits the double shows depend on how the auction has proceeded.

There are two additional doubles, Maximal Doubles and Support Doubles, used to indicate raises in competitive auctions that you will find equally useful.

A brief description of each of these competitive doubles and which player might bid the double is provided in the following table.

<b>Name of Double</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Description</b>
Takeout	Overcaller	Opening hand, shortness in opener's suit and at least three cards in the remaining three suits (if two suits have been bid, double shows at least four cards in the remaining two suits).
Negative	Responder	6+ points, shows the two unbid suits or if only one major has been bid, it shows 4+ cards in the other major.
Responsive	Advancer	6+ points, shows the two unbid suits, 4+ / 4+.
Snapdragon	Advancer	6+ points, after three suits have been bid it shows the unbid suit 5+ cards and usually a tolerance (2+ cards) for the suit partner bid.
Balancing	Overcaller	Doubling when the auction has ended at a low level showing shortness (0-1-2) in the opponents' suits.
Re-opening	Any position but most often associated with the opening bidder.	In any auction, this bid shows a hand that desires for the auction to continue but has no clear bid. Generally it is expected that partner will bid but they may pass for penalty.
Support	Opener	In a competitive auction when opener's right hand opponent overcalled a suit below the two-level of responder's suit.
Maximal	Opener (occasionally Advancer)	In a competitive auction when opener's right hand opponent bid the suit, at the three level, directly in rank below the major suit opener and responder have bid and raised.

## Competitive Doubles

## **Responsive Doubles**

## Responsive Doubles

***A Responsive Double is a double made by Advancer (responder to overcaller).*** This double occurs after opener bids one of a suit, partner overcalls a suit and responder to opener raises opener's suit. Advancer promises 6+ points and at least four cards in the remaining two suits. Not the suit opened and raised, not the suit overcaller (partner) bid.

An example would be:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	1♠	2♥	Dbl*

\*A Responsive Double showing 6+ points and at least 4 diamonds, at least 4 clubs and less than three spades (since with three spades or more West would have raised spades).

Overcaller will “raise” one of Advancer's suits with a fit or return to his own suit at the appropriate level. Minimum bids show minimum hands. Jump with good hands etc. ***With everyone bidding, this bid tends to be based more on shape (distribution) than on high card points.*** Responsive Doubles have

a much more competitive nature than an attempt to reach a game.

This bid may also be used if partner makes a Takeout Double and responder to opener bids a new suit, but you will need to ***have a discussion with individual partners to iron out your agreement(s)***.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	Dbl	2♥	Dbl

or

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	Dbl	1♥	Dbl

In the first auction, there would be a tendency for the Responsive Double to be for the minor suits, as West would normally bid spades with four spades.

In the second auction, suppose West had four spades and four diamonds and was more interested in finding a safe fit than necessarily a major fit. West can use a Responsive Double to find a diamond fit when his partner does not have four spades.

Responsive Double

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K 5

♥ K J 9 6 2

♦ K 10 4

♣ A 9 4

♠ Q J 8 7

♥ 7 4

♦ A Q 9 6 5

♣ 8 7

♠ A 6 4 2

♥ 8 3

♦ 7

♣ K Q 10 6 3 2

♠ 10 9 3

♥ A Q 10 5

♦ J 8 3 2

♣ J 5

N

W

S

E

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	2 ♣	2 ♥
Dbl	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West’s double is a Responsive Double showing at least four cards in the two unbid suits (spades and diamonds) and a least 6 points.

Since North passed, East must bid and with a spade fit, bids 2♠.

## Responsive Double

### Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul

		♠ 10 8 3	
		♥ 8 2	
		♦ K Q 10 4	
		♣ A J 10 4	
♠ Q 9 6 4			♠ A K J 5 2
♥ J 6			♥ Q 5
♦ 7 6 2			♦ 9 5 3
♣ K 9 8 5			♣ Q 6 3
		♠ 7	
		♥ A K 10 9 7 4 3	
		♦ A J 8	
		♣ 7 2	

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	Dbl	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North's double is a Responsive double showing at least four cards in both minor suits and at least 6 points.

South has no fit in either minor, but does have a long heart suit so re-bids hearts. He chooses to bid game in hearts since he knows that North has some value and that the points North has will most likely be in clubs and diamonds.



## **Snapdragon Doubles**

## Snapdragon Doubles

***A Snapdragon Double is a type of takeout double made by Advancer.*** It occurs when three suits have been bid and he (advancer) is the fourth person to make a bid. It shows the unbid suit (usually 5+ cards), 6-9 points and typically, a tolerance (two cards) in partner's overcalled suit if it was a major suit and a fit if partner overcalled a minor.

The difference in the two treatments is the level at which you expect to compete and the fact that if partner had overcalled a major and you had a fit, you would have simply raised partner's major suit.

An example would be:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	2♣	2♦	Dbl

Double would promise 6+ points, 4+ spades and at least a tolerance (A, K or Q and a small card or 3+ cards) for clubs.

and;

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♦	1♠	2♣	Dbl

Double would promise 6+ points, 5+ hearts and deny a fit for spades. West is expected to have a tolerance (two spades) for spades. Remember that if West had 3+ spades and knew they already had a major fit, he would simply raise partner's major.

***Note: In both examples, if West bid his suit directly he would show a five-card or longer suit and 10+ points.***

# Snapdragon

## Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 6  
♥ 9 8 6 3  
♦ K 5  
♣ A K 10 5 4

♠ 7 4  
♥ Q 7 5  
♦ A Q 9 8 7 6 2  
♣ Q

♠ A 10 8 3  
♥ K J 10 4 2  
♦ 10  
♣ 8 7 6

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

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♦	Dbl	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

East’s double is Snapdragon showing the unbid (fourth) suit - hearts - and at least 6 points.

With a fit in hearts West bids 2♥.

Snapdragon

**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

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

♠ Q 10 6  
♥ K J 8 6 3  
♦ K 5 4  
♣ A 3

♠ 9 7 5  
♥ Q 2  
♦ A Q 10 7 2  
♣ 10 8 5

♠ A K 8 3 2  
♥ 7 5  
♦ 9 8 3  
♣ 9 6 4

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠	Dbf
Pass	1 N	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South’s double is Snapdragon, showing the unbid (fourth) suit and at least 6 point.

Though North has a fit with diamonds, he also has a stopper in all the other suits so chooses to bid NT and try for a bigger score than bidding 2♦ .



## **Practice Hands**

## Board 1

West Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ 6		
	♥ J 9		
	♦ A 10 9 3		
	♣ A K 9 8 3 2		
♠ A J 10 4 3			♠ K 9 5 2
♥ K 8 6			♥ Q 10 7 4
♦ K 2			♦ J 8
♣ J 5 4			♣ 10 7 6
	♠ Q 8 7		
	♥ A 5 3 2		
	♦ Q 7 6 5 4		
	♣ Q		

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♠	Dbl
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

### ***South's double is a Responsive Double.***

South's double promises at least four diamonds and at least four hearts and the values to bid (8+ or the equivalent in shape since South is forcing partner to the three level).

North must bid since West passed and chooses his longest suit of the two partner showed.

North can choose, with some hands, to re-bid his original suit which would still only promise only five cards.

## Board 2

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q J 9 7  
♥ 10 4  
♦ K 10 2  
♣ 9 8 5 2

♠ A 4  
♥ K J 7  
♦ 4 3  
♣ A K J 10 7 3



♠ K 5 3  
♥ 8 5 3  
♦ A Q J 8 7 6  
♣ 4

♠ 10 8 6 2  
♥ A Q 9 6 2  
♦ 9 5  
♣ Q 6

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♥
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

**West's double is a Snapdragon Double showing four spades and the values to respond.**

**North's Redouble is a Support Redouble showing three hearts.**

South's 2♥ bid neither confirms nor denies the number of hearts he holds. It simply shows a minimum hand.

North's 3♣ bid shows long (6+) clubs and a medium hand (15-17) in strength.

South's 4♥ bid confirms five or more hearts and shows the values for game.

**Board 3**

North Deals

Both Vul

♠ 8

♥ A 8 7 3

♦ Q J 5 2

♣ Q 10 4 2

♠ K 4 3

♥ K Q 10 9 2

♦ 7 6

♣ A 7 3

♠ J 9 6 2

♥ J 4

♦ A K 10 4

♣ K J 5

♠ A Q 10 7 5

♥ 6 5

♦ 9 8 3

♣ 9 8 6

N

W

E

S

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Dbl	1 ♠
Dbl	1 N	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

**East’s double is a Takeout Double.**

East’s double shows shortness in hearts, 11+ points and at least three cards in each of the remaining three suits.

**West’s double is a Responsive Double.**

West’s double shows both minor suits at least 4/4 and at least 6 points. East picks diamonds.

**Board 4**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 9 4

♥ K J 5

♦ A 10 6 4

♣ J 6 2

♠ A K 8 7 6 5

♥ 9 7 4

♦ 5 3

♣ K 4

♠ 2

♥ 6 2

♦ Q J 9 8 7

♣ A Q 9 8 7

♠ Q J 3

♥ A Q 10 8 3

♦ K 2

♣ 10 5 3

N

W

S

E

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	Dbf	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

**East’s double is a Responsive Double.**

East shows 4+ cards in each of the minor suits.

West shows long spades and no fit for either minor.

**Board 5**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 5

♥ J 10 6 3 2

♦ A 8 5

♣ K 7

♠ K Q J 3 2

♥ A Q

♦ 7 3

♣ 10 9 8 3

♠ 9 7 6

♥ K 9 8 7

♦ 6

♣ A Q J 6 2

♠ A 4

♥ 5 4

♦ K Q J 10 9 4 2

♣ 5 4

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♦
Dbl	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

**West’s double is Snapdragon.**

West’s double shows 6+ points and 5+ hearts. With a fit in hearts but minimum values, East simply bids 2♥.

**Board 6**  
East Deals  
Both Vul

♠ 8 5  
♥ J 10 6  
♦ Q J 10 4 2  
♣ K 10 7

♠ Q 10 9 4 3  
♥ 7 3  
♦ 7 5  
♣ A 8 5 4

♠ 7 2  
♥ K 8 5  
♦ A K 8 6  
♣ Q 9 6 3

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

N

W

E

S

West	North	East	South
2 ♦	Dbl	1 ♦	1 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 ♠

**North’s double is a Responsive Double.**

North’s double shows at least four cards in spades and clubs and at least 6 points.

South picks spades.

# **The ‘*Winning Bridge Conventions*’ Series**

Competitive Doubles	(Print / eBook)
Takeout Doubles	(eBooklet)
Negative Doubles	(eBooklet)
Responsive Doubles and Snapdragon Doubles	(eBooklet)
Balancing Doubles and Re-opening Doubles	(eBooklet)
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# Responsive Doubles and Snapdragon Doubles

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers Responsive Doubles and Snapdragon Doubles.



**PATTY TUCKER** (Dunwoody, Georgia) is an ABTA Master Bridge Teacher and cofounder of Whirlwind Bridge and Atlanta Junior Bridge. Her success at the bridge table culminated in her victory in the 2000 Baldwin Flight A North American Open Pairs with long-time bridge partner Kevin Collins. Patty and Kevin were married in 2006.