

OPENER	OPPONENT	RESPONDER
1 of a suit	Double	??

When your partner opens the bidding and the opponents make a takeout double, there are many options for responder.

For one, he can pass. This doesn't say he has (or don't have) support. It just shows a weak hand, usually about 0-6 (but it could be more).

Another choice is to redouble. The common meaning of a redouble is 10+ HCP. After this redouble, all further doubles would be for penalty. Some partnerships play the redouble denies support for partner, but I don't feel strongly in this matter.

### ***SUIT RESPONSES***

What about actions other than a pass or redouble? Let's start with a minor-suit opening such as:

WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Double	??

or

WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Double	??

What if East bids a suit? Usually, he will have less than 10 HCP (because he could redouble with 10 or more HCP)--but he actually could have more than 10 (sorry if that is confusing). For example, with  $\spadesuit A K 8 6 5 \quad \heartsuit 3 \quad \diamondsuit Q J 8 6 \quad \clubsuit 6 5 4$ , I would bid 1 over the double. I'd rather start to describe my suits than to redouble and risk the auction getting too high. After I bid 1 to show my spades, I'll do something later to show my strength. If instead I held, say,  $\spadesuit A Q 7 6 \quad \heartsuit K Q \quad \diamondsuit J T 9 8 \quad \clubsuit 10 4 3$ , I could redouble and hope to penalize the opponents.

So, when East responds with a suit bid instead of redoubling are his bids forcing? Most players treat 1-level suit bids as forcing. I want to be able to bid 1 on the hand above ( $\spadesuit A K 8 6 5 \quad \heartsuit 3 \quad \diamondsuit A J 8 6 \quad \clubsuit 6 5 4$ ) and not worry that partner will pass! A 1NT response after a double shows 6-9, balanced. What about bids on the 2-level after a double? Let's look at these two auctions:

WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Double	2♣

or

WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Double	2♥



Most agree that 2-level bids after a double are natural and NOT forcing. Since you can redouble with 10 HCP, a 2-level response is assumed to be less than 10 HCP. For example, on the first auction, East could have  $\spadesuit 4 2 \quad \heartsuit 4 2 \quad \diamondsuit 7 6 5 \quad \clubsuit A Q J 9 8 7$  and on the second:  $\spadesuit 7 \quad \heartsuit K Q T 9 7 6 \quad \diamondsuit J 5 4 \quad \clubsuit 9 8 6$








**JUMPS** It has become "standard" to use a jump-raise after a double as weak. So, in this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 of a suit	Double	3 of the suit

The raise is weak (less than 7 points in support). After a major, it shows 4-card support. After a minor, 5-card support. With an actual limit raise (or better), East can bid a conventional (Jordan) 2NT. More on this below.

Be sure to discuss what a jump in a new suit shows. For example:

WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 	Double	2 

The most common treatment would be weak, something like:    7 6 5    3 2  9 2.

### SUMMARY OF MOST COMMON AGREEMENTS AFTER TAKEOUT DOUBLE:

PASS= WEAK (Usually)

REDOUBLE = 10+ HCP

ONE-LEVEL SUIT BIDS = Natural, Forcing one round (Usually less than 10, but could have more)

TWO-LEVEL SUIT BIDS (not jumps) = Natural, Not Forcing (Less than 10)

## ADVANCED

Surely, there are other ways to play. Many tournament players use transfers after the double ([see my humbling story on this](#)).

Also, most experienced players use 2NT as conventional. The most common meaning is "JORDAN" -- it shows a limit raise or better (this is typically used only after a major-suit opening). So, 1♥ (Double) 2NT would be bid with: ♠K Q ♥K Q 3♦ T 9 8 7 6♣ J 4  
2. When using this method, a redouble of 1♥ or 1♣ surely denies 3-card support (else you'd respond 2NT). There are many other expert treatments available after a takeout double.