

## RESPONDING IF YOUR 1NT IS DOUBLED

You have decided to play a 12-14 1NT and Stayman. Perhaps you are going to experiment with transfers. There are certain advantages to playing transfers but this article is not about that.

What happens is this:

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S		

  

♠	A 7 6 2
♥	Q 5
♦	K J 10 6
♣	K 9 8

South	West	North	East
1NT	Dbl	2♣	?

Oops! You forgot to discuss what 2♣ means is someone doubles you in 1NT. Is your partner's 2♣ natural? If it is, of course you will pass. Or is it still Stayman? If, so you must bid 2♠.

It could be worse if you play transfers and you haven't discussed what happens after they double 1NT

South	West	North	East
1NT	Dbl	2♦	?

Oh dear! If partner's 2♦ is natural, they have found a weak spot to play in. You would be delighted to pass. If its a transfer you must bid 2♥, despite only holding ♥Q-5.

And a final point. Even if you have been wise enough to discuss the meaning of your partner's bids after a double, have you also discussed what a redouble means? Is it:

- natural (I think you can make seven tricks, partner);
- a replacement for Stayman (because 2 is natural after a double), or
- please bid 2, (because 2 is still Stayman after a double).

All these methods are perfectly sensible, as long as both partner's are on the same wavelength!

TIP: make sure you know what responses you play after an opponent doubles your 1NT.