

## RESPONSIVE DOUBLE

(Usually on thru 2S)

The Responsive Double is a double made in response to partner's ORDINARY overcall (either a takeout double or a suit bid) when your left-hand opponent has opened the bidding and HIS PARTNER HAS RAISED opener's suit. Most people play it on thru 2S--you and your partner need to decide where the cutoff is.

1C - 1D - 2C - Dbl is a Responsive Double.

Responsive doubles DO NOT APPLY if:

1. Partner's bid is a preemptive (jump) overcall;

1C - 2S - 3C - Dbl is for PENALTY.

2. Partner's overcall is 1NT;

1C - 1NT - 2C - Dbl is for PENALTY.

3. Opener's suit is not raised by his partner;

1C - 1H - 1S - Dbl is for PENALTY.

4. Opener's bid is preemptive.

2S - Dbl - 3S - Dbl is for PENALTY.

Now, what does a Responsive Double mean? Basically, it shows the unbid suits and minimal tolerance for partner's suit (2 cards). But, it's more complicated than that. Let's look at some auctions:

Pard	You	Your Hand
5. 1C - Dbl - 2C - Dbl	This Responsive Double shows NO PREFERENCE in in the major suits and SOME values. It says, "Pard, you choose the major."	S K843 H J95 D Q74 C 84

Pard	You	Your Hand
6. 1H - Dbl - 2H - Dbl	This Responsive Double shows both MINORS and says "Pard, your choose the minor." If you had the other major, you would have just bid it.	S 5 H A62 D QJ7 C 10983

Pard	You	Your Hand
7. 1D - Dbl - 2D - 2H	With a preference in the suits shown by pard, just bid it.	S AJ4 H Q985 D 875 C J92

When pard overcalls in a suit, he is not promising the equivalent of an opening hand like he is when he makes a takeout double. So, your hand needs to be slightly stronger to make a responsive double when partner has made a simple overcall in a suit.

<u>Pard</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>Your Hand</u>
8. 1C - 1S - 2C - Dbl	Your double shows hearts and diamonds and DENIES normal spade support. Note minimal spade support.	S 102 H KQ107 D QJ983 C 76
9. 1D - 2C - 2D - Dbl	You may conceal support for pard's minor suit when a major suit might be found.	S KJ108 H J9765 D 8 C K9
10. 1S - 2C - 2S - Dbl	Such high-level responsive doubles often describe hands with lots of shape. Please note minimal TOLERANCE for pard's suit.	S 6 H QJ983 D AK962 C 102

### RESPONDING TO THE RESPONSIVE DOUBLE

If partner makes a responsive double in response to your overcall, a minimum bid by you shows minimum values for your overcall bid. A jump bid shows extra values. Neither is forcing. The only forcing bid here is a cue bid (very rare).

<u>Pard</u>	<u>You</u>	
11. 1S - Dbl	Your double is minimum, so	S 97 H AK98
2S - Dbl- P - 3D	make your next bid at the lowest possible level.	D A982 C Q107
12. 1C - Dbl	Jump the bidding to show slightly	S AJ7
2C - Dbl- P - 3H	slightly extra values but is not forcing. Pard should pass with a minimum.	H KJ108 D AQ98 C 32

13.	1D - 1S 2D - Dbl - P - 2H	Usually, choosing an unbid suit is preferable to rebidding a 5-card, even with only 3 cards.	S AQ975 H KJ6 D 1043 C 98
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**SUPPORT DOUBLE**  
(on only thru 2H)

	Pard	You	
14.		1D	S AQ7 H K103 D A9542 C 54
	P - 1H - 2C - Dbl Your double shows exactly 3 hearts. If you bid 2 hearts, you show 4 hearts. Use this bid to show a 3-card support when pard's bid only promises a 4-card suit.		