

Support Doubles

An excellent way to find your 5-3 fits in a competitive auction. These were also invented by Eric Rodwell.

What does a Support Double show?

3-card support for responder's major.

When can you make a Support Double?

- A. You open the bidding;
- B. Partner responds 1♥ or 1♠;
- C. Your RHO overcalls at the one or two level (except a jump-overcall of 2♠).

Does it matter whether your LHO passes, doubles, or overcalls 1♦ or 1♥?

NO

Does a Support Double say anything about opener's strength or distribution?

NO

After: 1♦ – (Pass) – 1♠ – (2♣)

Make a Support Double with each of these hands:

♠ 4 3 2 ♥ A Q 6 5 ♦ A Q 6 5 ♣ 7 6

♠ A K Q ♥ 9 ♦ A 9 7 6 5 3 ♣ 8 5 3

♠ J 8 5 ♥ K 7 ♦ A K Q J 10 8 3 ♣ 6

♠ A Q 7 ♥ K 5 3 ♦ A 6 5 3 ♣ A Q 6

♠ K Q 9 ♥ A K J 5 ♦ A Q 7 5 3 ♣ 5

Are Support Doubles used if RHO overcalls 1NT or cue-bids the suit you opened?

YES

What changes if RHO doubles instead of overcalls? Redouble shows 3-card Support. If you play Support Doubles, you should also play Support Redoubles.

What does responder do after a Support Double if he has a 4-card major?

He does the best he can. On some auctions, he can retreat. On others, he'll play in his 4-3 fit.

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Here are some examples of auctions that feature a Support Double or Redouble.

1. West	West	East	East
♠ A 10 2	1♣	1♥	1♠
♥ 7 2	Dbl	P	2♥
♦ A 10	4♠	All Pass	P
♣ K Q 7 5 4 3			♠ K Q J 4 3
			♥ 9 5 3
			♦ 8 5 3
			♣ A 6

2. West	West	East	East
♠ 10 8 5	1♦	P	1♠
♥ A J 2	Dbl	P	2♥
♦ A K J 9	2NT	All Pass	P
♣ A J 4			♠ A 7 4 2
			♥ 10 6
			♦ Q 6 2
			♣ 8 7 6 2

3. West	West	East	East
♠ K 9 5	1♥	P	1♠
♥ A K Q 9 8	Dbl	P	1NT
♦ 8 7 6 2	2♥	All Pass	P
♣ 7			♠ 10 8 7 3
			♥ 5 3
			♦ 9 3
			♣ A Q J 9 8

4. West	West	East	East
♠ A 7 6 4	1♣	P	1♥
♥ A Q 2	Dbl	P	2♦
♦ 6	2♠	All Pass	P
♣ A K 9 8 4			♠ 10 8 5 3
			♥ 10 7 5 3
			♦ K Q 7
			♣ J 3

5. West	West	East	East
♠ A 7 6 4	1♣	P	1♥
♥ A Q 2	Dbl	P	2♦
♦ 6	2♠	P	2♥
♣ A K 9 8 4	4♥	All Pass	P
			♠ K 5 3
			♥ K 9 7 6 3
			♦ 10 9 7
			♣ 6 3

6. West	West	East	East
♠ Q 4 2	1♦	P	1♠
♥ A K 10 2	Rdbl	P	Dbl
♦ A Q 8 5 3	4♠	All Pass	P
♣ 9			♠ K J 9 8 6
			♥ 9 6
			♦ K 10 7
			♣ 7 6 3