

THE RESPONSIVE DOUBLE vs. THE ROSENKRANZ DOUBLE

All “*doubles*”, and there are many, are intended to present a specific message to Partner. Each “*double*” is distinguishable from any other “*double*” by the bidding environment in which it is used. “*Responsive*” and “*Rosenkranz*” Doubles occur in very similar, yet unique bidding circumstance, and the message that each is intended to give Partner is distinctly different.

Some “*doubles*” are alertable, and some are not. “**Responsive**” and “**Rosenkranz**” Doubles are both alertable.

A. A “Responsive Double” is a Take-Out by a Responder to an Overcaller following an immediate raise to the 2- or 3-level over Partner’s Take-Out Double (Examples 1 & 2), or Partner’s Overcall (Example 3), or over a supported weak 2-bid following Partner’s Take-Out Double (Example 4). The use of this form of “double” communicates descriptive information about Responder’s hand and says: “Partner, I have scattered strength, I have no specific long suit of my own, nor support for your overcalled suit, but I wish us to compete further. You bid your best suit and I will, most likely, have support for it!”

<u>Example 1:</u>	<u>West</u> 1D	<u>North</u> Db1.	<u>East</u> 2D	<u>South</u> ???
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<u>South Holds:</u>	JXXX QXXX X QXXX	(It would be foolish for South to “ <i>pass</i> ” with this holding, yet he/she is not nearly strong enough to make a “3D” Cue-Bid. Not wanting to guess which Major suit to bid, South makes a “ Responsive Double. ” Since it is
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highly unlikely for South to desire to make a **Penalty Double**, even if East had raised directly to **3D**, South is merely showing values; i.e., a desire to compete further with no specific choice as to which of the remaining un-bid suits to choose.)

<u>Example 2:</u>	<u>West</u> 1S	<u>North</u> Db1.	<u>East</u> 2S	<u>South</u> ???
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<u>South Holds:</u>	XXX AJX QXXX JXX	(This would be ideal for a “ Responsive Double, ” and, indeed, would be the case even if the opposition had bid Clubs, Diamond, or even Hearts.)
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<u>Example 3:</u>	<u>West</u> 1H	<u>North</u> 2C	<u>East</u> 2H	<u>South</u> ???
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<u>South Holds:</u>	KXXX XXX AXXX XX	(Here North has shown a simple Overcall at the 2-Level (10-15 HCP’s) and a 5-card or longer Club suit. South, wishing to compete further, but not having support for
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Partner, and with no clear choice of his/her own, makes a “**Responsive Double**” showing values and length in the two un-bid suits. North is now free to make a choice as to whether to re-bid his/her Clubs if 6 cards or longer, else bid one of the remaining suits as an alternative knowing South has values and length in the remaining two un-bid suits.)

Example 4: West North East South
 2H **Db1.** **3H** **???**

South Holds: KXXX (Partnerships must agree to at which levels
 X a "**double**" over both Minor and Major suit
 AXXX supported Pre-empts warrant the use of
 QXXX "**Responsive Doubles.**")

Strength Required For a Responsive Double: The minimum strength required for a "**Responsive Double**" varies slightly with the preceding level of the auction, and will vary with the level at which the prospective user is forcing Partner to bid. Even with a balanced hand, a "**double**" at the 2-level requires about 6 HCP's, and that at the 3-level about 9 HCP's. As one's hand becomes more distributional, even fewer HCP's are necessary.

Maximum Bidding Level For Use of a Responsive Double: Each Partnership must agree as to exactly how high this type of Double should apply. "**Responsive**" through **4D** is a common agreement, but it is up to each Partnership as to what level, beyond which, such a bid necessarily becomes a **Penalty Double**, as an alternative meaning (Example 5).

Example 5: West North East South
 1D **Db1.** **4D** **Double (Penalty)**

Note: *Some Partnerships play Responsive Doubles through 2S, and others through 3S.*

Condition Eliciting Prohibition of the Use of a "Responsive Double:" One must not make "**Responsive Doubles**" in response to a Take-out Double with hands that are suited to bid No- Trump (Examples 6 & 7).

Example 6: West North East South
 1H **Db1.** **2H** **???**

South Holds: AX (South, here, should respond, **2-NT!**)
 KJXX
 QXXX
 XXX

Example 7: West North East South
 1H **Db1.** **2H** **???**

South Holds: XX (A "**Responsive Double**" is never made with
 AQ excessive strength in the Opponent's suit.
 KQXXX Here, South should respond **3-NT.**)
 JXXX

B. A "**Rosenkranz Double**" or **Re-double**, used by a Responder to an Overcall, shows 3-card or better support for Partner's overcall suit and the presence of either the Ace or the King of that suit. It is employed only after the Responder to the Opponent's opening bid has followed either with a forcing response of a new, 2nd, suit (Example 1), else, with a "**Negative Double**" (Example 2). If instead, Overcaller's Partner (the "Advancer") makes a raise to the 2-level in Overcaller's suit, as in Example 3, the Advancer promises support, but denies possession of either top honor in that suit.

<u>Example 1:</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	1C	1H	1S	Dbl.
<u>South Holds:</u>	XX KJX XXXX AXXX	(A " Rosenkranz Double " showing at least a 3-card or longer support for Partner's overcall, Heart, suit, six or more HCP's accompanied by the HA or the HK.)		

<u>Example 2:</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	1C	1H	Dbl. (Neg.)	Re-Dbl.
<u>South Holds:</u>	XX KJX XXXX AXXX	(A " Rosenkranz Re-Double " showing at least a 3-card or longer support for Partner's overcall, Heart, suit, six or more HCP's accompanied by the HA or HK.)		

<u>Example 3:</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	1C	1H	1S	2H
<u>South Holds:</u>	XX KJX XXXX AXXX	(Showing 3 or more Hearts, at least 6 or more HCP's, but an absence of either the Ace or the King of Hearts as a result of the lack of use of a " Rosenkranz Double .")		

Similarities Between Responsive and Rosenkranz Doubles:

1. They are both used by a Responder ("Advancer") to Partner's Overcall
2. They both show at least 6 or more HCP's and an interest in competing in the auction
3. They are both forcing and not meant for Penalty
4. They are both alertable.

Differences Between Responsive and Rosenkranz Doubles:

1. "**Responsive Doubles**" occur only when a single suit has been bid and raised by the two Opponents, whereas, in the case of the use of a "**Rosenkranz Double**," the Opponents have either bid two different suits or have used the "**Negative Double**" implying at least one additional suit held by Opener's responding Partner.
2. "**Responsive Doubles**" occur only in the form of an announced "**Double**," whereas, "**Rosenkranz**" Doubles" can occur both as an announced "**Double**" or "**Re-Double**."
3. "**Responsive**" Doubles" evidence the presence of the two, as-yet, un-bid suits, whereas, a "**Rosenkranz Double**" or "**Re-Double**" shows support for Partner's Overcall suit and the holding of either the Ace or of the King of that suit which Partner has overcalled.