

After an Opponents Take-out Double

In standard bidding (SAYC) when partner opens the bidding with 1 of a suit (major or minor), and responder's RHO makes a take-out double, we play a schedule of bids known as "Truscott-Jordan" after the two experts who first proposed this bidding method.

Originally offered as a special convention, Truscott-Jordan has been incorporated into SAYC as part of the system, and anyone who plays "Full SAYC" would be expected to know and use this schedule.

The bidding situation of an opening bid followed by a t.o. double is a very common one, So, it is useful to have common partnership agreements such as this schedule prescribes. Under the bidding menu of this site, a complete table of responder's bids, both to major or minor openings are shown. This abstract table is not easy to grasp holistically and trying to memorise it piece by piece is challenging. Therefore, these notes are intended to supplement the table in order to make Jordan-Truscott easier to understand and use.

This supplement is organized into three sections describing:

- (1) The bids responder makes that stay the same as they would be had there been no take out double;
- (2) Support bids that change slightly in their range;
- (3) Two new bids that do not exist in the absence of a take out double and one bid that changes quite a bit when a t.o. double is made.

WHAT ARE THE BIDS THAT STAY THE SAME?

- Bidding a 4+ major is still 6+ points and 4+ cards and is our first priority.
- 1NT is still 6-9, no support for partner's opening bid and no 4+-card major
- If partner has opened 1 of a minor, then 2NT is still a balanced 11 points with stoppers in the other suits
- Weak jump shifts are still a 6 card suit and a weak hand

WHAT ARE THE SUPPORT BIDS THAT CHANGE SLIGHTLY

- A single raise to the 2 level of partner's open (this is more or less the same, except that instead of 6-9 it is now can be as low as 4 points)
- A jump raise to the 3 level is now pre-emptive, with 4 card support for a major or 5 card support for a minor and about 4-9 points. It is **NOT** a limit raise because we have a new way to show a limit raise.

WHAT ARE THE NEW BIDS? (only two)

- **2NT** made to a **major opening** is the limit raise, with 4-card support and 10-11 playing points (ppts)
- **Redouble** shows 10 hcp+ and might have three card support for a major, with responder planning to support opener's major next round. Redouble to a minor opening shows 10+ hcp but lacks stoppers to bid 2NT. It may have support for the minor.

The redouble to both a major and a minor is a way of letting partner know that our side has the balance of power and might do well by later making a penalty double of the opponents when they try to escape. Note that the major limit raise of 2NT to a major open takes priority over the redouble. Why? Because with a 9 card fit we probably want to be in our game contract unless partner opened very light.

Now, there is one final bid that has to be discussed. When partner opens 1 of a suit, either major or minor, and there is a take out double, what does a 2 over 1 bid by responder mean? Without the take out double, it shows 11 playing points. But if we have 11 ppts and lack support for partner's major or don't have our own 4-card+ major, we will redouble. Therefore, a 2 over 1 response after a take out double is a WEAK bid, showing 5+ cards and a couple of high honours and is made for lead direction only.

So in reality there are only 3 new things to remember: the **2NT limit raise** for a major open holding 4-card support, **the redouble with 10+**, and that a 2 over 1 bid is no longer showing 10 playing points, it is a weak bid made for lead direction purposes. If we have 10 hcp we will redouble to show our strength rather than making a 2 over 1 bid.

All we have to remember about raises are that the low end of the range is lowered from 6 to 4 points. The high end of the range of a raise, single or double, stays the same, 9 ppts.