

REDOUBLES & JORDAN 2NT CONVENTION **by BARBARA SEAGRAM**

There are several uses for the word "Redouble". For now, we are only going to give you the simple version of the commonest use of the Redouble.

When your partner opens the bidding, showing at least 13 points, if the guy on your right says "Double", then he also has at least 13 points. That already is a chunk of the deck's high card points accounted for. If you in that next seat (the partner of the opening bidder) have 10 or more H.C.P. it is now very important to tell partner that you have those missing points. That way she will know that the guy on your left is marked with 0-5 points only.

N E S W
1H Dbl Redbl

By saying "Redouble", you are really saying to partner (opening bidder) : "Partner, you opened the bidding and our opponent made a take-out double, but don't worry about them, this hand belongs to us and most of the points on this hand are held by our side."

Note that you may have trump support or may not have trump support; the Redouble merely says "I have 10 or more H.C.P."

Here's how it all proceeds after this:

The one on your left (L.H.O. left hand opponent or West as above) is now marked with very little. He knows that his side is in trouble. He will bid if he has a 4 card suit that is not the opponents' suit. This will tell his partner that he has a four card suit which may provide a safe haven if their side has to play the hand because at least they will have lots of trumps, if not many points. Remember that the Doubler has promised support for ALL unbid suits by making the Double, so if the weak 0-5 point hand (West) names a 4 card suit, at least together they will have 7 or 8 trumps for their side.

OK, now it rolls back to the opening bidder...Let's say that West has passed. The auction has so far gone:

N E S W
1H Dbl Redbl Pass

??

If opening bidder passes, he may end up playing the hand in 1H doubled and redoubled.

That would be his dearest wish come true as their side has lots of points and he will make the contract most of the time. Having been doubled and redoubled, he will get lots of extra scoring points. (You get extra points "for the insult" when doubled and lots more for being redoubled.)

As a result of all of this, opening bidder says "Pass". The doubler cannot allow North to play this hand in 1H doubled and redoubled as he knows that North will make the contract

and get a great score. Therefore the Doubler **MUST** bid again. What does he bid? He picks his best suit, the one he is least likely to get into trouble with.

e.g.

N	E	S	W
1H	DbI	Red	P
P	1S		

East may have the following hand and out of desperation, he now bids 1S.

S AKxx
H xx
D Axxx
C Qxx

The Redoubler **MUST** now bid again.

If the Redoubler has something like

S xx
H Axx
D KQJx
C xxxx

Redoubler would now bid 2H. North will know that South has 10 or more H.C.P. as he redoubled to start with (showing 10 or more HCP)

In other words, Redoubler now just makes a natural bid to describe his hand...a new suit by Redoubler will be 100% forcing.

If the Redoubler has the following hand, however, he has other things on his mind:

S QJ1098
H Axx
D xx
C AKJ

N	E	S	W
1H	DbI	Redbl	P
P	1S	DBL	

South should double with that hand and this will be a penalty double.

OK, so what happens if your partner opens the bidding, RHO doubles and you cannot redouble because you do NOT have 10 or more HCP....now what?

You just bid naturally.

e.g. Bid a new suit ? At the one level, this is forcing.
At the 2 level, it is not forcing.

Or you can raise partner.

BUT remember that any bid you make now that is NOT "Redouble" tells partner that you do NOT own 10 or more H.C.P. Any bid other than Redouble is a WEAK bid as the ONLY STRONG BID you can make is a Redouble.

Most people play that if you bid a new suit at the one level in this situation, it is forcing for one round.

My bridge teacher used to teach: "If you cannot redouble, then bid as high as your conscience will allow!"

e.g. 1 H Dbl 3 H (is weak, because you do not have 10 HCP) You can definitely be frisky in this scenario!

Okay, so now we are going to get a little fancy...There is a special convention invented for use when partner has opened with one of a major and there has been a takeout double in your right ear (by RHO)

JORDAN TWO NO TRUMP

The Jordan convention is used with major suit raises. It is a bid made by Responder to Opening Bid after there has been a Takeout double by his RHO.

Here is an example:

S W N E

1 S Dbl 2 NT

The 2 No Trump bid by North is completely artificial. i.e. It does not mean No Trump at all. This bid is made once an opponent makes a Takeout Double after partner opens a Major suit. The 2 No Trump response shows a minimum of 3-card Spade support and 10 or more HCP.

But in the following bidding situation:

S W N E

1 S Dbl Redbl

North therefore does not have 3 card support for Spades or he would have bid 2NT. BUT he does have 10 or more HCP. Therefore the Redouble tends to suggest "no fit" for partner's suit. The redouble is therefore forcing and partner is required to bid again.

S W N E

1 S Dbl 3S

In above example, 3S is weak and shows 2-6 points including distribution and at least four Spades.

North would have something like:

S KJ76
H 86
D J8732
C 54

The use of the Preemptive Raise when you are playing the Jordan Two No Trump convention makes it more difficult for the opponents to compete, and that is a good thing for your side. North and South, per their partnership agreement, will not bid too high, but it makes it very difficult for the opponents to enter the auction.

To summarize:

S W N E

1 S Dbl 2S

Shows 6-9 points including distribution and at least 3 card support for partner's major.

e.g.

S Q76
H 76
D J9432
C K65

S W N E

1 S Dbl Redbl

Redouble shows 10 or more HCP and 2 cards or fewer in Spades.

e.g.

S K6
H K87
D J6432
C A76

S W N E

1 S Dbl 2 NT *

*2NT shows 10 or more HCP and at least 3 card support for Spades. Some believe it shows 4 card support. We like it to show 3 or better. This is a partnership agreement that you

should discuss with partner. Please remember that Jacoby 2NT, the special convention that shows a major suit raise is CANCELLED after any interference, including the double.

Jordan (the 2NT bid) is alertable. So is the Redouble because you and partner will have agreed that it shows no support for your suit.

S W N E

1 S Dbl 3S

3S is weak and preemptive. 2-6 points (including distribution) and at least four card support for Spades.

Try it! You'll get it wrong the first few times! If you are perfect every time at bridge, you aren't playing often enough. It is a game of mistakes for players at ALL levels, even experts. The more mistakes you make, the faster you will learn so play often...and yes, be prepared to be humbled often! But NEVER say die and keep coming back for more!

THE LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS or HOW to KNOW HOW HIGH TO GO!!

You have all heard of the Law of Total Tricks. This was developed some time ago by French bridge theoretician Jean-René Vernes in 1969. It spread like wildfire when American expert Larry Cohen popularized it with his two books "To Bid or Not to Bid" and "Following the Law".



The Law of Total Tricks is merely a bidding guideline: How to Know How High to Go!

Very simply put, when competing in the bidding (both sides are in the act)

With 8 trumps between you and partner, bid to the 2 level.

With 9 trumps, bid to the 3 level.

With 10 trumps, bid to the 4 level.

So, if the responder to the opening bid of 1S has

S Q63

H 75

D 543

C 76543

He will still pass. He will not bid 2S as that shows 6-9 points. That has not changed. Your first bid (when partner opens with 1 of a suit) shows your points. Your second bid will show whether you have extra length in that suit.

BUT if the bidding were to proceed:

1S - P - P - 2H back to him, he should now bid 2S, since between the partnership, they have 8

trumps. There is no guarantee that your side will MAKE 2S but if you did not bid this, then the likelihood of the opponents making 2H is high. Thus, if you are minus 50, it is better than being minus 110.

If you had

S K754
H 87
D Q9832
C 65

If opener bids 1S, you will still bid only 2S (since bidding 3S would show 10-12 points, unless partnership is playing Bergen Raises). BUT if the opponents now compete in Hearts or Clubs, then Responder should now compete to 3S, knowing that their side has 9 trumps.

With 5 trumps, responder would bid 1S - 4S immediately with 2-9 points. Some teachers call this the Weak Freak.

e.g.

S K9532
H 5
D QJ432
C 54

The Law of Total Tricks is also used strategically when partner preempts.

Let's say Dealer opens with 2S and his partner has:

S Q65
H 76
D A9865
C 762

The responder should raise 2S immediately by bidding 3S. This says: "Partner, you have trash, I have more trash". This is based on the Law. Opener has 6-10 HCP (give him an average of 8 HCP) and Responder has 6 HCP. 14 HCP between the two hands. The opponents have 26 HCP between them. The opponents should be bidding and making game. You want to make it difficult for them. Give Responder one more Spade (above hand) and one less Heart and Responder would bid 4S instead, compounding the preempt.

Use the Law of Total Tricks only when you do NOT have 26 points.
Do not lie about your points. Remember that 1H-P-2H still means 6-9 points.
The Law of Total Tricks applies at the 2, 3 or 4 level, not at the 5 level.

If you use the Law wisely, it will take some of the guesswork away in knowing whether to bid on or not, when the opponents are in the act.

Adjustments to the Law: If you have Queens and Jacks in opponents' suit, your hand is flawed. Downgrade your hand. Also downgrade if you have poorly situated honours in opponent's suit. e.g. you have Spades Kx and your LHO (Left Hand Opponent) has bid Spades. You know that LHO is not going to lead a Spade. He will wait till his partner is on lead to lead a Spade through your King. Your King is doomed. Downgrade your hand. You have an

unhappy King. BUT if RHO had bid Spades, you have a Happy King (or a working King) so can upgrade your hand.

TO PULL OR NOT TO PULL?

To pull or not to pull, that is the question! Trumps that is. We learned at mother's knee that we should always get the kiddies off the street. Thus as new players, we assume that on all hands we should make "drawing trumps" the first order of business.

In order to decide whether or not to embark immediately upon pulling trump, let us explore the scenarios in which doing so will cause us to not make our contract.

	97642	
	K93	
	3	
	AJ62	
AKQ3		J1085
2		A54
J10976		KQ84
1085		97
	--	
	-	QJ10876
	A52	
	KQ43	

You and partner have overbid considerably on this hand and you (south) have landed in 6 Hearts. West leads the Ace of Spades. South counts his losers to find that he has 1 trump loser and two Diamond losers. He looks to dummy and notes that there is a singleton Diamond over there. Great.

First item on the agenda: Create a Diamond void in dummy and ruff a Diamond loser in dummy, crossing back to his hand with a Club to ruff the final Diamond in dummy. Hold it...suppose he thinks to himself that he only needs to ruff two Diamonds in dummy and therefore can afford to pull one round of trump first. Alas, the opponents will win the Ace of Hearts and lead back a Heart. Now there is only one Heart left in dummy with which to ruff two Diamonds. Moral of this story: When you have a useful singleton, doubleton or void in dummy and have to ruff some losers from declarer's hand with dummy's trump, don't pull trump first unless you have gazillions of trumps hanging around in dummy.

On this next hand, you have arrived in 4 Spades. You are South and West leads the K Hearts.

J643
A52
AQ3
Q102

KQ752
643
K7
KJ6

Counting those pesky losers again, you find that you have 1 Spade loser, two Heart losers, no Diamond losers and one Club loser. One too many.

Let's analyze those Heart losers again. Are they quick losers or slow losers? Since we won the Ace Hearts at Trick # 1, the two small Hearts are now quick losers as opponents will take two tricks QUICKLY if they win the lead. Along with Ace of Trumps and Ace of Clubs, this will spell disaster. So, the moral here is: When you have quick losers and no Ace of trump, try to discard a loser before pulling trump. Look for an extra winner i.e. A good looking lopsided suit (more cards on one side of the table than the other) which will provide an opportunity for a discard.

Careful how you play that suit...Play the Diamond 3 to the King, then the Diamond 7 to the Ace and Queen of Diamonds. On the Queen of Diamonds, you must now pitch the Heart 4. Aha, now you can pull trump safely because now the opponents cannot hurt you. Less experienced players worry and think: "What if the opponents trump the third round of Diamonds?" Well in that case, you were never going to make the contract. If you had pulled trump first, you would have lost the next 4 tricks in a row.

Now for one more occasion in which you must not pull trump first:

32
Q108
432
AK542

AQ87
AKJ9754
AK

This time you made it all the way to 7 Hearts! Three potential Spade losers. Looks like a finesse situation. HMM...There are two extra winners over in dummy on which you can discard two small Spades. Then what? Finesses only work 50% of the time.

Is there an alternative to doing the finesse? Yes! Dummy has a long suit...a five card suit! Always a good thing! Dummy has no entries however other than the trump suit so we cannot pull all the trump first. Opponents lead a Diamond. Shame they didn't lead a Spade to be helpful! You win this and now you cross to dummy's Heart 8 and play the AK Clubs, discarding your two small Spades. Now ruff a Club in your hand, carefully counting opponents' cards in this suit. They follow. Back to dummy with Heart 10 to do this again, one more time with feeling. Lo and behold, you ruff the fourth club and opponents follow to four rounds of Clubs. Awesome. Now your fifth Club in dummy is finally high! Cross to dummy's Q Hearts and play the thirteenth Club, pitching your Spade Q.

So, to summarize: These are the three commonest occasions on which we, as declarers, cannot afford to pull trump first:

1. When we need to ruff losers from declarer's hand with dummy's trump.

2. When we have quick losers and no Ace of trump, we need to first look for a parking place for our quick loser (extra winners in dummy or declarer's hand on which we can make a DISCARD).

3. When dummy's trump will provide you with the only entries to dummy e.g. Long suit establishment.

These situations crop up very often. So be careful to watch for these. If you haven't got one of these dilemmas, then it is probably okay to get the kiddies off the street right off the bat.