

## Reopening Double

*A Reopening Double is a double that can be bid by anyone, but is primarily associated with the opening bidder.* A Reopening double occurs when you have either the maximum for your initial bid or a better hand than partner expects you might hold AND the opponents have competed in the auction. Double is a flexible bid that allows partner to be in on the decision making process, deciding whether to bid or double the opponents for penalty.

You may also hear people refer to a Reopening Double and a Balancing Double as the same bid. I differentiate between the two bids.

A Balancing Double is a bid designed to try to either win the contract at a low level (even if you are set be a trick or two) or to push the opponents to bidding to a higher level. Typically it's a hand that you have already limited your strength and is not interested in penalizing the opponents. It's always a pleasant surprise if you may your contract!

A Reopening Double is a double used when you believe that you and partner can make some contract, or failing that, can penalize the opponents. In general, a Reopening Double is a double made when a player:

- Has not limited his hand to a minimum range of points,
- Has no second suit to bid and no 7+ card suit (*no clear bid*) and
- Has not found a fit with partner.

You may also hear this referred to as an "Action Double". It is basically a double that asks partner to "do something intelligent".

Some examples follow.

## Hand 1 – Reopening Double by Opener

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl			

*(Remember that if South had doubled, his bid would have been a negative double. It is possible that South has a good hand with long, good spades and would like to penalize East. Not likely, but possible.)*

North should have:

- Shortness in spades (0-1-2);
  - Five hearts, at least three clubs and at least three diamonds; and
  - A solid (12+ points) opening bid.
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## Hand 2 – Reopening Double by Overcaller

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl		

East should have:

- Shortness in hearts (0-1-2);
  - Five spades, at least three clubs and at least three diamonds; and
  - 15-17 points (the best hand his partner could expect him to have given the auction).
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### Hand 3 – Reopening Double by Responder

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	Dbl	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

South should have:

- Five or less spades (if you play support Doubles);
  - 10+ points;
  - Three or four clubs; and
  - Three or more diamonds.
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### Hand 4 – Reopening Double by Responder

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	1♠	Dbl	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

South should have:

- 10+ HCP
  - Only four hearts; and
  - At least three clubs, at least four diamonds (often South's shape may be 1-4-5-3)
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In the hand below, North/South have found a heart fit. North could have competed to 3♥, bid game in hearts, bid a Help Suit Game Try or passed. North's double is penalty oriented.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠
Dbl			

This is **NOT** a Reopening double. This is a penalty double. North should have:

- Three or more spades with an honor (if only three spades usually two honors);
- Only five hearts; and
- A hand strong enough that he expects to set West in 2♠.

## Reopening Double

**Board 3**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

	♠ 5 2		
	♥ J 10 3		
	♦ Q J 8 6 5		
	♣ 6 3 2		
♠ J 10 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">             N              W     E              S           </div>	♠ Q 9 4	
♥ K Q 7		♥ 9 8 6 2	
♦ 9		♦ 4 3 2	
♣ A K 10 9 8 5		♣ Q J 4	
	♠ A K 8 7 6		
	♥ A 5 4		
	♦ A K 10 7		
	♣ 7		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South's double is a Reopening Double showing shortness in clubs, at least three cards in the two unbid suits and a solid opening hand.

After North's 2 ♦ bid, South raises to 3 ♦ to show a very good hand (17+).

***Remember that if North had bid initially over 2 ♣, he would have shown 10+ points and 5+ diamonds so it was possible that North could have had a decent hand, just not enough to bid over 2 ♣.***

## Reopening Double

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

♠ A K 4	♠ J 6 3	♠ Q 9 2
♥ A K 10 7 5	♥ 6 4	♥ 9 8 2
♦ J 6	♦ A Q 9 7 4 2	♦ K 8 5
♣ K J 9	♣ A Q	♣ 8 7 5 4

  

♠ 10 8 7 5	♠ 10 8 7 5
♥ Q J 3	♥ Q J 3
♦ 10 3	♦ 10 3
♣ 10 6 3 2	♣ 10 6 3 2



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West's double is a Reopening Double showing shortness in diamonds, at least three cards in each of the unbid suits and a solid opening bid.

After East bids 2 ♥, West passes.

***Remember that East did not bid 2 ♥ over 2 ♦. East does not have as many as six points. If East does not have six points, West does not envision that they can make game as he has a balanced hand with at least six losers: one spade, one heart, two diamonds and two (or three) clubs.***