

## The Double of 1NT and How To Get Out Of It

|  |   |             |                   |             |              |  |     |     |                   |      |    |          |  |
|--|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|--|-----|-----|-------------------|------|----|----------|--|
| <p>♠ K7<br/>♥ A96<br/>♦ K63<br/>♣ KJ832</p> <p>♠ 92            ♠ A53<br/>♥ 10872        ♥ KQJ4<br/>♦ 542            ♦ A87<br/>♣ A1097        ♣ Q54</p> <p>♠ QJ10864<br/>♥ 53<br/>♦ QJ109<br/>♣ 6</p> | <p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♥<sup>(1)</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><sup>(1)</sup> Transfer showing 5+spades</p> <p>A double of a 12-14 1NT bid generally shows a good 15+ high card points in a relatively balanced hand. South has a long suit and known spade fit (1NT promises 2+spades) and contentedly uses an exit transfer of 2♥ to show the spade suit.</p> <p>2♠ will comfortably make nine tricks and, if West doesn't lead a heart, may make ten tricks if declarer guesses to play ♣K if West doesn't rise with the ace. If West rises with the ace of clubs, the heart loser can be discarded.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b>      | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  | 1NT | Dbl | 2♥ <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass | 2♠ | All Pass |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>      |             |              |  |     |     |                   |      |    |          |  |
|  | 1NT   | Dbl         | 2♥ <sup>(1)</sup> |             |              |  |     |     |                   |      |    |          |  |
| Pass   | 2♠  | All Pass    |                   |             |              |  |     |     |                   |      |    |          |  |

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|--|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|-----|-----|----------|--|--|--|
| <p>♠ 982<br/>♥ 1096<br/>♦ 754<br/>♣ 9865</p> <p>♠ 643            ♠ Q75<br/>♥ A832        ♥ 754<br/>♦ K63            ♦ AQJ2<br/>♣ KJ3            ♣ A42</p> <p>♠ AKJ10<br/>♥ KQJ<br/>♦ 1098<br/>♣ Q107</p> | <p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Again the double of the weak no trump opening bid shows 15+ high card points (possibly fewer if the doubler has a good source of tricks). West expects 1NT doubled to make easily, so he passes (he cannot increase his side's positive score by redoubling because, using full exit transfers, that shows five or more clubs. North/South have the choice between conceding a large score to 1NT doubled or trying to escape. If they decide to escape to 2♣ or 2♠ they should lose 800 when East West double.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  | 1NT | Dbl | All Pass |  |  |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |     |     |          |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1NT         | Dbl          |             |              |  |  |     |     |          |  |  |  |
| All Pass   |  |             |              |             |              |  |  |     |     |          |  |  |  |

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| <p>♠ 9854<br/>♥ 432<br/>♦ 1032<br/>♣ 854</p> <p>♠ AQJ            ♠ K1062<br/>♥ KJ7            ♥ Q1098<br/>♦ A654            ♦ 98<br/>♣ KJ9            ♣ Q106</p> <p>♠ 73<br/>♥ A65<br/>♦ KQJ7<br/>♣ A732</p> | <p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>We are now familiar with the double of a 12-14 1NT opening bid to show 15 or more high card points (but sometimes fewer if the doubler has a good source of tricks). North knows his side is in trouble but he has nowhere to run. West is likely to lead a diamond allowing declarer to make three diamond tricks to go with ♣A and ♥A.</p>  | <b>West</b>          | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |     |     |                      | 1NT  | Dbl | All Pass |          |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>          | <b>South</b> |             |              |     |     |                      |      |     |          |          |  |
|  |   |                      | 1NT          |             |              |     |     |                      |      |     |          |          |  |
| Dbl  | All Pass  |                      |              |             |              |     |     |                      |      |     |          |          |  |
| <p>♠ 982<br/>♥ A54<br/>♦ AKQ876<br/>♣ 3</p> <p>♠ K64            ♠ QJ10<br/>♥ KJ8            ♥ Q103<br/>♦ 543            ♦ J2<br/>♣ AK84        ♣ QJ765</p> <p>♠ A753<br/>♥ 9762<br/>♦ 109<br/>♣ 1092</p>     | <p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Redbl<sup>(1)</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><sup>(1)</sup> Transfer to clubs (5+suit)</p> <p>Here North doubles with fewer than 15 points as the diamond suit will be a ready source of tricks. The danger of doubling with unbalanced hands is that the opponents may run to the suit in which the doubler is short. Lo and behold this is what happens. East knows his side has the majority of the points (just) but with all queens and jacks he knows 1NT could be hazardous. With a 5card suit he uses exit transfers to take the partnership to 2♣.</p> <p>2♦ makes for North, but East/West would have conceded 500 in 1NT doubled. Note that East West can make 3♣ but West may be put off competing to that level because of being vulnerable.</p> | <b>West</b>          | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | 1NT | Dbl | Redbl <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass | 2♣  | 2♦       | All Pass |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>          | <b>South</b> |             |              |     |     |                      |      |     |          |          |  |
| 1NT  | Dbl   | Redbl <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass         |             |              |     |     |                      |      |     |          |          |  |
| 2♣   | 2♦  | All Pass             |              |             |              |     |     |                      |      |     |          |          |  |

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| <p>♠KQ4<br/>♥J2<br/>♦A876<br/>♣K843</p> <p>♠9832      ♠AJ10<br/>♥K1098      ♥A6<br/>♦53          ♦KQJ102<br/>♣A107      ♣Q95</p> <p>♠765<br/>♥Q7543<br/>♦94<br/>♣J62</p> | <p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♦<sup>(1)</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><sup>(1)</sup> Transfer to hearts (5+suit)</p> <p>If your side doubles 1NT, all further doubles are for penalties. 2♥ doubled is likely to prove very expensive for North/South. They may scramble to four tricks but that's minus 1,100.</p>   | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b>      | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  | 1NT | Dbl | 2♦ <sup>(1)</sup> | Pass     | 2♥ | Pass | Pass | Dbl | All pass |  |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>      |             |              |  |     |     |                   |          |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |
|  | 1NT   | Dbl         | 2♦ <sup>(1)</sup> |             |              |  |     |     |                   |          |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |
| Pass   | 2♥  | Pass        | Pass              |             |              |  |     |     |                   |          |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |
| Dbl  | All pass  |             |                   |             |              |  |     |     |                   |          |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |
| <p>♠432<br/>♥8654<br/>♦943<br/>♣432</p> <p>♠J85      ♠KQ76<br/>♥J1097      ♥KQ3<br/>♦AJ72      ♦K65<br/>♣109      ♣875</p> <p>♠A109<br/>♥A2<br/>♦Q108<br/>♣AKQJ6</p>     | <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When South shows the generally strong, balanced hand, North is seriously worried. With no 5card suit, however, he has little choice but to pass. He is in luck as South takes the first seven tricks.</p> <p>If North were to remove the contract to 2♥, that would be a serious misstatement of the hand – there's insufficient heart length. 2♥ would be doubled and South might run to 3♣. That would be doubled too and minus 300 for North South would ensue.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b>      | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |     | 1NT | Dbl               | All Pass |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>      |             |              |  |     |     |                   |          |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |
|  |   | 1NT         | Dbl               |             |              |  |     |     |                   |          |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |
| All Pass   |   |             |                   |             |              |  |     |     |                   |          |    |      |      |     |          |  |  |

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| <p>♠762<br/>♥976<br/>♦10532<br/>♣AK10</p> <p>♠AKQJ5      ♠109<br/>♥KQ10      ♥5432<br/>♦A96      ♦87<br/>♣62      ♣J9873</p> <p>♠843<br/>♥AJ8<br/>♦KQJ4<br/>♣Q54</p>  | <p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Here East can't really stand leaving the double in and can bail out to the five card suit by bidding a natural 2♣. West tries to improve the contract with 2♠ and this may well make. A trump lead gets the defence off to a good start. Declarer now does best by winning in dummy and leading a heart to ♥10 (because there's no second entry to lead up twice to ♥KQ). Now there are eight tricks even though a diamond cannot be ruffed in dummy.</p>  | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |     |     |      | 1NT | Dbl      | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ | All Pass |  |  |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |     |     |      |     |          |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
|   |  |             | 1NT          |             |              |     |     |      |     |          |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| Dbl   | Pass   | 2♣          | Pass         |             |              |     |     |      |     |          |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 2♠  | All Pass   |             |              |             |              |     |     |      |     |          |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| <p>♠6<br/>♥KQ93<br/>♦A96<br/>♣AK732</p> <p>♠432      ♠A7<br/>♥AJ8      ♥10762<br/>♦KQ4      ♦532<br/>♣Q654      ♣J1098</p> <p>♠KQJ10985<br/>♥54<br/>♦J1087<br/>♣-</p> | <p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Here North doubles with his somewhat unbalanced hand and may be concerned that East West compete in his shortage, i.e. spades (no fear, though, on the actual layout). South knows his side usually has a majority of the points. If, however, the contract is left in 1NT doubled his spades may be totally useless (no entry to them provided declarer holds up one round of the suit).</p> <p>Instead South makes a practical jump to 4♠ which easily makes.</p> <p>If South had passed 1NT doubled, North would continually be endplayed and declarer is likely to escape for one off.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | 1NT | Dbl | Pass | 4♠  | All Pass |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |     |     |      |     |          |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 1NT   | Dbl  | Pass        | 4♠           |             |              |     |     |      |     |          |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| All Pass  |  |             |              |             |              |     |     |      |     |          |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |