

Snapdragon (Fourth-Suit) Doubles

A Snapdragon Double is a double by a 4th-seat Player subsequent to the first three consecutive players having each bid a new suit. Following Partner's direct non-jump suit overcall and a third suit bid by the 4th seat Player's RHO, a double promises 5 cards or more in the fourth suit plus tolerance (at least a doubleton honor) for Partner's suit. Snapdragon doubles are just *support doubles after Partner has overcalled*, with the added feature of showing a 5-card or longer holding in the fourth suit, as well (See Example 2).

When you have a very strong suit of your own, **you may choose to bid it directly**, rather than suggesting tolerance for Partner's overcall suit at the same time. (Example 1)

Example 1: (Overcalling in 4th Seat Without the Use of a Snapdragon Double)

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>				
1D	2C	2H	2S	KQJXXX	AX	XX	JXX

When you wish to show **both** the fourth as-yet un-bid suit **and** support for Partner's suit, the Snapdragon Double is used. (Example 2)

Example 2: (Overcalling in 4th Seat Using a Snapdragon Double)

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>				
1D	2C	2H	“Double”	AKXXX	JXX	X	KXXX

Examples of Snapdragon Doubles:

- a) **1C - 1D - 1S - Dbl.** = shows 5 Hearts and 3+ support for Partner's Diamonds.
- b) **1C - 1H - 1S - Dbl.** = shows 5 Diamonds and support for Partner's Hearts.
- c) **1D - 2C - 2S - Dbl.** = shows 5 Hearts and 3+ Clubs and sufficient strength and distribution to compete to the 3-level.
- d) **1D - 1S - 2H - Dbl.** = shows 5+ Clubs and 3 Spades and sufficient strength and distribution to compete to the 3-level.

In standard bidding, a double after Partner has already bid would normally be considered a penalty double, but it is extremely rare to effectively pull off such a double at the one level, and even there, the opponents are likely to have a better spot. The use of Snapdragon doubles, therefore, becomes more useful than a penalty double, even at the 2-level. **By Partnership agreement, it is accepted and reasonable to play Snapdragon Doubles through 2S, and, therefore, a “double” beyond that level is considered to be a penalty double.** At higher bidding levels, vulnerability becomes a factor, and such doubles made at higher levels should hold longer holdings and good playing strength, as well

Partner's Response to a Snapdragon Double - A Snapdragon Double is a form of a Take-Out Double. Although there are rare occasions when Partner will do best to “Pass” your double, converting it to penalties, Partner's response to your bidding a Snapdragon double depends upon his/her holdings in your suit and in his, and whether or not Opener continues to compete which “erases” the “double” such that Partner need not bid unless he/she volitionally desires to do so.

Note: Snapdragon and Rosenkrantz Doubles are mutually exclusive.