

## Takeout Doubles

Why do we make takeout doubles? The Philosophy....

By JACOB MORGAN email:bridgetips@hotmail.com

Originally, double was penalty. If we held ♠QJT9x ♥AKx ♦Ax ♣Kxx we'd double a 1♠ opening to say they couldn't make it; however the frequency is low.

Almost universally today, double means: "we want to compete in the auction and/or we have too many values to do anything else"

They open 1♠

HAND 1	HAND 2	HAND 3	HAND 4	HAND 5
♠X	♠AKX	♠KX	♠XX	♠XXX
♥AKXX	♥KQJX	♥KQJTXX	♥AKX	♥AKXX
♦KQJX	♦QJX	♦AKX	♦KQXX	♦KQX
♣QXXX	♣AXX	♣AX	♣KXXX	♣KXX
HAND 6	HAND 7	HAND 8	HAND 9	HAND 10
♠KQX	♠X	♠KQXX	♠X	♠XXX
♥AQXX	♥AQJTX	♥AKXX	♥AQJXX	♥AXX
♦KQXX	♦KQTX	♦X	♦AKQXX	♦KQXX
♣JX	♣QXX	♣QJXX	♣KX	♣QJX

When it comes to doubles, when in doubt, double is takeout. Too many situations come up undiscussed to know everything. As situations arise we can make agreements to cover frequent auctions.

A classic example on the auction

1♠ Pass 1NT Pass  
 2♠ **WHAT IS DOUBLE?**

Penalty or T/O (takeout) are reasonable, we just need to be on the same page.

### Double of a one level bid

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	
1♦	Double			West holds ♠KQXX ♥AQXX ♦X ♣KQXX
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	
2♣	Double			West holds ♠QJXX ♥AQXX ♦KQXX ♣4

### Double of a 2 level preemptive bids

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	
2♠	Double			West holds ♠X ♥KQXX ♦JXXX ♣AJXX
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double	East holds ♠7 ♥AK7 ♦QJ765 ♣AQ95

### Double of a 3 level preemptive bids

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

3♥ Double

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

3♥ Pass Pass double

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

3♥ Pass 4♥ double

This double by partner could also consist of a strong hand and long suit of their own which they plan to rebid.

### RESPONDING TO PARTNER'S DOUBLE

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♦ X P ????

Minimum (0-6) hand bid a suit as cheaply as possible, it leaves more room. Lean towards bidding a major before a minor.

Medium (7-10) this is the most difficult range, we want to show a little life but will frequently make the same bid as a minimum.

Invitational (10-12) we make a jump bid or cuebid with the majors, this lets partner know we are interested in game.

Game Force (13+) we cuebid and see what happens from there. It's forcing to suit agreement.

When we have good cards in the opponent's suit we will consider pass ♠KX ♥QXX ♦QJT9X ♣KXX  
Keep in mind the vulnerability. What will give us the best score?

HAND 1	HAND 2	HAND 3	HAND 4	HAND 5
♠XX	♠QXX	♠XXXX	♠KQXX	♠QXX
♥XXXX	♥XXX	♥XXXX	♥QXXX	♥KXX
♦JXX	♦QJXX	♦QXX	♦XXX	♦KJX
♣QXXX	♣XXX	♣XX	♣XX	♣TXXX

HAND 6	HAND 7	HAND 8	HAND 9	HAND 10
♠KJXX	♠KQXX	♠KJXX	♠XX	♠KQJXX
♥KQXX	♥AXX	♥QXX	♥AQX	♥KX
♦XXX	♦XX	♦XX	♦XXX	♦AXX
♣QX	♣QXXX	♣QXXX	♣KQXXX	♣AXX