

Berk-Co Exceptions to Low-Level Doubles

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This is from the 2005 version of the Berkowitz-Cohen bridge notes. They retired in 2009. (There were later versions, but this is the latest available version for publication).

Warning: This is probably of use only to expert players who are in long-time regular partnerships.

ONLY PENALTY DOUBLES BELOW 2NT ARE IF:

- 1) The opponents have already been "left in" or doubled for penalties (or we double Landy type, then double).
- 2) We open (non big-♣), our responder passes (their overcall or takeout double) and then doubles on next round-or 1M x xx sets up penalty X's
- 3) We are in a [GF](#) (but not 1♣ open and no suits bid yet).
- 4) We open 2♦ or 2M and they overcall or we open 2♣ and respond 2♦-- all X's by either are pen.
- 5) We open, they overcall, our resp. passes, they advance 1 or 2NT, we pass, they pass, we X 1 or 2NT
- 6) Any place in our notes where double is specifically defined as PENALTY (Note: There are some scattered about other pages -- such as responder redoubles after our opening 1-bid.)
- 7) We respond 2/1 in competition and OPENER doubles
- 8) Our 1NT opener or overcaller doubles RHO's call (regardless of our responder's action) -- but not if RHO raised (or goes to suit shown by overcaller) (all x now takeout even by 1NT opener)
- 9) Our third double in any kind of auction is penalty
- 10) We've bid 1♦ P 2♦.
- 11) Any time we have stopped (but not opened) in 1NT (...1NT-P-P) and they balance (X=2 or 3)
- 11a) Any time we have responded 1NT (in or out of comp) and then they bid a 3rd suit
- 11b) We open 1♦, respond 1NT: They overcall -- Double by either is penalty
We open 1M, respond 1NT: They overcall -- Double by either takeout
- 11c) If we bid natural notrump over RHO's suit, our notrumper's later doubles are penalty even if the suit was raised. Partner of 1NT'er can never penalty double.
- 12) We dbl a suit that either of us have already bid naturally (but not of ♦ after our 1♦ opener)
- 13) We have a known 8+card fit and double (other than defined game-try double)--X="xtras"
- 14) Never penalty when we double their raise when in front of the overcaller.