

THINKING BRIDGE

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The redouble

In the modern game, "redouble" has multiple meanings. It is important to know when to use the redouble as well as to know what partner means when he pulls that blue card from the bidding box. Here are four of the most common uses of the redouble. In these examples, assume you are South.

1. West North East South

1♣

Dbl Pass Pass(1) Redbl

(1) Penalty.

When your left-hand opponent makes a takeout double, partner passes, and RHO passes, showing considerable length and strength in your suit, Redouble is a plea for rescue.

Say you have ♠AJ4 ♥KQ5 ♦K94 ♣9754. Knowing that East has a massive club holding, which he expressed by passing, you do not relish playing 1♣ doubled. Your redouble asks partner to rescue you by bidding his longest suit, even if it is only a four-card suit. At least, that way if you are in real trouble and they double, you won't have to play the contract - partner will!

2. West North East South

1♣

Pass Pass Dbl Redbl

When your RHO makes a takeout double, "redouble" by you describes a powerful hand, with 18 or more HCP along with a five- or six- card suit. It encourages partner to compete with support for your suit or to introduce a long suit.

Redouble with ♠AJ4 ♥KQ5 ♦98 ♣AKJ96

However, if you have the same strength but no long suit, perhaps ♠AQ8 ♥AQ7 ♦KQ7 ♣Q643, try 1NT.

3. West North East South

1♥ Dbl Redbl

In this case, Redouble tells partner that your side has the balance of power. You show 11+ HCP (rarely 10) and you promise - in blood - another bid if LHO bids and partner passes. Your side winds up playing it - or they play it doubled!

Note: When holding four or more cards in partner's major-suit opening bid plus opening bid values, respond 3NT, artificial. It's more informative than Redouble. Also, a direct 2NT response over a takeout double, called Jordan (universally played), shows a limit raise.

As opener, with a hand that would not accept a limit raise, sign off at the three level when partner responds 2NT. With a normal, natural, 2NT response, redouble and then bid notrump.

4. West North East South

1♥ 3♦ 3♥

Pass 4♦ Dbl Rdbl

When partner makes a slam try cuebid (4♦), presumably showing the ace, and this is doubled, redouble by you shows second-round diamond control, the king or a singleton. Your hand: ♠A8742 ♥KJ8 ♦7 ♣Q1082.