

TAKE OUT DOUBLE VS OVERCALL

WAJAHAT'S question :- should one spade be doubled for takeout when you have only two small heart, four diamond and five clubs. the point count is 16-17pts. If partner jumps to four hearts on 9-10 pts and four carder heart what to do?

Sridhar's views :

It is highly undesirable to make an off-shape take out double , particularly lacking the unbid Major, merely because you have 16-17 HCP ; you are right that partner may jump to 4H and find dummy's trump support inadequate.

With 2-2-4-5 pattern and 16-17 HCP , the priorities must be , in order, (1) Overcall 1N, if there is a stopper (2) overcall on the 5 card minor if it is a decent suit (3) Pass and balance later if suitable .

RHO opens 1S , you hold :

1. ♠AQ ♥KX ♦K10XX ♣AJXXX – I will overcall 1N
2. ♠XX ♥AX ♦KQXX ♣AKJ10X – I prefer an overcall of 2C .
3. ♠QX ♥AK ♦AQXX ♣QXXXX-- I prefer to pass and await developments.

Hence I recommend off-shape doubles on very strong hands – say 2-2-4-5 shape and 20 hcp , where partner may find trump support inadequate but be happy to see extra high cards in compensation