

## WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

We offer our thanks to Washington Bridge league as we present a copy from their 2015 Jan -Feb bulletin on opener's rebid after negative double by columnists > Ron Zucker and Shawn Stringer. Read original - [Here](#)

### opener's rebid after the negative double

The last few articles, we've been discussing the negative double. The negative double is one of the most powerful tools in a partnership's toolbox, and it would be difficult to find many, if any, top level partnerships that don't use it.

This month, we want to talk about what to do after partner has made a negative double of one spade. In other words, we know what partner has shown. Now what?

Opener must remember that his partner's negative double after our sample auction (1♦ - 1♠) is a kind of takeout double promising four hearts, and with various holdings in the other suits. Since a 1♦ opening bid is made on a wide variety of hand types, it is helpful to look at different hands that Opener may have to see what his rebid options are.

a. Opener holds four hearts: After Responder's negative double, if Opener holds four hearts, he should bid 2♥. Opener's hand may be ♠xx ♥AQxx ♦KJxxx ♣Kx, and 2♥ is the correct bid. If Opener held ♠x ♥AJxx ♦AJxxxx ♣Jx, Opener would also bid 2♥, always choosing to bid the major instead of rebidding his six card minor. If Opener has a minimum opening bid (roughly 12-14 balanced) Opener should bid at the lowest level possible, which would be 2♥ in our auction. With 13+ HCP and a singleton, Opener should jump to 3♥. With 15+ HCP and a singleton, jump to 4♥

b. Opener does not have four hearts: After the negative double, Opener can rebid his six-card diamond suit; rebid 2♣ with a minimum hand with 5-4 in the minors; or rebid 1NT with a balanced hand such as ♠Kxx ♥Qx ♦AKxxx ♣Jxx.

Even without a spade stopper, a 1NT rebid is often the best choice on balanced hands. In an ideal world, bidding No Trump would show control of the spade suit. When Opener is balanced, however, with a hand like ♠T9x ♥AJx ♦AQxx ♣Kxx, there is no good choice other than 1NT. The key concept is that it is better to distort having a stopper than to distort your shape by, for example, bidding 2♣ on a three card suit.

Plan Opener's rebid in this auction: 1♦ - 1♠ - X - P:

1. ♠zxx ♥AJxx ♦AKxxx ♣Qx 2♥: Opener has found a 4-4 fit and has the max if his partner wants to bid on.
2. ♠x ♥AJxx ♦AQxxx ♣Kxx 3♣: With 14 HCP and a well placed singleton, this hand is worth a jump.
3. ♠x ♥AQxx ♦AKxxx ♣Kxx 4♣: This hand is strong enough to jump to game, since all cards rate to be working.
4. ♠Qxx ♥xx ♦AQJxxx ♣KJ 2♥: This is a good suit and bidding 2♥, with a six card suit, is better choice than 1NT.
5. ♠Kxx ♥xx ♦AQTx ♣KJx 1NT: There is no better choice. Avoid rebidding five card minors.
6. ♠xx ♥xx ♦AQJxx ♣AQxxx 2♠: Opener should show his second five card suit.
7. ♠Jxx ♥xxx ♦AKxx ♣AQx 1NT: Even without a full spade stopper, that is his best bid with a flat hand and no second suit.
8. ♠KJx ♥Ax ♦AKxx ♣Axxx 3NT: Even if Responder is minimum for his bid, the side has enough values for game.
9. ♠xx ♥AKxx ♦AQxx ♣KQx 4♣: There is a known 4-4 heart fit and game values.
10. ♠Kxx ♥xx ♦AKxxx ♣AQx 3♥: Opener has enough values and the jump will help Responder decide the best contract.

We hope this review helps you use the negative double more effectively. As always, if you have questions, feel free to contact us at [ron@motherzucker.com](mailto:ron@motherzucker.com) or [ShStringer@aol.com](mailto:ShStringer@aol.com). Have fun, and we'll see you at the tabl