

DOUBLES

I FIND IT HELPFUL TO CLASSIFY DOUBLES INTO 4 CATEGORIES.

1. PENALTY
YOU THINK THE OPPONENTS HAVE BID TOO MUCH AND YOU WISH TO CAPITALIZE ON IT.
2. TAKE OUT
YOU DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC SUIT OF YOUR OWN, BUT HAVE ENOUGH POINTS AND ENOUGH SUPPORT FOR THE UNBID SUITS. EXAMPLES ARE TAKEOUT, NEGATIVE, SNAP DRAGON, RESPONSIVE, STOLEN BID.
3. SUPPORT
THESE CALLS INDICATE VARYING TYPES OF SUPPORT FOR EITHER PARTNER'S BID SUIT OR SUITS OR IMPLIED SUITS. EXAMPLES ARE MAXIMAL, SNAPDRAGON, RESPONSIVE.
4. LEAD DIRECTING
THESE DOUBLES OF THE OPPONENTS BID SUITS SUGGEST A SUIT YOU WISH PARTNER TO LEAD IF YOU END UP DEFENDING THE HAND. EXAMPLES IS LIGHTNER DOUBLE.

TAKEOUT DOUBLE

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1D X

USUALLY SHOWS SHORTNESS IN OPENER'S SUIT AND SUPPORT FOR THE OTHER 3 SUITS.

NEGATIVE DOUBLES

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1C 1D X

PARTNER OPENS, THE OPPONENTS INTERVENE, YOU DOUBLE TO SHOW 4 CARD SUPPORT FOR THE UNBID SUITS, OR IF ONE MAJOR HAS BEEN BID, YOU SHOW 4 CARDS IN THE OTHER MAJOR. IF YOU BID THE MAJOR YOU WOULD SHOW A 5 CARD SUIT. MOST PLAYERS INSIST THAT IF NEITHER MAJOR HAS BEEN BID, A DOUBLE SHOWS BOTH MAJORS (4-4) BUT A BID WOULD ONLY GUARRANTTEE 4 NOT 5. OTHERS ACCEPT

THAT YOU MAY BE SHOWING ONLY ONE 4 CARD MAJOR BY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.

ROSENKRANZ DOUBLES

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1D 1S 2D X

IN THIS CONVENTION, DOUBLE BY SOUTH SHOWS SPADE SUPPORT WITH ACE-THIRD, KING-THIRD, AK-THIRD. A DIRECT BID DENIES A OR K OR EVEN Q OF SPADES.

SNAPDRAGON DOUBLE

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1C 1D 1H X

THIS DOUBLE IS BY THE FOURTH HAND AFTER THE FIRST THREE PLAYERS HAVE EACH BID A SUIT. IT SHOWS 5 CARDS IN THE MISSING SUIT AND SOME SUPPORT FOR PARTNER'S SUIT. SUPPORT MAY BE ONLY A DOUBLETEN.

SUPPORT DOUBLES

A SUPPORT DOUBLE IS A DOUBLE BY THE OPENER SHOWING EXACTLY THREE CARD SUPPORT FOR RESPONDER'S SUIT. OPENER OPENED WITH 1-OF-A-SUIT, RESPONDER BID ONE OF A MAJOR, FOURTH HAND BIDS A SUIT LOWER THAN 2 OF RESPONDER'S MAJOR.

IT DOES NOT APPLY WHEN RESPONDER MUST BID AT THE 3 LEVEL.

IT DOES NOT APPLY WHEN RESPONDER'S SUIT IS DIAMONDS, WHEN FOURTH HAND'S CALL IS HIGHER THAN 2 OF RESPONDER'S SUIT OR WHEN FOURTH HAND HAS BID NT..

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1C P 1H 2D

X

OR

1D P 1H 1S

X.

A SUPPORT DOUBLE IS NONSPECIFIC CONCERNING VALUES HELD. OPENER CAN HOLD ANYWHERE FROM A MINIMUM TO A STRONG JUMP SHIFT – VALUES TO BE CLARIFIED LATER.

RESPONSIVE DOUBLE

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1D X 2D X

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1S 2H 2S X

THESE TWO EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE RESPONSIVE DOUBLES. IN SITUATION 1 YOU HOLD 4 SPADES AND 4 HEARTS AND WANT PARTNER TO CHOOSE HIS BEST AS HE COULD HAVE MADE THE DOUBLE WITH A 4-3 HOLDING. IN THE SECOND SITUATION YOU HOLD 4 CLUBS AND 4 DIAMONDS AND ONLY 2 HEARTS BUT ENOUGH VALUES TO COMPETE AT THE 3 LEVEL.

BALANCING DOUBLES

IN THE PASSOUT SEAT YOU BORROW POINTS FROM YOUR PARTNER TO KEEP THE AUCTION ALIVE.

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1C P 2C P

P X

THEIR WILLINGNESS TO STOP AT 2C INDICATES THAT YOU AND YOUR PARTNER HAVE CLOSE TO HALF THE POINTS AND SHOULD COMPETE.

LEAD DIRECTING DOUBLES (LIGHTNER)

WEST NORTH		EAST SOUTH	
1S	P	2S	P
4NT	P	5D	X

THIS EXAMPLE ASKS PARTNER TO LEAD A DIAMOND. SUPPOSEDLY YOU HOLD A VOID OR AN ACE IN DIAMONDS AND WANT GET PARTNER OFF TO THE BEST LEAD.

MAXIMAL DOUBLES

WEST NORTH		EAST SOUTH	
1S	2C	2S	3C
P	P	X	

THE OPPONENTS HAVE BID AND RAISED A LOWER RANKING SUIT AND YOU HAVE A GAME INVITATIONAL HAND. YOU WANT PARTNER TO BID 3 OR 4 SPADES BASED ON HOW BIG HIS HAND IS.

NOTES

1. IF YOU ARE THE FIRST PERSON IN YOUR PARTNERSHIP TO DOUBLE (OR BID), YOU SHOULD HAVE A HAND THAT YOU WOULD HAVE BID IF YOU HELD A 5 CARD SUIT, USUALLY ABOUT 10 HIGH CARD POINTS. A ROUGH RULE OF THUMB IS THAT YOU ADD 1 POINT FOR EVERY CARD YOU HOLD IN THE OPPONENTS SUIT, 0 CARDS – 10 POINTS, 1 CARD – 11 POINTS, 2 CARDS – 12 POINTS; ETC.
2. BE AWARE OF THE LEVEL THAT YOU AND YOUR PARTNER HAVE AGREED UPON FOR TAKEOUT DOUBLES . 2 SPADES? 3 HEARTS? ANY BID ABOVE THAT WILL BE TAKEN FOR PENALTY, NOT TAKE OUT; ANY BELOW THAT AND IT WILL NOT BE TAKEN FOR PENALTY.

OTHER DOUBLES YOU MIGHT LIKE TO LOOK UP

STRIPE TAILED APE DOUBLE

FISCHER LEAD DIRECTING DOUBLE

LIGHTNER GAME DOUBLE

SUCKER DOUBLE

STOLEN BID DOUBLE