

HOW TO USE THE ENEMY --- DOUBLE THEIR ARTIFICIAL BIDS!

Here is one area of bidding that the average bridge player totally ignores. What a waste!

Here is your new toy in a nutshell:

What are artificial bids? Here are some examples:

Stayman - both the 2♣ bid (asking for a major)
and the 2♦ bid (denying a major) are
artificial.

Jacoby - all suit responses to notrump
openings are artificial.

Blackwood - all responses to 4NT are artificial;
all responses to 5NT are artificial.

Opening 2♣ -both the 2♣ opening and the 2♦ responses are artificial.

This is just a partial list of artificial bids ---
tournament bridge players carry many conventions
in their arsenal. But the theory is the same with all:
When an opponent makes an artificial bid and you
have length and strength in that suit – double. It is a
penalty double, but it's unlikely that they will stop
there - don't forget, it's an artificial bid, so they will
continue while you slipped information in *free*.

What information? Your double says, *Partner, lead,
or maybe even bid that suit – I like it!*

You

♠ 6 5 Opp. Partner Opp. You

♥ 7 5 1NT Pass 2♣ Dbl

♦ A 8 6

♣ K Q 10 9 6 5

You are indicating a lovely club lead for partner.

Note that if the responder to 1NT had bid any other
suit, you would pass.

You

♠ 6 5 Opp. Partner Opp. You

♥ A K 9 1NT Pass 2♦ Pass

♦ 7 5

♣ K Q 10 9 6 5

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You must be in the right position for this to work:

You

♠ 5 4 Opp. Partner Opp. You

♥ 8 7 5 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass

♦ J 9 6

♦ A Q J 9 4 You want a club lead, but are in the wrong position to ask for it. If you
double, you'd be indicating a diamond suit. And if you bid 3♣, you're asking for
trouble!

Don't violate the strength and length requirement:

You

♠ 5 4 3 Opp. Partner Opp. You

♥ void 2NT Pass 3♥* Pass

♦ K J 9 6

♣ 9 7 6 4 3 2 *Jacoby transfer for spades

If they wind up in spades, you'd love a heart lead. And the 3♥ bid is certainly artificial, so why not double? Two reasons: partner will believe you have the length and may *sacrifice* – that is, bid hearts at a high level to keep them out – or if they wind up in notrump, he'll still think you want a heart lead.

But here is an exception to the *length* requirement:

The double of a four level or higher artificial bid requires strength, but not length. A strong three-card holding (K Q 10) is enough.

You

♠ J 7 5 4 Opp. Partner Opp. You

♥ 9 1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass

♦ K Q J 4NT Pass 5♦ Dbl

♣ 9 7 6 4 3

The opponents are headed for a heart slam. You would love partner to lead a diamond, and now you have a lucky opportunity to tell him.

When you don't double a Blackwood response, you warn partner that you have no interest in that suit. How do you use this *negative inference*?

You

♠ 5 4 3 Opp. Partner Opp. You

♥ 8 7 5 1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass

♦ J 9 6 3♥ Pass 4NT Pass

♣ 9 7 6 4 5♣ Pass 6♥ All Pass

You have two unbid suits to lead: spades and clubs. If partner wanted a club lead, he had an opportunity to double the 5♣ Blackwood response. So using *negative inferences*, try a spade lead. It's just a guess, but an "intelligent" guess!

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When your opponents have made an artificial bid, double that bid to show partner
you have
length and strength in that suit.