

More on Doubles

Double - In addition to the traditional use of the Double for penalties, many conventions are associated with Doubles in various scenarios including:

Type	By	General Purpose
Action, Optional, Cooperative, (Alertable)	Either Partner	<p>Allow partner to either penalize or compete further Note: Some question wisdom of this convention. Example: 1C - (1S) - 2C - (2S); P - (P) - X</p>
Balancing	Either Partner	<p>In "passout seat", keep Auction alive by "borrowing" points from partner Example: (1C) - P - (2C) - P; (P) - X</p>
Equal Level Conversion Double (ELCD)	Overcaller	<p>When the partnership agree to play Equal Level Conversion Doubles (ELCD), the doubler is allowed to have shortness in the Club suit - <i>provided</i> the overcalling doubler has 5 Diamond. This allows the doubler to rebid Diamonds when partner (advancer) responds in the Club suit - overcaller's short suit. Example: (1H) - X - (P) - 2C; (P) - 2D</p>
Fisher Lead Directing	Defenders	<p>When opponents' auction is based purely on Notrump bidding, asking partner to lead a Club (or Diamond if Right Hand Opponent made a Stayman call). Also see Lightner Game Double. Example: (1N) - P - (3N) - P; (P) - X</p>
Lead Directing	Defenders	<p>When opponents' control auction, lead directing request for lead in Doubled suit or opponent's bid suit Example: 1N - (P) - 2D! - X Request for Diamond lead, where 2D! = Jacoby Transfer to Hearts Example: 1H - (3S) - P - (3N); P - (P) - (X)</p>
Lightner (Alertable)	Defenders	<p>Requests a Spade, promise to win trick & return Heart When opponents' bid slam, lead directing request for an "unusual lead" Example: (1C) - (1H) - 2D (2H) - (2S); (5S) - (6S)</p>
Lightner Game	Defenders	<p>Requests a Heart lead to enable a quick ruff A double of opponents' Notrump contract based on a long running suit, asking partner to lead their short suit without primary honors. Also see Fisher Double. Example: (1N) - P - (3N) - P; (P) - X</p>
Maximal (Alertable)	Either Partner	<p>After Opponents Bid And Raise (OBAR) in lower suit, show game invitational hand (versus competitive) Example: 1S - (2C) - 2S - (3C); P - (P) - X</p>
Negative	Responder	<p>Find a fit in unnamed suit/s, preference to major/s Example: 1D- (1H) - X</p>
Reopening	Either Partner	<p>Compete for a low-level auction Example: 1H - (1S) - P - (P); X Avoids opponents' winning a "cheap" auction</p>

Negative Slam	Weaker Side	Example: (1H) - 2S - (4H) - 4S; (6H) - X Competitor wants to sacrifice or punish
Negative Free Bid	Responder	Example: 1H - (1S) - 2C with less than 10 HCP Reverses the meaning of Negative Double, allowing vigorous competition over opponents' overcall
Responsive	Responder	After Opponents Bid And Raise & Partner (OBAR) bid or double, show values and support of two unnamed suits Example: (1H) - 1S - (2H) - X
Snapdragon (Alertable)	Responder	After 3 suits are bid, double shows 5 in unbid suit and support for partner's bid suit Example: (1H) - 1S - (2C) - X Shows 5 Diamonds & 3 Spades
Striped Tailed Ape	Either Partner	Attempt to have opponents' settle for doubled contract and miss slam, where the opponent will "run like a "Striped Tailed Ape" to their long suit if opponent's redouble! Obviously, this tactic only works with favorable vulnerability. Example: (1D) - 1S - (2S!) - 4S; (4N) - P - (5D) - X
Stolen Bid/ Cuebid (Alertable)	Responder	Reuses the Right Hand Opponent's interference bid Note - partners agree to play "systems on" Example: 1N - (2C) - X Double is "Stayman"
Sucker	Either Partner	Unwise Double, based on honors is worthless (long) suits, likely to be ruffed by opponents Example: 1H - (1S) - 2D - (3S); 4D - (P) - 4H - (4S); X Both sides have double-fit, increasing probability to make the contract.
Support (Alertable)	Opener	Determine 3 or 4 card trump support by opener (since responder may only have 4 trump) Example: 1C - (1H) - 1S - (2H); X Show 3 Spades
Takeout, Informatory	Overcaller	Find a fit in any of three unnamed suits Example: (1H) - X
3 Notrump Doubled	Defender	Opponents bid a 3 Notrump game contract or above, partnership doubles have various lead directing possibilities Example: 1H - (1N) - 2N - (3N); X - AP