

The Redouble + Jordan 2NT

According to Goren:

“When your partner’s opening bid has been doubled by your right-hand opponent, your proper procedure is not always clearly indicated. What you do at this point may determine the success or failure of the hand.

“A superstition that seems to have gained popularity is the one to the effect that ‘a bid over a double shows weakness.’ This is an unsound doctrine, but it is easy to see how the confusion has arisen. It has for many years been a definitely accepted convention that when partner opens the bidding and the next hand doubles, a redouble by the third hand shows a good hand. It may or may not denote support for partner, but the paramount consideration is the desire to get across this information, ‘Partner do not be intimidated by the double. I think we have the best hands. I’ll tell you more about mine later.’

“If therefore, the partner of the opening bidder fails to redouble, the implication is quite plain that he does not have a very strong hand. However, if the opener’s partner chooses to bid rather than redouble, it does not imply he has a weak hand. It may be that he has certain values which he finds expedient to show at this time. It may be that he cannot afford to wait, for fear that the bidding will mount to high before his next chance to call.

“In a condensed form the principle may be stated as follows:

“When your partner opens the bidding and the next hand doubles:

WITH A GOOD HAND YOU REDOUBLE

... If a hand is worth more than 10 points, then you should redouble first to advise partner that you have the balance of power.

WITH A BAD HAND YOU PASS

“... Yet there is one situation in which the partner of the opening bidder may speak with a bad hand, and that is when he has trump support for partner and is able to give a raise. This merely serves as an obstructive measure and intends to interfere with the opposition without incurring any risk.

...

“Here it is important to point out a very important convention. . . A player who redoubles becomes the temporary captain of the team. The opening bidder is requested to pass the next bid around to the redoubler, who promises to double or bid.

...

“Certain hands are not well adapted to any of the previously cited actions.

Suppose the auction is

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Double	?	

Your hand may be

♠43 ♥KQJ1086 ♦2 ♣K954

“A redouble is unsatisfactory because you have no wish to play for penalties against an opposing spade bid, especially if you are vulnerable and the opponents are not. A bid of 1 Heart neither shuts out the opponents nor conveys a picture of your long, near-solid suit. A pass, followed by a minimum bid in hearts later in the auction is equally unsatisfactory. . .

The solution is a bid of 2 Hearts immediately over the double. Although this is a skip bid in a new suit, it is not forcing. . .”

(The above was taken from *Goren’s New Bridge Complete* by Charles H. Goren, Doubleday, New York, 1985.)

I wanted you to read Goren so you would have some background in the concept of the redouble from the revered one. His use of the redouble is still used, but it has been refined.

Most experienced players use the redouble when they have 10 high card points AND they are prepared to defend. **In other words, they use the redouble when they have NO FIT for partner’s bid.** Partner then can safely pass at the next time around in case the redoubler wants to double whatever bid the opponents have made. This is a very important concept in the use of the redouble.

Suppose the auction is

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Double	?	

Your hand may be

♠4	♥KQJ3	♦A1037	♣J1042
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You would redouble to show 2 things. First that you and your partner hold the balance of the points and second that if the opponents were to step into the bidding, you would be willing to defend a low level contract doubled.

Many experienced players like to use a bid called **Jordan 2NT** (misnamed because it was actually invented by Alan Truscott and called **Truscott** by some) when they have a fit for partner's suit and at least a limit raise.

This bid is alertable!

Suppose the auction is

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Double	?	

Your hand may be

♠QJ42	♥K3	♦A1075	♣1043
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You would bid 2NT to show a fit for partner's spades and at least a limit raise. This bid effectively shuts the opponents out of the their heart or club bid at a low level and shows partner your fit. Partner can now bid 3S or 4S depending on strength of opening bid or explore for slam.

This information is in compliance with the SAYC system (Standard American Yellow Card), which is the system that is most often used by duplicate bridge players. According to **SAYC**, if RHO makes a takeout double:

- 1♦ -- (Double) -- 1♥, 1♠ = forcing, point count not limited.
 - -- 2♣ = non-forcing (6-10 points, usually a six-card suit).
 - -- 2NT = limit raise (at least 10 points) -- or better. (*Note: This is the Jordan 2NT bid*)
 - -- Redouble = 10 points or more, but it is better to make a more descriptive bid of 1H, 1S, or 2NT with the appropriate hand.
 - -- 3♦ = Preemptive, good trump support but fewer than 10 points.

Calls After Partner's Opening and Opponent's Double

Goren		Most Modern Players	
<i>Partner opens 1 of a suit, next person doubles</i>		<i>Partner opens 1 of a suit, next person doubles</i>	
Choices for your call		Choices for your call	
Pass	Weak hand, no support for partner's suit	Pass	Weak hand, no support for partner's suit
Raise partner's suit	Weak hand with 4-card support	Raise partner's suit	6-9 points in with 3 card support
Jump in partner's suit	Weak hand with 5-card support	Jump in partner's suit	Weak hand with 4+ card support
1 of a suit	Forcing-unlimited	1 of a suit	Forcing-unlimited
2 of a suit	Non-forcing 8-10 Hcp	2 of a suit	Non-forcing 6-9 Hcp
3 of a suit	9-10 points self-sufficient suit (Encouraging, though not forcing)	3 of a suit	Weak, pre-emptive (vulnerability favorable)
Redouble	11+ points may or may not show support for partner's suit	Redouble	10+ points with no fit for partner's suit
		2NT	10+ points with 3 or 4 card support for partner's suit (Jordan-ALERT!)