



Karol & Guy Monroe

# MODERN DOUBLES WHO OWNS WHICH DOUBLE?

## DOUBLES AROUND THE TABLE The Competitive Conversation Continues

### TAKEOUT - NEGATIVE - RESPONSIVE - SUPPORT

#### WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON

- Show values, shape and a desire to compete in the auction. Unlimited strength.
- Use no space on the bidding ladder and often show two unbid suits.
- Not intended for penalty. Asks partner to bid and “take-out” the double.
- The higher the level, the more strength is needed, and the more likely Partner will pass to convert the double to “penalty.”

**YOU CANNOT DOUBLE YOUR PARTNER’S BID – YOU MAY ONLY DOUBLE AN OPPONENT’S BID!**

#### HOW THEY ARE DIFFERENT

- The suits shown are determined by the context of the auction and the seat position of the bidder.

**FOCUS ON THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR PARTNER**





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# MODERN DOUBLES

## WHO OWNS WHICH DOUBLE?

| <b>COMMON SCENARIOS BY SEAT POSITION</b><br><b>1-LEVEL OPENING SUIT BIDS</b><br><small>THIS IS AN OVERVIEW ONLY • STUDY OF EACH DOUBLE IS ADVISED</small> |  |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPENER</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> PLAYER TO BID</b><br/><b>2<sup>ND</sup> TURN TO BID</b></p>                         | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUPPORT DOUBLE/REDOUBLE</b><br/>PARTNER BIDS A MAJOR SUIT<br/>RIGHT-HAND OPPONENT BIDS</p> <p><b>SHAPE</b> = 3-CARD SUPPORT FOR RESPONDER'S MAJOR SUIT</p> <p><b>STRENGTH</b> = OPENING BID</p> <p><b>LEVEL</b> = 2-LEVEL OF RESPONDER'S SUIT OR EXTRA VALUES</p> <p>REDOUBLE IF RHO DOUBLES</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERVENER</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>ND</sup> PLAYER TO BID</b><br/><b>1<sup>ST</sup> TURN TO BID</b></p>                     | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TAKEOUT DOUBLE</b><br/>OPPONENT OPENS</p> <p><b>S</b>HORT IN OPENER'S SUIT</p> <p><b>O</b>PENING STRENGTH • COUNT HCP + DUMMY POINTS</p> <p><b>S</b>UPPORT FOR THE 3 UNBID SUITS</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;"><b>DOUBLE THEN BID AGAIN SHOWS 18+ POINTS</b></p>                |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESPONDER</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>RD</sup> PLAYER TO BID</b><br/><b>1<sup>ST</sup> TURN TO BID</b></p>                      | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEGATIVE DOUBLE</b></p> <p>RHO OVERCALLS A <b>SUIT</b></p> <p>DOUBLE = FOCUS IS ON UNBID MAJOR</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADVANCER</b></p> <p><b>4<sup>TH</sup> PLAYER TO BID</b><br/><b>1<sup>ST</sup> TURN TO BID</b></p>                       | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESPONSIVE DOUBLE</b><br/>PARTNER COMPETES<br/>OPPONENTS BID &amp; RAISE SAME SUIT</p> <p><b>SHAPE</b> = TWO UNBID SUITS, NO SUPPORT FOR PARTNER'S SUIT</p> <p><b>VALUES TO COMPETE</b> BUT NO CLEAR ACTION</p>  |

## Modern Doubles at a Glance

By Marty Bergen  
[Excerpts]

**3. Negative Doubles:** Made by responder after partner opens one of a suit, and RHO overcalls (or jump-overcalls) in a suit. Negative Doubles of overcalls through 3 ♣ promise at least one of the unbid majors. They say nothing about unbid minors. The only Negative Double that promises both unbid major suits is 1♣ – (1♦.) – Dbl.

The most important convention in bridge! Worth knowing about Negative Doubles:

- They have no upper limit in strength (true for all doubles!).
- They don't promise shortness in the opponent's suit.
- A Negative Double followed by a new suit at the two or three level is weak.
- Responder cannot make a penalty double, so he might pass with a good hand (a trap pass). Opener strives to make a balancing (re-opening double).

**4. Responsive Doubles** These are takeout doubles after the opponents bid and raise a suit, and partner bids or doubles. Because the opponents have found a fit, partner is unlikely to leave in the double at the two or three level.

Key Point: There will be two unbid suits. The opponents have bid and raised the same suit.

- The Responsive Double is used when unsure about the choice of suits offered by partner.
- If partner bids a suit, the Responsive Double denies support for that suit and offers the two unbid suits as options.

**5. Support Doubles** Made by the opening bidder with 3-card support after partner responds 1♥ or 1♠ and RHO overcalls at a low level. Opener is hoping to find a 5-3 fit in responder's major suit. A Support Double says nothing about the strength of opener's hand, his distribution, or the quality of his trumps.

## Doubles - By Seat Position

### Overcaller's Takeout Double

**Board 1**  
West Deals

|             |                          |          |                  |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------|------------------|
|             | ♠ A 9 6 3                |          |                  |
|             | ♥ A                      |          |                  |
|             | ♦ K Q 9 7                |          |                  |
|             | ♣ A J 7 3                |          |                  |
| ♠ 8 5       | N                        | E        | ♠ 10 7 2         |
| ♥ K Q J 9 6 | W                        | S        | ♥ 10 8 4         |
| ♦ A 6 5 4   | W N E S                  |          | ♦ 10 3 2         |
| ♣ K 6       |                          |          | ♣ 10 9 5 2       |
|             | ♠ K Q J 4                |          |                  |
|             | ♥ 7 5 3 2                |          |                  |
|             | ♦ J 8                    |          |                  |
|             | ♣ Q 8 4                  |          |                  |
| 18          |                          |          |                  |
| 13 0        |                          |          |                  |
| 9           |                          |          |                  |
| West        | North                    | East     | South            |
| 1 ♥         | Dbl <sup>1</sup>         | Pass     | 2 ♠ <sup>2</sup> |
| Pass        | 4 ♠ <sup>3</sup>         | All pass |                  |
|             | 1. Takeout Double        |          |                  |
|             | 2. 9-11 Points, 4+ ♠s    |          |                  |
|             | 3. 4-♠s. About 16 Points |          |                  |

**Contract:** 4 ♠ North, 10 Tricks  
**Lead:** ♥ K, Seq., East plays ♥ 4  
**Losers:** 3-♥, 1-♦, 1-♣ = 5.

**Play:** South wins the ♥ A, draws trump, and promotes ♦ s. A ♥ is discarded on a ♦, a ♥ is ruffed in Dummy, and a ♥ is lost. A little ♣ is led toward the ♣ AJ.

### Responder's Negative Double

**Board 2**  
South Deals

|             |                                      |      |            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|
|             | ♠ 10 8 5 3                           |      |            |
|             | ♥ A J 8 3                            |      |            |
|             | ♦ 9 6 3                              |      |            |
|             | ♣ K 4                                |      |            |
| ♠ K Q J 6 2 | N                                    | E    | ♠ 7 4      |
| ♥ K 10      | W                                    | S    | ♥ 9 7 2    |
| ♦ K 10 7    | W N E S                              |      | ♦ A Q 8 4  |
| ♣ 9 8 3     |                                      |      | ♣ J 10 6 5 |
|             | ♠ A 9                                |      |            |
|             | ♥ Q 6 5 4                            |      |            |
|             | ♦ J 5 2                              |      |            |
|             | ♣ A Q 7 2                            |      |            |
| 8           |                                      |      |            |
| 12 7        |                                      |      |            |
| 13          |                                      |      |            |
| West        | North                                | East | South      |
| 1 ♠         | Dbl <sup>1</sup>                     | Pass | 1 ♣        |
| All pass    |                                      |      | 2 ♥        |
|             | 1. Negative Double, 4+ ♥s, 6+ Points |      |            |

**Contract:** 2 ♥ South, 8 Tricks  
**Lead:** ♠ K, Seq., East plays ♠ 4  
**Losers:** 1-♠, 1-♥, 3-♦, 1-♣ = 6.

**Play:** South wins the ♠ A, finesses trump, and ruffs a ♣ in Dummy.

### Advancer's Responsive Double

**Board 3**  
East Deals

|              |   |      |             |
|--------------|---|------|-------------|
|              | ♠ 10 7 3                                |      |             |
|              | ♥ 5                                     |      |             |
|              | ♦ 9 8 4 3 2                             |      |             |
|              | ♣ A K 10 6                              |      |             |
| ♠ Q J 2      | N                                       | E    | ♠ A K 6 5 4 |
| ♥ 10 9 7 3 2 | W                                       | S    | ♥ Q J       |
| ♦ Q J 10     | W N E S                                 |      | ♦ K 7 6     |
| ♣ 7 2        |   |      | ♣ 9 8 3     |
|              | ♠ 9 8                                   |      |             |
|              | ♥ A K 8 6 4                             |      |             |
|              | ♦ A 5                                   |      |             |
|              | ♣ Q J 5 4                               |      |             |
| 7            |   |      |             |
| 6 13         |   |      |             |
| 14           |   |      |             |
| West         | North                                   | East | South       |
| 2 ♠          | Dbl <sup>1</sup>                        | 1 ♠  | 2 ♥         |
| All pass     | Pass                                    | 3 ♣  |             |
|              | 1. Responsive Double, ♣s & ♦s, 8+points |      |             |

**Contract:** 3 ♣ South, 9 Tricks  
**Lead:** ♠ Q, Seq. partner's suit  
**Losers:** 2-♠, 3-♥, 1-♦ = 6.

**Play:** South ruffs the 3rd ♠, wins the ♦ A, loses a ♦, and ruffs a ♦ in the Declarer hand. Then the Dummy's ♦ s are winners after trumps are drawn.

### Takeout Double & Responsive Double

**Board 4**  
East Deals

|           |  |      |                  |
|-----------|--|------|------------------|
|           | ♠ K 6                                  |      |                  |
|           | ♥ 5 4 3                                |      |                  |
|           | ♦ A J 3 2                              |      |                  |
|           | ♣ Q 10 7 6                             |      |                  |
| ♠ J 8 5 3 | N                                      | E    | ♠ 10 9 2         |
| ♥ A J 8   | W                                      | S    | ♥ K Q 10 7 6     |
| ♦ 9 5 4   | W N E S                                |      | ♦ K 7 6          |
| ♣ 5 3 2   |  |      | ♣ A 4            |
|           | ♠ A Q 7 4                              |      |                  |
|           | ♥ 9 2                                  |      |                  |
|           | ♦ Q 10 8                               |      |                  |
|           | ♣ K J 9 8                              |      |                  |
| 10        |  |      |                  |
| 6 12      |  |      |                  |
| 12        |  |      |                  |
| West      | North                                  | East | South            |
| 2 ♥       | Dbl <sup>2</sup>                       | 1 ♥  | Dbl <sup>1</sup> |
| All pass  | Pass                                   | 3 ♣  |                  |
|           | 1. Takeout Double                      |      |                  |
|           | 2. Responsive, 4+ ♣s, 4+ ♦s, 9+ Points |      |                  |

**Contract:** 3 ♣ South, 9 Tricks  
**Lead:** ♥ A, Partner's suit  
**Losers:** 1-♠, 2-♥, 1-♦, 1-♣ = 5.

**Play:** South ruffs the 3rd ♥, draws trump, finesses ♦ s, and ruffs the 4th ♠ in Dummy.

Doubles - By Seat Position

**Opener's Support Double**

**Board 5**  
North Deals

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>♠ K Q J 8 7 3<br/>♥ 6 4<br/>♦ Q 9 5<br/>♣ K 6</p> |  | <p>♠ 10 6<br/>♥ K Q 3<br/>♦ K 10 4<br/>♣ A 9 7 5 2</p> | <p>♠ A 9<br/>♥ 10 9 2<br/>♦ A 8 7 3 2<br/>♣ 10 8 3</p> |
| <p>12<br/>11 8<br/>9</p>                             |  | <p>♠ 5 4 2<br/>♥ A J 8 7 5<br/>♦ J 6<br/>♣ Q J 4</p>   |  |

| West | North            | East | South |
|------|------------------|------|-------|
|      | 1 ♣              | Pass | 1 ♥   |
| 1 ♠  | Dbl <sup>1</sup> | Pass | 2 ♥   |
| 2 ♠  | Pass             | Pass | 3 ♥   |

All pass

1. Support Double, 3-♥s, 12-21 Points

**Contract:** 2 ♥ South, 8 Tricks

**Lead:** ♠ K, Seq., East plays ♠ A

**Losers:** 3-♠, 1-♥, 2-♦, 1-♣ = 7.

**Play:** Dummy ruffs the 3rd ♠ high. South draws trump and finesses the ♦ Q and the ♣ K. The ♣ 4 is discarded on a ♦.