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Bidding Basics

After the takeout doubler bids again

Last month, the takeout doubler bid a second time. What should we do if our partner (the takeout doubler) doubles and then bids again?

The doubler bids notrump:

Opener	Overcaller (Partner)	Resp.	Advancer (You)
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	?

The doubler is showing a no-trump hand with the opponent's suit stopped and about 18–20 HCP (with only 15 to a bad 18, he would have directly overcalled 1NT). We, the "advancer" (the player who bid 1♥), can now pass with a weak hand or bid a new suit (or raise notrump) or repeat the hearts (with five or more). Nothing now by the advancer would be forcing (except for cuebidding the opponent's suit – not very likely). Notice that Stayman and transfers do not apply here. So, after the auction above, advancer would:

Pass with:

♠A 5 ♥10 7 5 3 ♦9 6 4 ♣8 7 3 2

Invite (2NT) with:

♠K 6 ♥Q J 6 3 ♦10 8 5 4 ♣6 5 3

Raise to game (3NT) with:

♠8 5 ♥A K 3 2 ♦10 9 8 5 ♣6 3 2

Bid 2♣ (natural, not forcing, not Stayman) with:

♠5 4 ♥Q 8 5 3 ♦5 2 ♣J 10 8 5 3

Bid 2♥ (weak/to play) with:

♠9 5 4 ♥Q J 10 6 2 ♦9 ♣10 8 4 2

If the doubler doubles then jumps to 2NT, he is showing about 21–23 HCP. Advancer bids accordingly and naturally (pass is possible).

Note that in the following auc-

tion, the doubler hasn't jumped, so is showing about 18–20:

Opener	Overcaller (Partner)	Resp.	Advancer (You)
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

Again, everything is natural and pass is surely possible. Advancer would pass with something like:

♠9 6 5 4 ♥8 5 ♦K 9 6 3 ♣10 5 2,

retreat to 3♦ (nonforcing) with

♠7 6 3 ♥5 4 ♦J 10 9 6 3 2 ♣8 6,

and raise to 3NT with

♠Q 9 ♥8 7 5 ♦K Q 10 6 5 ♣5 3 2.

The doubler bids a suit

If the doubler bids his own suit (not a jump), he shows a five-card or longer suit and about 18–21. Advancer is allowed to pass. All bids are natural. Nothing is forcing except bidding the opponent's suit (not very likely). So, after:

Opener	Overcaller (Partner)	Resp.	Advancer (You)
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

Pass with:

♠8 4 ♥K 7 6 3 ♦8 4 2 ♣9 6 5 3

Bid 1NT with:

♠9 5 ♥K 8 6 4 ♦Q 10 5 4 ♣9 6 5

Bid 2♣ with:

♠8 5 ♥K 8 5 3 ♦7 3 ♣Q 10 7 4 2

Bid 2♥ with:

♠6 ♥K 10 8 5 2 ♦9 5 3 2 ♣Q J 6

Raise to 2♠ with:

♠K 5 4 ♥Q 10 6 3 ♦8 6 4 3 ♣6 2

Raise to 4♠ with:

♠A 8 5 4 ♥Q J 10 2 ♦9 6 4 ♣3 2

If the doubler doubles then jumps, he is showing a very strong hand, but it still isn't forcing. The advancer can pass with real garbage.

Opener	Overcaller (Partner)	Resp.	Advancer (You)
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

The doubler has a huge hand, and you should try to make a noise, unless you have something like:

♠5 4 ♥J 7 6 5 ♦6 3 2 ♣7 6 3 2.

The only way the doubler can force is to double and then cuebid the opponent's suit (this won't happen very often).

What if we, the advancer, have shown values? This is a different story. For example:

Opener	Overcaller (Partner)	Resp.	Advancer (You)
1♦	Dbl	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	?

Our 2♥ bid showed about 9–12. Opener is now inviting (asking if it is closer to 9 or to 12). We can pass if we have a minimum.

Similarly,

Opener	Overcaller (Partner)	Resp.	Advancer (You)
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

2NT would be invitational (looking for something closer to 10 points as opposed to maybe only 6 or 7).

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Bidding Basics Quiz

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Quiz

What is your call after 1♣–Dbl–Pass–1♥; Pass–1NT–Pass with:

1 ♠2 ♥10 8 7 6 5 2 ♦J 5 4 3 ♣3 2

2 ♠Q 10 8 ♥Q 10 7 6 ♦K 2 ♣9 8 7 6

What is your call after 1♠–Dbl–Pass–1NT; Pass–2NT–Pass with:

3 ♠Q J 5 4 ♥Q 3 2 ♦J 3 2 ♣7 6 5

4 ♠K 10 9 8 ♥A 2 ♦J 10 8 ♣10 9 5 4

What is your call after 1♦–Dbl–Pass–1♠; Pass–2♥–Pass with:

5 ♠J 8 7 6 ♥2 ♦8 7 6 5 ♣Q 7 6 2

6 ♠A 9 8 7 ♥K J 2 ♦8 7 6 5 ♣3 2

What is your call after 1♣–Dbl–Pass–1♥; Pass–3♥–Pass with:

7 ♠2 ♥Q 10 8 7 6 ♦4 3 2 ♣J 10 7 6

What is your call after 2♥–Dbl–Pass–2♠; Pass–2NT–Pass with:

8 ♠K J 7 6 ♥J 10 8 7 ♦J 10 2 ♣J 2

Answers:

1 2♥. Must be better to play in hearts than notrump (this doesn't show any strength).

2 3NT. Partner has a good 18 to 20, which means you should go to game.

3 Pass. You have a minimum for the 6–10 you showed.

4 3NT. With the good spot cards, this 8-count should be considered a "maximum."

5 Pass. 2♥ is nonforcing. Leave well enough alone.

6 4♥. You have a huge hand opposite partner's big hand with hearts.

7 4♥. Partner is begging you to go with any crumb – your crumbs (especially the fifth heart and the singleton) are enough.

8 3NT. Same explanation as No. 2. ♣