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# Bidding Basics

## Opener's rebid with a non-minimum after a negative double

**W**hat do we do as the opener after our partner makes a negative double? Last month, we had a minimum. This month, we have more (approximately 16+ total points). To show the negative doubler that we have more than a minimum, we need to jump (or cuebid the opponent's suit). If we as opener don't jump, partner will assume we have a minimum.

Warning: Opener's jump in a new suit after responder's negative double is *not* forcing. Notice that this differs from opener's jumpshift without competition (such as 1♦-1♠; 3♣ which is not only forcing, but game forcing). If opener needs to force after responder's negative double, he can cuebid.

Here are some examples for opener, using the auctions from last month, but with opener now holding a non-minimum:

After 1♦-(1♥)-Dbl-(Pass); ?

(Recall from February that partner's negative double guarantees exactly four spades.)

♠A 10 8 7 ♥2 ♦K Q 8 7 2 ♣K Q 2

2♠. Four spades and more than a minimum; invitational.

♠K 10 ♥K J 10 2 ♦K Q 8 7 ♦A Q 2

2NT. Balanced 18-19 with the opponent's suit stopped.

♠K 3 2 ♥2 ♦A Q 10 7 2 ♣A K 7 6

3♣. Natural, invitational; no, the double didn't promise clubs.

♠A 5 ♥3 2 ♦A Q 10 8 7 6 4 ♣A 2

3♦. Six or more diamonds, invitational.

♠A Q 8 7 ♥K 7 ♦A Q 8 7 6 ♣K 2

4♠. Like raising 1♦-1♠ to 4♠.

After 1♣-(1♠)-Dbl-Pass; ?

♠K J 5 2 ♥K 5 ♦Q 4 3 ♣A K Q 10

2NT. Balanced 18-19 with the opponent's suit stopped.

♠8 6 2 ♥J ♦K Q J ♣A K Q 10 6 5

3♣. Invitational with six or more clubs.

♠A K 2 ♥A K 10 7 ♦6 ♣J 10 8 7 2

3♥. Invitational with four hearts; like raising a 1♥ response to 3♥.

After 1♥-(3♣)-Dbl-(Pass); ?

♠K Q J 2 ♥A Q 9 6 5 ♦A ♣10 8 2

4♠. Natural, too much to bid 3♠, which doesn't promise extras.

♠Q ♥A Q 8 7 2 ♦A K 4 ♣Q 8 7 6

3NT. Natural - not perfect - but a reasonable guess.

♠2 ♥K Q J 10 8 7 ♦A K Q ♣6 5 4

4♥. Too much to bid only 3♥.

♠A K 4 ♥A K 6 5 4 ♦A J 9 2 ♣2

4♣. Some big hand - and hope that we land on our feet.

After 1♥-(4♦)-Dbl-(Pass); ?

♠A Q ♥A Q J 10 7 6 2 ♦A 3 2 ♣2

6♥. Just guessing here, but way too much to settle for only game.

♠2 ♥A K 7 6 5 ♦A J 2 ♣A 7 6 5

Pass. Let's slaughter them - at any vulnerability - rather than guessing what to do. ▶▶

## Newer Players

### QUIZ

This quiz uses the exact same auctions as last month, but this time we have a stronger hand. What is your rebid as opener after  $1\clubsuit$ –( $1\heartsuit$ )–Dbl–(Pass);?

1)  $\spadesuit$ K 10  $\heartsuit$ K 10 2  $\diamondsuit$ A Q 4  $\clubsuit$ A Q 10 7 6

2)  $\spadesuit$ K 4 3 2  $\heartsuit$ A J 3 2  $\diamondsuit$ 2  $\clubsuit$ A Q 8 3

3)  $\spadesuit$ 4  $\heartsuit$ 8 7 6  $\diamondsuit$ A K J  $\clubsuit$ A K J 9 5 4

What is your rebid as opener after  $1\diamondsuit$ –( $2\heartsuit$ )–Dbl–(Pass);?

4)  $\spadesuit$ K  $\heartsuit$ K J 2  $\diamondsuit$ A K 10 7 6  $\clubsuit$ K J 5 4

5)  $\spadesuit$ K Q 10 2  $\heartsuit$ 2  $\diamondsuit$ K J 10 8 2  $\clubsuit$ A Q 2

6)  $\spadesuit$ A 2  $\heartsuit$ 3  $\diamondsuit$ A Q 8 7 6 2  $\clubsuit$ A K 10 7

What is your rebid as opener after  $1\spadesuit$ –( $3\heartsuit$ )–Dbl–(Pass);?

7)  $\spadesuit$ K 7 6 5 4  $\heartsuit$ A Q  $\diamondsuit$ A J 10  $\clubsuit$ A 4 3

8)  $\spadesuit$ A Q J 10 8 7  $\heartsuit$ 4  $\diamondsuit$ A 4 3  $\clubsuit$ A Q 3

### ANSWERS

1) 2NT. 18–19 balanced with their suit stopped.

2) 2 $\spadesuit$ . Too much for only 1 $\spadesuit$ .

3) 3 $\clubsuit$ . Too much for only 2 $\clubsuit$ .

4) 3NT. Too much for only 2NT or 3 $\clubsuit$ .

5) 3 $\spadesuit$ . Too much for only 2 $\spadesuit$  (possibly you should bid 4 $\spadesuit$ ).

6) 3 $\heartsuit$ . Too strong for anything other than driving to game. This cuebid says nothing about hearts.

7) 3NT. The strength here is ambiguous – but that's why people preempt.

8) 4 $\spadesuit$ . Too much for only 3 $\spadesuit$ . ■