



BY LARRY COHEN

larrycohen.com

# Bidding Basics

## Negative doubles – continued

Last month, responder made a negative double. Opener showed a minimum. This month, we will examine what to do after responder makes a negative double and *opener shows extra values*.

First, let's review (see June–July) auctions where opener does show extra values and explain what he shows:

Opener	North	Responder	South
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass
3♥			

Opener could have bid only 2♥ but jumped. This is not a traditional jumpshift (which would be game forcing). This is sort of like raising a 1♥ response to 3♥, thus invitational. Example hands for opener:

♠A J 8 7 ♥Q 10 8 7 ♦A K J 2 ♣2  
♠Q 5 4 ♥K Q J 2 ♦A K Q 2 ♣J 2

Opener	North	Responder	South
1♦	1♥	Dbl	Pass
2NT			

Opener shows a notrump hand with hearts stopped (and denies four spades). It is equivalent to 1♦–1♠; 2NT. Opener could be a little off-shape. Example hands for opener:

♠K Q ♥K J 10 ♦A 10 8 7 6 ♣K Q 2  
♠K ♥A 10 9 2 ♦A Q J 7 6 ♣K 3 2

Opener	North	Responder	South
1♦	1♥	Dbl	Pass
4♠			

This is equivalent to 1♦–1♠; 4♠. Opener is showing a huge hand. Responder could have some 6 or 7-count and opener has insisted on game. Opener likely has something like:

♠A Q 10 2 ♥4 3 ♦A K Q 10 2 ♣A 2.

So, how does responder bid over one of the jumps shown above? None of opener's jumps are forcing (opener must cuebid to force). So, responder can pass with a minimum. He can bid on with extras – everything is natural.

Examples:

① Opener showed more than a minimum; responder can pass or go on. For example, pass with:  
♠10 2 ♥A 6 4 3 ♦10 4 3 ♣K 8 7 6,  
but raise to 4♥ with:

♠K 2 ♥A 9 4 3 ♦J 10 3 ♣10 8 7 6.

② Play opener for roughly 18 HCP, so pass with:

♠A 10 7 6 ♥Q 4 3 ♦9 5 ♣8 7 6 4,  
but raise to 3NT with anything more.

③ Opener has shown a huge hand. Responder will usually pass, but should go on with something like:

♠K J 9 8 ♥A 2 ♦J 9 8 5 ♣K Q 3.

Bid 4NT (RKC). ▶▶

### East hands for the September Bidding Box

Bid these hands with a partner. The West hands are on page 51. The North–South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on page 40–43.

**Problem 1.** North deals. None vul.

♠K J 5 ♥A K Q J 8 ♦Q 10 5 2 ♣10

**Problem 2.** East deals. N–S vul.

♠A 4 2 ♥A K 3 ♦K 6 3 ♣8 7 6 2

**Problem 3.** South deals. E–W vul.

♠K 7 4 ♥A 8 ♦A 9 2 ♣K 9 8 6 2

**Problem 4.** West deals. Both vul.

♠8 2 ♥A K 5 2 ♦K 5 ♣A Q 10 8 6

**Problem 5.** North deals. N–S vul.

♠A J 8 2 ♥K 5 ♦A K 5 4 ♣A K Q

**Problem 6.** East deals. E–W vul.

♠A K 9 5 ♥K 7 5 4 2 ♦A 5 ♣A K

**Problem 7.** South deals. Both vul.

♠Q J 8 6 ♥— ♦9 8 4 ♣K J 9 8 3 2

**Problem 8.** West deals. None vul.

♠A 10 9 8 6 4 ♥J 7 ♦A Q 9 6 ♣3

# Newer Players

## Quiz

What is responder's second call after: 1♦-1♥-Dbl-Pass; 3♣-Pass with:

1) ♠A Q J 6 ♥10 7 6 5 ♦8 3 2 ♣3 2

2) ♠K J 7 6 ♥K J 2 ♦9 2 ♣Q 10 8 7

3) ♠Q 8 7 6 ♥3 ♦A 2 ♣Q 10 8 7 3 2

What is responder's second call after: 1♠-2♦-Dbl-Pass; 3♥-Pass with:

4) ♠Q 2 ♥J 7 6 2 ♦Q 7 6 ♣Q J 7 6

5) ♠A 2 ♥A 10 8 7 ♦J 10 6 5 ♣8 6 2

6) ♠5 ♥K Q 10 2 ♦A K 3 2 ♣K Q J 2

What is responder's second call after: 1♣-1♥-Dbl-Pass; 2NT-Pass with:

7) ♠A 10 9 2 ♥J 4 ♦A J 5 2 ♣A J 6

8) ♠A 10 9 2 ♥K 2 ♦8 7 6 ♣J 10 9 2

## Answers

1) 3♦. Correct back to diamonds (likely to end the auction).

2) 3NT. Opposite extras and with your heart stopper(s), this rates to be right.

3) 5♣. Partner has extras, as do you.

4) Pass. Looks like a lot of garbage; refuse the invitation.

5) 4♥. While not enough to have bid again over only 2♥, this should be enough to accept partner's invitation.

6) 4NT. RKC, likely ending in slam.

7) 6NT. 18+15 = 33.

8) 3NT. 18+8 = 26. ■