

# The Takeout Double

## Takeout Double

*Background, if an opponent has bid before you:*

- You can bid an overcall in a suit if you have a good 5+-card suit and 8-16 HCP.
  - Or you can overcall 1NT with 15-18 HCP and a stopper in the opponent's suit ...
- ... but what should you call with the hand below after a 1♣ opening bid?

♠ KJ65  
 ♥ KQ54  
 ♦ A962  
 ♣ 6

The answer is the **takeout double**.

When an opponent made the last bid in a suit, and it's your turn to bid, instead of bidding an overcall, you may **double** (written as an "X" on the bidding pad).

The double of a suit bid asks partner to choose the best contract from the other suits. This is called a "takeout double", and it shows:

- An opening hand (12+HCP)
- At least 3 cards in each of the unbid suits.

*Tip 10-1: Takeout doubles are Major-oriented, so it's recommended you have 4 cards in the unbid Major (if there is only one, i.e. when an opponent bid the other Major suit).*

- Shortage in opponent's suit (singleton or doubleton)

The above hand is the perfect shape for a takeout double after a 1♣ opening. In practice, your shape can vary from this archetype by swapping a card anywhere between the suits.

## Examples of takeout doubles:

Opponent opens 1♠:

♠ 62  
 ♥ KQ54  
 ♦ A963  
 ♣ KQ9

Opponent opens 1♥:

♠ KQ54  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ AJ9  
 ♣ K9842

Opponent opens 1♦:

♠ AQ8  
 ♥ KJ87  
 ♦ 32  
 ♣ KJ94

*Tip 10-2: If your opponent opens 1NT and you X – this is **not a takeout double**. You are showing more HCP than them (15+), so you expect to defeat their contract. This is a **penalty double**.*

*Advanced tip 10-3: What do you do if your hand is too strong for an overcall? For example, if you have a good 5+ card suit and more than 16 HCP (too good for an overcall)? Or if you have a balanced hand of 19+ HCP (too strong for a 15-18 HCP no trump overcall)? This more advanced topic is covered later in the follow-on Improvers course. The takeout double is used as the first action to show these stronger hands.*

## Responses to a Take-out Double

- Unless an opponent bids **after** the double, **you must bid** – even with **no** points at all!
- Remember that partner has promised support for all the unbid suits.
- Prefer to bid a Major suit rather than a minor suit, if you have a choice.

Bid your best suit at the lowest level	0 - 8	4+ in your suit
Jump Bid	9 -12	4+ in your suit
Jump to Game	13 +	5+ in your suit
Bid 1NT	6 - 10	stopper(s) in opponent's suit
Bid 2NT	11 - 12	sound stopper(s) in opponent's suit
Bid 3NT	13 +	sound stopper(s) in opponent's suit

- If an opponent calls after the double, then you no longer have to bid.
- If you do bid after an opponent calls, you are suggesting responding values of 6+ HCP (at the one-level).
- If you advance the bidding opposite a takeout double, when the opponents have bid after the double, this is called a **free** bid.

## Examples (note – LHO = Left Hand Opponent, RHO = Right Hand Opponent)

LHO opens 1♠, your partner doubles, RHO passes:

1♠, X, –, ?

♠ 632  
♥ 9842  
♦ 63  
♣ J973

*You must bid – prefer the Major to minor, so bid 2♥.*

LHO opens 1♦, your partner doubles, RHO passes:

1♦, X, –, ?

♠ KQJ6  
♥ A73  
♦ 8732  
♣ 73

*Bidding 1♠ here is weak (0-8). Bid 2♠ to show 9-12.*

LHO opens 1♥, your partner doubles, RHO passes:

1♥, X, –, ?

♠ Q3  
♥ KJ72  
♦ 963  
♣ Q973

*Good stoppers in their suit, bid 1NT – shows 6-10 HCP.*

LHO opens 1♣, your partner doubles, RHO bids 1♥:

1♣, X, 1♥, ?

♠ 632  
♥ 984  
♦ J653  
♣ 973

*RHO has released you from obligation to bid, so **pass**!*

LHO opens 1♣, your partner doubles, RHO bids 1♥:

1♣, X, 1♥, ?

♠ KJ96  
♥ K3  
♦ 843  
♣ 8762

*Show your 4 card ♠ support and responding (6+) values with a free bid of 2♠.*

LHO opens 1♣, your partner doubles, RHO bids 2♣:

1♣, X, 2♣, ?

♠ AQ3  
♥ KQ986  
♦ 843  
♣ 87

*Show your 5-card ♥ suit & good invite (9-12) values with a jump bid of 3♥.*

## Module 10 Quiz

### Takeout Doubles

#### 1. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♥), ? The opponents' bid is in brackets

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ 82	♠ AKJ	♠ K542	♠ AQ743	♠ KJ84
♥ Q10842	♥ AQ97	♥ A3	♥ 3	♥ 6
♦ AKJ2	♦ Q6	♦ A107	♦ Q9865	♦ AQ853
♣ 97	♣ 10972	♣ QJ94	♣ K7	♣ K87

#### 2. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♣), X, (pass), ?

The opponents' calls are in brackets and partner has doubled the opening bid

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ 984	♠ K86	♠ 983	♠ AQJ52	♠ K52
♥ J842	♥ KJ98	♥ J102	♥ Q62	♥ Q98
♦ J10962	♦ K965	♦ A53	♦ KJ85	♦ K76
♣ 9	♣ 97	♣ AQ97	♣ 9	♣ AQ95

#### 3. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♥), X, (2♥), ? The opponents' bids are in brackets and partner doubled the opening bid.

The double has been cancelled because the opponents have made a bid after it.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ KQJ2	♠ Q76	♠ AQJ52	♠ J76	♠ 52
♥ 43	♥ 96	♥ 32	♥ 72	♥ 642
♦ K743	♦ K9876	♦ K76	♦ A43	♦ J87
♣ 654	♣ 842	♣ QJ7	♣ KQJ98	♣ K7654