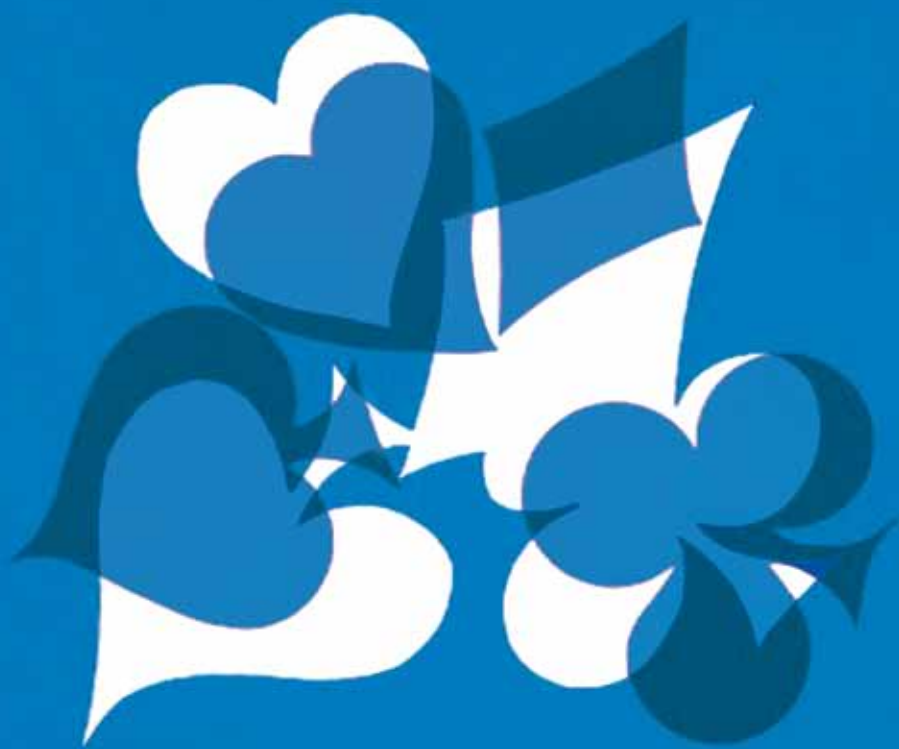


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

TAKEOUT DOUBLES

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Takeout Doubles

Takeout Doubles

A Takeout Double is a double made by an overcaller. An opponent opens the bidding and overcaller says the word “double”. This bid shows:

- Shortness (0-1-2) in the suit opened;
- 11+ points (unless partner is doubling a pre-emptive bid. In that case, the double should show a better hand in either high card points or distribution to compensate for forcing partner to respond at the three or four level); and
- At least three cards in each of the remaining three suits.

Note: If two suits have been bid, double promises four cards in each of the remaining two suits and does not promise specific shortness in any other suit.

If your partner doubles and your right hand opponent (RHO) passes, you must bid. If your RHO bids, you may still bid, but are not required to bid.

Generally, partner to the doubler will bid his longest suit. His high card points (HCPs) determine the level at which he will bid. With:

- 0 to 9 points bid at the cheapest level;

- 9+ to 12 points skip one level; or
- 12+ points consider game somewhere.

One exception is that after your partner has made a Takeout double of a minor suit and partner of the doubler has **10+ points and at least four cards in both majors**; he may cuebid (bid opener's suit) and ask the doubler to bid his longest major. With equal length in the majors and 11-15 points, the doubler would bid hearts.

Occasionally, if your choice is between a major or a minor suit, you might choose to bid your major suit (even if it is shorter) because of the advantage in either scoring or being able to bid at a lower level. An example:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	DBL	Pass	?

Since South passed, regardless of his points, West must bid. West holds:

♠Q765 ♥73 ♦A8543 ♣54

West has longer diamonds, but he can bid spades at the one level and if he is successful in his contract, he will get more points for playing spades than diamonds. West will bid 1♠.

Responder should never choose to bid the suit the opponents have opened. ***Remember, the doubler has shortness in the suit the opponent opened. Doubler will not have support in the opponents' suit.***

Very seldom is it right to play No Trump after a Takeout Double has been bid, especially if the opening bid was one of a major suit since you know the opponents will have a long suit they can lead to establish tricks. Only consider NT when you have:

- A stopper (a high card in the opponents' suit);
- No long suit that you would like to bid; and
- Constructive values (8+ HCP).

After his partner bids, doubler will have another opportunity to bid. The doubler should always keep in mind what his first bid (double) told his partner about his hand and what responder's bid indicated to him.

Doubler needs to consider:

- How many points does responder have?;
- How many cards in the suit did responder promise?; and
- Have the opponent's bid again?

The *'Winning Bridge Conventions'* Series

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Takeout Doubles

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers Takeout Doubles.



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