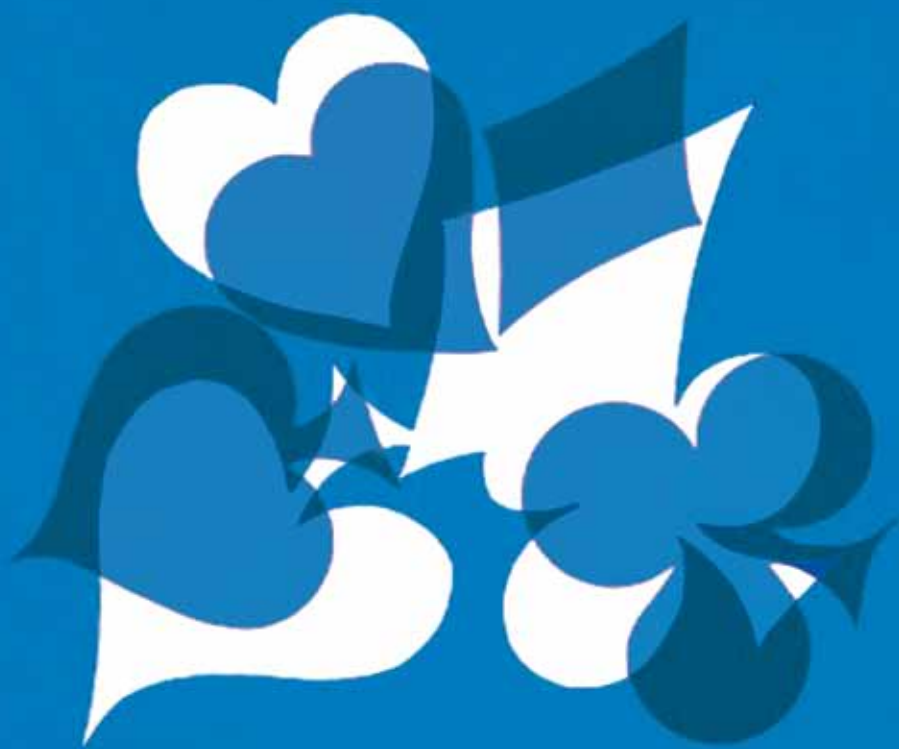


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

NEGATIVE DOUBLES

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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These booklets may be purchased as a single volume in digital or paper format under the title *Competitive Doubles*, one of eight books in Patty Tucker's Winning Bridge Conventions Series.

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Negative Doubles

Negative Doubles

A Negative Double is a double made by responder to opener. This double occurs after opener opens the bidding with one of a suit and their left hand opponent overcalls a suit. Responder promises enough points (6+ HCPs) to have responded to the opening bidder. Traditionally, a Negative Double promised at least four cards in the remaining two unbid suits, not the suit partner opened and not the suit overcaller bid.

In modern bridge we've changed this just a little due to our infatuation with finding a major suit fit. Here are the modern rules:

If two major suits have been bid, double promises both minor suits, at least four cards in each. An example:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	1♠	?	

South holds:

♠765 ♥73 ♦A743 ♣Q542

South would say the word “double”. Since South is responder, this double must be a Negative Double showing 4+ diamonds, 4+ clubs and 6+ points.

If two minor suits have been bid, double promises both major suits, at least four cards in each. An example:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♦	2♣	?	

South holds:

♠Q765 ♥A973 ♦K3 ♣A52

South would say the word “double”. Since South is responder, this double must be a Negative Double showing 4+ spades, 4+ hearts and 6+ points

Here is our change in modern bidding methods: ***if one major has been bid, double promises at least four cards in the unbid major.***

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	2♣	?	

South holds:

♠Q765 ♥73 ♦A43 ♣8542

South would say the word “double”. Since South is responder, this double must be a Negative Double showing 4+ spades and 6+ points.

Note that South would also say double if his hand were:

♠Q7654 ♥73 ♦A43 ♣852

Since bidding a new suit at the two level would have promised **10+ points** (South only has 6 points), and a 5+ card suit, double is the only bid that allows South to tell his partner that he has a spade suit.

Note that South would also double if his hand were:

♠Q764 ♥73 ♦AKJ3 ♣852

Since bidding a new suit at the two level would have promised 10+ points and a **5+ card suit** (South only has four spades), double is the only bid that allows South to tell his partner that he has a spade suit.

Another example:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	1♠	?	

South would say the word “double”. Since South is responder, this double must be a Negative Double showing 4+ hearts and 6+ points

The *'Winning Bridge Conventions'* Series

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Negative 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 Negative Doubles.



PATTY TUCKER (Dunwoody, Georgia) is an ABTA Master Bridge Teacher and cofounder of Whirlwind Bridge and Atlanta Junior Bridge. Her success at the bridge table culminated in her victory in the 2000 Baldwin Flight A North American Open Pairs with long-time bridge partner Kevin Collins. Patty and Kevin were married in 2006.