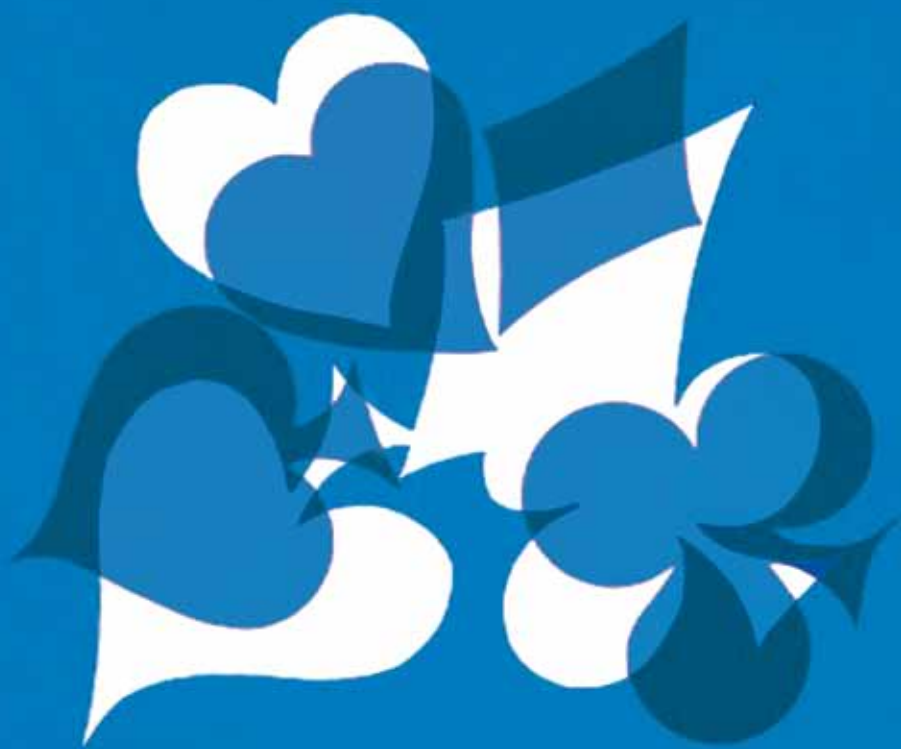


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

BALANCING DOUBLES AND RE-OPENING DOUBLES

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Takeout Doubles

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Responsive Doubles and Snapdragon Doubles

Balancing Doubles and Re-opening Doubles

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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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Balancing Doubles

Balancing Doubles

A Balancing Double is a takeout double made by overcaller. Balancing Doubles are generally thought to occur when an opponent opens the bidding and the auction comes around to you at a low level. The primary motivating factor in balancing is to force the opponents to bid to a higher level in order to win the contract. Hopefully they will bid high enough that you have an opportunity to set them.

The premise is that it is almost never right to allow the opponents to play at a low level when you have shortness in their suit. In all of the auctions below, notice that the opponents have limited their hands to minimum values and the expectation is that East/West have at least half of the high card points available in the hand. Double allows East/West to enter the auction as safely as possible and to find their best fit.

Hand 1

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl

Double is a Balancing Double for takeout (asking partner to bid), but could be weaker than the values a Takeout Double would have shown in the direct seat (East was in the direct seat.).

Hand 2

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl		

Double is a Balancing Double for takeout (asking partner to bid), but since East did not double in direct seat (his first opportunity to double), it is either weaker (less than 11 points) or off-shape (not the expected distribution of shortness in hearts and at least three cards in the remaining three suits).

Hand 3

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1N	Dbl		

Double is a Balancing Double, asking partner to bid one of the minor suits but could be weaker hand than a Takeout Double would have shown in direct seat (Direct seat would have been at East's first opportunity to double.)

Hand 4

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1N	Pass	Pass	Dbl

Double is takeout for the minor suits but weaker than Hand 3, since West could have doubled 1♠ showing the minors if he had the required values to double at his first opportunity to bid.

The *'Winning Bridge Conventions'* Series

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Balancing Doubles and Re-opening 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 Balancing Doubles and Re-opening 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.