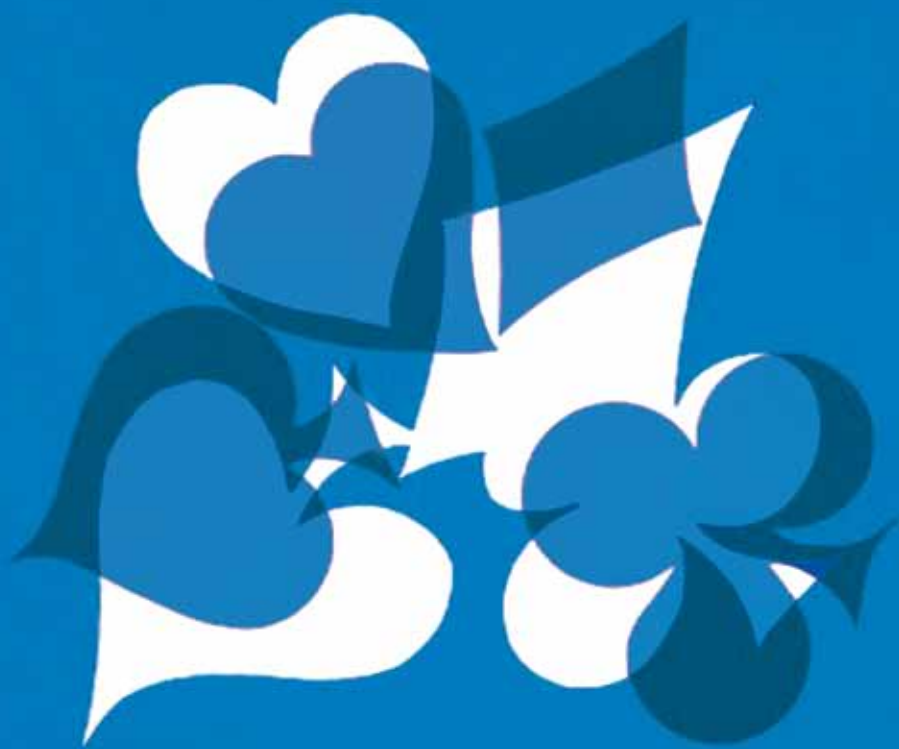


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

SUPPORT DOUBLES

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Support Doubles

Support Doubles

Support Doubles, created by Eric Rodwell, is one of the most useful doubles in bridge. It is a double made by opener, after an opponent has overcalled a suit. It is used to show three-card support for the suit bid by responder. The premise behind a Support Double is that opener is unlikely to have a hand that wanted to make a penalty double of the opponent's suit at the two-level. Since that is unlikely, let's use the double to convey information that may be valuable to our side.

Example:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣ | P | 1♥ | 1♠ |

Dbl *

* A "Support Double" promising three hearts

Here are the rules concerning Support Doubles:

- Opener must have opened one of some suit;
- Responder must have bid one of some suit;
- It is unlimited in high card values (though of course opener has an opening hand);
- It shows exactly three card support;

- It does not deny length in any other suit, nor promise shortness in any other suit;
- It can only be made when the suit overcalled is below the two level of the suit responder bid; and
- It can also be a “Support Redouble” if the overcall was the bid “double”.

Opener’s bid must have been 1♣/1♦/1♥/1♠ - Support Doubles are not made unless opener’s first bid was a one-level suit bid.

Responder’s bid must have been 1♦/1♥/1♠ - Support Doubles are not made unless responder’s first bid was a one-level suit bid.

Unlimited High Card Values–the Support Double can be made with an 11-point hand or up to a 20-point hand. Responder is not allowed to pass the support double (unless his right hand opponent bids) so opener will always have another opportunity to show the value of his hand.

Exactly Three Card Support – with four or more cards in responder’s suit simply raise to the appropriate level. With less than three cards in responder’s suit simply make your most natural bid...which may be pass.

No Length or Shortness is Promised in any Other Suit – opener may have a four-card major or a five-card minor (or longer). Opener's Support Double simply says, I have three cards in responder's suit. Since responder must bid after the double, opener will have other opportunities to show his length in other suits if needed.

The Overcall Must be Below the Two Level of Responder's Suit – since responder may end up playing a seven-card fit in some instances, opener would not want to force the responder to play at the three level. Therefore, the overcall must allow responder to be able to bid his suit at the two level.

Two examples:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣ | P | 1♥ | 2♦ |

Dbl *

*A Support Double since South could bid 2♥ over the 2♦ bid.

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣ | P | 1♥ | 2♠ |

Dbl **

****Not** a support double as South would be forced to the three level if he wanted to bid hearts.

The *'Winning Bridge Conventions'* Series

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Support 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 Support 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.