

Negative Doubles II

As noted in Part I, you don't give up penalty doubles when playing Negative Doubles. Here's how it works: after your partner passes an overcall by your LHO, for example: 1♦ - 2♣ - P - P and, it is your turn. What is your call? Your responsibility, playing this convention, is to "re-open" the bidding by making a double. This is a type of take-out double. However, it is a flexible bid which allows Responder to "convert" it to penalty double by passing with an appropriate holding. In this example, imagine Responder holds this hand:

♠AQ6 ♥J98 ♦5 ♣KJT876

Responder wants to penalize the 2♣ overcall, but a double would be interpreted as a Negative Double showing both majors. Instead, Responder passes in tempo (very important) and waits for Opener's rebid, which should typically be a double. Now Responder converts it to a penalty double.

The guideline requirements for a re-opening double by Opener:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Shortness in Overcaller's suit; typically a singleton or a doubleton<input type="checkbox"/> A hand with two or more quick tricks<input type="checkbox"/> Is not a hand which was opened based solely on a very long suit (7+) |
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Responder must avoid converting re-opening doubles to penalty when holding support for Opener's suit, even when holding something of a "trump stack." In other words, as Responder you want to perceive a misfit with Opener.

Vulnerability is a significant factor in deciding whether to play for a penalty or a game bonus. If the opponents are vulnerable and you are not, a two trick set doubled will be a better score than any other pair your way making game.

Quiz 9

Both Vulnerable. Assume your partner opens the bidding and RHO overcalls. Fill in your call.

	Bidding	Your Hand	Your Call		Bidding	Your Hand	Your Call
1.	1♠ - 2♥	♠ Q ♥ AQ9746 ♦ KT64 ♣ 97		2.	1♣ - 2♦	♠ Q92 ♥ AJ9 ♦ KQT83 ♣ J5	
3.	1♦ - 2♥	♠ KJT2 ♥ AQ ♦ T52 ♣ KJ76		4.	1♠ - 2♦	♠ Q8 ♥ AQ9746 ♦ KJ64 ♣ 9	

Only you are Vulnerable. Assume you open the bidding and the bidding proceeds as shown. What is your rebid?

	Bidding	Your Hand	Your Call		Bidding	Your Hand	Your Call
5.	1♣ - 1♦ - X - P ?	♠ KQ75 ♥ AK96 ♦ T ♣ K652		6.	1♥ - 2♦ - P - P ?	♠ J97 ♥ AKQJ746 ♦ 6 ♣ K3	
7.	1♠ - 2♣ - X - P ?	♠ AK986 ♥ 94 ♦ 4 ♣ KJT96		8.	1♥ - 2♦ - P - P ?	♠ K862 ♥ AQ974 ♦ T97 ♣ A	