



### Bidding after an opponent's takeout double

Suppose that you are sitting South and your partner, North, opens the bidding (with 1♦ for example) and East makes a **takeout double**. You have to decide what call to make. Should you make the same call that you would have made if East had **passed** or does East's **takeout double** change the strategy that you should employ on certain hands?

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	?

The first thought that might cross your mind is that East's **takeout double** does not remove any of the options you would have had if he had **passed** instead. You can still **pass** if you want and you can still make any call between 1♥ and 7NT. While all of this is true, East's **takeout double** affects the choices that you have in 2 ways:

1. You could **redouble** - a call that would not have been available if East had **passed**.

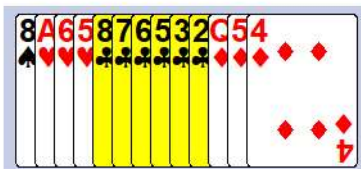
2. If you **pass** here you can be fairly certain that you will get another chance to **bid** later. That would not be the case if East had **passed** instead of making a **takeout double**.

The fact that you can now **redouble** has a lot of implications as far as your other possible actions go. The fact that you can **pass** and expect to have another chance to **bid** is not particularly relevant on most hands that you will be dealt when the **bidding** goes this way.

However, there are some hands where you would **respond** to North's **opening bid** if East had **passed**, but that you should be happy to **pass** if instead East makes a **takeout double**. This is really a matter of **judgment** as opposed to your choice of **bidding system**.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	?

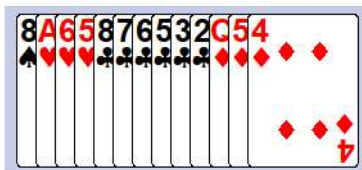


Consider this hand for example. With 6 HCP and 2 **long suit points** for the 6-card club suit, this hand is worth **8 total points**. 6 **total points** is enough to keep the **bidding** alive when your **partner opens** so it seems that you should do *something* with this hand after North's 1♦ **opening bid**.

However, there are some hands where you would **respond** to North's **opening bid** if East had **passed**, but that you should be happy to **pass** if instead East makes a **takeout double**. This is really a matter of **judgment** as opposed to your choice of **bidding system**.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1NT

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Pass



Consider this hand for example. With 6 HCP and 2 long suit points for the 6-card club suit, this hand is worth 8 total points. 6 total points is enough to keep the **bidding** alive when your **partner opens** so it seems that you should do *something* with this hand after North's 1♦ opening bid.

Unfortunately, there is no satisfying **bid** that you can make. Your **partner** would expect you to have at least 4 cards in hearts for a 1♥ response and you should not **raise** his **minor suit** to 2♦ without at least 4-card **support**. You do have a 6-card club suit, but you would need a much better hand (or at least much better clubs) to make a **two over one response** of 2♣. 1NT is the correct **bid** with this hand, but with a **singleton** in spades that call is not exactly appetizing.

Once East makes a **takeout double** of 1♦, things are different. You can now **pass** and be confident that you will have another chance to **bid**. You can **bid** at your next turn if your **judgment** tells you to do so. The fact that your **partner** will have another turn to **bid** before you do will help make your decision easier on the next round of **bidding**.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1NT

West	North	East	South
	1♦	DbI	1NT

The 1NT **response** to an **opening bid** is really a catchall for hands that are too strong to **pass**, too weak to **bid** a new suit at the 2-level, and have the wrong distribution for any other action. After a **takeout double** the 1NT **response** is different:

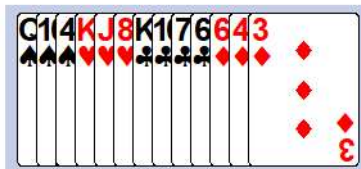


West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1NT

West	North	East	South
	1♦	DbI	1NT

The 1NT response to an opening bid is really a catchall for hands that are too strong to pass, too weak to bid a new suit at the 2-level, and have the wrong distribution for any other action. After a takeout double the 1NT response is different:

After your partner opens the bidding and the next hand makes a takeout double, do not bid 1NT unless you want to bid 1NT!



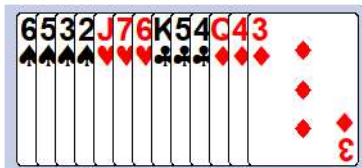
You might want to bid 1NT if you had a hand that looked like this (that is, a balanced hand with sound values for a response and stoppers in the unbid suits).

Whether or not you should bid 1NT over a takeout double is a matter of judgment more than anything else. One way to think about this situation is to ask yourself if you would be happy if 1NT became the final contract. If the answer to that question is "yes" then 1NT is probably a good bid to make! If the answer to that question is "no" then you would probably be better off passing.

Here is another example of the same principle:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	?

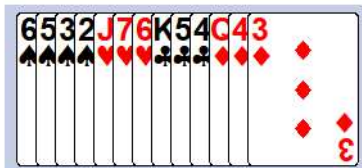
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbf	?

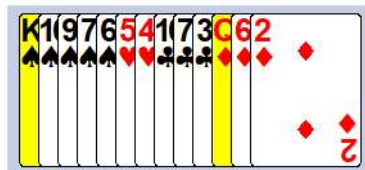


Here is another example of the same principle:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	?

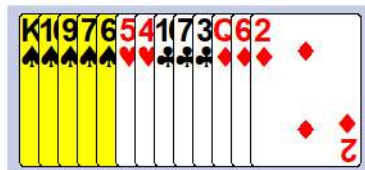
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbf	?





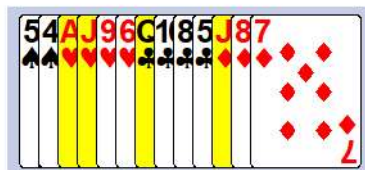
This hand, for example, has 5 HCP

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Dbl	?



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	1♠

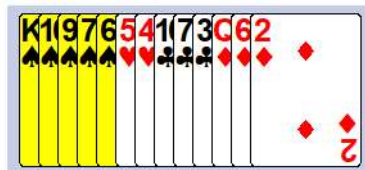
This hand, for example, has 5 **HCP** and 1 **long suit point** for the 5-card spade suit. 6 **total points** is the very minimum you can have for a **response** to an **opening bid**, but you should still **respond 1♠** even after East's **takeout double**. Even though your hand is not very strong, you do have a reasonable 5-card spade suit and you should not mind if your **partner** feels inclined to **raise** you.



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	?

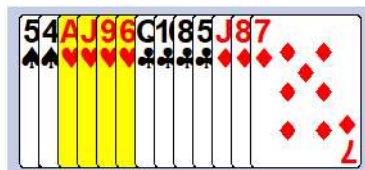
This next hand, with 8 **HCP**, is a little stronger than the first example.





West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	1♠

This hand, for example, has 5 **HCP** and 1 **long suit point** for the 5-card spade suit. 6 **total points** is the very minimum you can have for a **response** to an **opening bid**, but you should still **respond 1♠** even after East's **takeout double**. Even though your hand is not very strong, you do have a reasonable 5-card spade suit and you should not mind if your **partner** feels inclined to **raise** you.



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	1♥

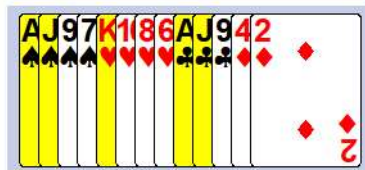
This next hand, with 8 **HCP**, is a little stronger than the first example. The heart suit contains only 4 cards, but as far as 4-card suits go, this one is pretty strong. You should **respond 1♥** over East's **takeout double**, just like you would if East had **passed**. If your **partner** has heart **support** and wants to **raise**, you should not be afraid to be the **declarer** in a **contract** with hearts as the **trump suit**.

The responder's ability to pass over an opponent's takeout double on some hands with which he would have responded in the absence of a takeout double does have some impact on the responder's strategy. However, the fact that the responder has a new call available (the redouble) has much more serious implications in these competitive auctions.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbi	Rdbl

With most hands containing 10 or more HCP the responder should redouble when an opponent makes a takeout double of his partner's opening bid.

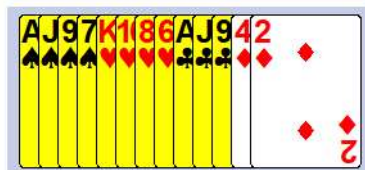
Here is an example of the **redouble** in action:



This hand has 13 **HCP**

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	?

Here is an example of the **redouble** in action:

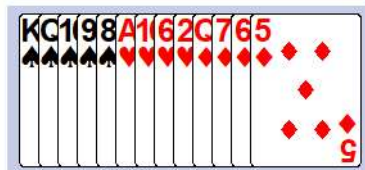


West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Rdbl

This hand has 13 **HCP** and strong holdings in each of the 3 **unbid suits**. While it would be safe to **bid** a forcing 1♥ with this hand, that would be letting the **opponents** off the hook. Given North's **opening bid**, East's **takeout double**, and the strength of the **responder's hand**, there is very little in the way of high cards left for West to hold. It appears that East picked a bad moment to enter the **bidding**. You should make him pay for trying to disrupt your **constructive auction**!

You should **redouble** to let your **partner** know that you have at least 10 **HCP**. Furthermore, you should be prepared to **double** the **opponents** wherever they choose to play.

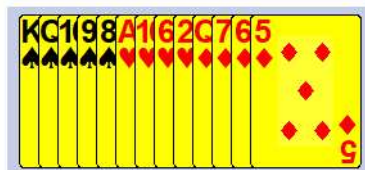
Do not think that you have to **redouble** every time you have 10 or more **HCP**. For example:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	?



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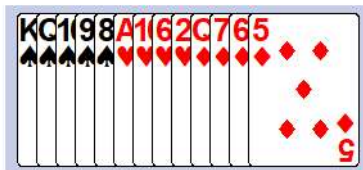
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	1♠

This hand has 11 **HCP** which is more than enough to **redouble** over East's **takeout double** of your **partner's 1♦ opening bid**. However, with this particular hand it would be a mistake to **redouble**. Instead you should start by **bidding 1♠** just like you would have done if East had **passed**. As we have seen, **bidding** a new suit at the 1-level over an **opponent's takeout double** is **forcing** - your **partner** cannot **pass** you in 1♠.

This hand is strongly oriented toward offense (as opposed to **defense**) and there are a lot of things you would like to tell your **partner** about your hand. Exploring for an **8-card major suit fit** in spades or hearts should be your first priority. If such a **fit** cannot be found, you will want to tell your **partner** about your excellent **support** for his diamond suit.

This hand has several important features to describe and you should start describing these as soon as possible. **Redoubling** would only complicate the **bidding** and make it harder for you to tell your **partner** everything he should know about your hand. Furthermore, the **opponents** are certain to have a good **fit** in clubs. Even if your **partner** makes a **penalty double** of a club **contract**, you should not want to **defend** with a **void** in their **trump suit**.

The last hand we looked at is a rather extreme example of the type of hand with which you should not **redouble** despite having 10 or more **HCP**.



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbf	1♠

There are no firm rules about when the **responder** should **redouble** and when he should ignore the **opponent's takeout double** and try to **bid** his hand as he would have if there had been no **takeout double**. The decision about whether or not to **redouble** is really a matter of **judgment**. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

**Redouble** is a suggestion that your **partnership** should consider **doubling** the **opponents**. If your hand is oriented toward offense (instead of **defense**), it is usually best not to **redouble**.

**Balanced** hands, especially those that lack strong **support** for the **opener's** suit, are good hands with which to **redouble**.

Having a **singleton** or **void** in an **unbid** suit is a sign that a **redouble** may not be best. The **opponents** are very likely to have a good **trump fit** in the **responder's** short suit.

Remember that failure to **redouble** does not deny holding 10 or more **HCP**!

Consider the following actions for the **responder** after his **partner opens the bidding** and the next hand makes a **takeout double**. In each case the **responder's bid** would usually suggest a hand with at least 10 **HCP** if there had been no **takeout double**:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2♣

A two over one response in a new suit

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2♠

A jump shift response

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2NT

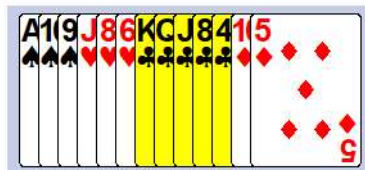
A jump to 2NT

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	3♦

A limit raise

When East makes a **takeout double**, South has a way of telling his **partner** that he has a strong hand (he can **redouble**). It therefore makes sense to use the **responses** that would show a strong hand in the absence of a **takeout double** for some other purpose once a **takeout double** is made. In the **SAYC bidding system**, the meanings of South's actions in the 4 **auctions** above change as a result of East's **takeout double**.

Consider this hand for example:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	?

With 11 HCP and 1 **long suit point** for the 5-card club suit, this hand has 12 **total points** which is more than enough to **respond by bidding** a new suit at the 2-level.

Consider this hand for example:



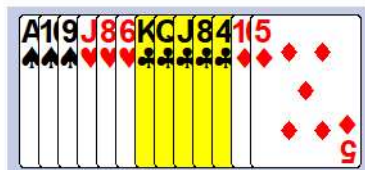
West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Dbl	Rdbl

With 11 HCP and 1 long suit point for the 5-card club suit, this hand has 12 total points which is more than enough to **respond** by **bidding** a new suit at the 2-level. When East **passes** over North's 1 ♦ opening bid, South should **respond** 2 ♣ to tell his **partner** about both his general strength and his strong clubs.

It's a different story if East makes a **takeout double** over North's 1 ♦ opening bid. The **responder** now has another option available that he can use to tell his **partner** that he has a good hand - he can **redouble**.



Consider this hand for example:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Rdbl

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It's a different story if East makes a **takeout double** over North's 1♦ opening bid. The **responder** now has another option available that he can use to tell his partner that he has a good hand - he can **redouble**. With this hand the **responder's major suits** are not quite strong enough to **double** the opponents in 1♥ or 1♠, but he will certainly be happy to **pass** such a **double** if his partner can make one. If **doubling** the opponents is not in the cards, the responder can always **bid** his clubs at his next opportunity.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2♣

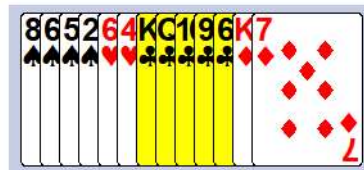
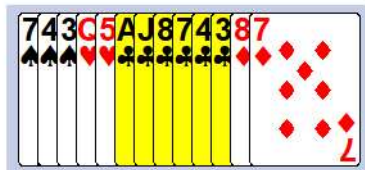
The lesson here is that with most of the hands with which the responder would bid 2♣ if East had **passed**, he can **redouble** once East makes a **takeout double**. It

therefore makes sense to assign a new meaning to the **bid** of a new suit at the 2-level over an opponent's **takeout double** of a 1-level opening bid.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbf	2♣

After an **opponent's takeout double**, a **response** in a new suit at the 2-level shows less than 10 **HCP** with either a very strong 5-card suit or (more likely) at least a 6-card suit.

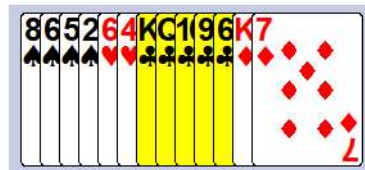
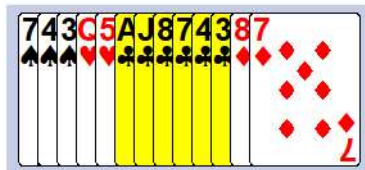
Here are some examples of hands that would be suitable for **bidding 2♣** in the above **auction**:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbf	2♣

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Here are some examples of hands that would be suitable for **bidding 2♣** in the above auction:

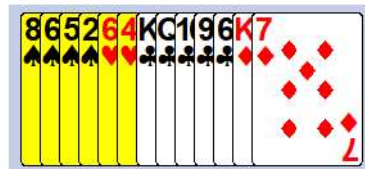
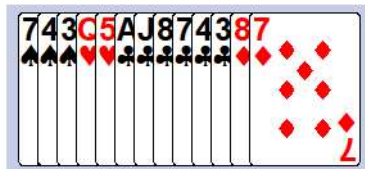


The first hand, with 7 **HCP** and a 6-card club suit, is a classic example of the type of hand you should expect your **partner** to have when he **bids** a new suit at the 2-level after an **opponent's takeout double**. The second hand is less typical, but 2♣ is still the recommended call with this 8 **HCP** hand. This hand has only 5 clubs, but the clubs it has are very strong.

**A new suit at the 2-level after an opponent's takeout double is non-forcing.**

So a 2♣ **response** in the auction above could end the **bidding**. The **opener** is not obliged to **bid** again since, once East makes a **takeout double**, the 2♣ **response** becomes **non-forcing**.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbf	2♣

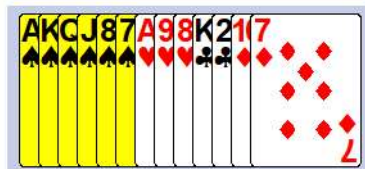


A good question to ask yourself when you are considering **bidding** a new suit at the 2-level over an **opponent's takeout double** is: Will you be happy if the other 3 players **pass**?

If the answer to this question is yes, then you should go ahead and **bid**. If the answer to this question is no, then you should either **pass** or find a more attractive **bid** to make. Both of the hands shown above pass this test. Both of these hands rate to win several **tricks** with clubs as **trump** and neither of these hands is especially strong **defensively** against a possible **major suit contract** by the **opponents**.

Don't worry about the 4-card **major** in the second hand. The spades are so weak compared to the clubs that your **judgment** should tell you to ignore the **major suit** in this case. As for the alternative of **bidding 1NT**, this hand has the right number of **high card points** for that **bid**, but with no semblance of a **stopper** in either **major suit**, a **notrump contract** does not rate to play very well with this hand as the **declarer**.

The **jump shift response** to an **opening bid** is another example of a **bid** that should have a different meaning when there has been a **takeout double**:

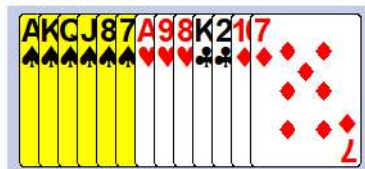


West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♠

This hand, with 17 HCP and a solid 6-card spade suit, is perfect for an immediate **jump shift response** of 2♠ after a 1♦ opening bid. The **jump shift** sends an immediate message to the opening bidder that there may well be a **slam** in the cards.



The **jump shift response** to an **opening bid** is another example of a **bid** that should have a different meaning when there has been a **takeout double**:

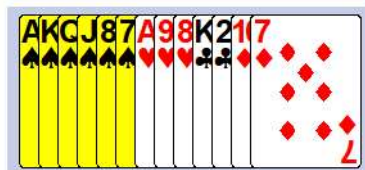


West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2♠

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There is almost no case for using a **jump shift** in this way when an **opponent** makes a **takeout double** of the **opening bid**. For one thing, you will almost never be dealt a hand this strong when the **bidding** goes this way.

The **jump shift response** to an **opening bid** is another example of a **bid** that should have a different meaning when there has been a **takeout double**:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Rdbl

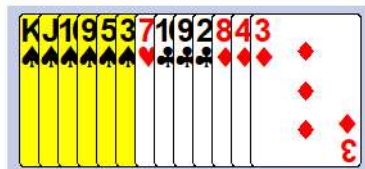
This hand, with 17 **HCP** and a solid 6-card spade suit, is perfect for an immediate **jump shift response** of 2♠ after a 1♦ **opening bid**. The **jump shift** sends an immediate message to the **opening bidder** that there may well be a **slam** in the cards.

There is almost no case for using a **jump shift** in this way when an **opponent** makes a **takeout double** of the **opening bid**. For one thing, you will almost never be dealt a hand this strong when the **bidding** goes this way. In the unlikely event that you are ever dealt such a strong hand after an **opponent's takeout double**, you can start by **redoubling** and plan to **jump** in spades at your next opportunity to **bid**.

Therefore, it makes good sense to use the **jump shift response** after a **takeout double** to describe a different type of hand. The **SAYC bidding system** uses a **jump shift** as **preemptive** in this situation.

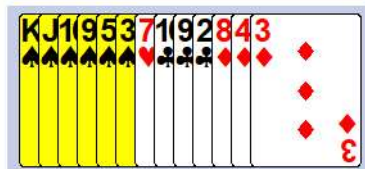
**A jump shift after an opponent's takeout double is preemptive. The responder would typically have a good 6-card suit and around 4-6 HCP to make this call.**

Here is a typical hand that would be suitable for a **preemptive jump shift** to 2♠ after a 1♦ opening bid by your partner and a **takeout double** by one of the opponents:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2♠

Here is a typical hand that would be suitable for a **preemptive jump shift** to 2♠ after a 1♦ opening bid by your partner and a takeout double by one of the opponents:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2♠

This hand has only 4 HCP, but it is likely to win at least 4 tricks with spades as trump even opposite a very poor spade holding (like a low singleton). There are several reasons why a preemptive jump shift to 2♠ might be effective:

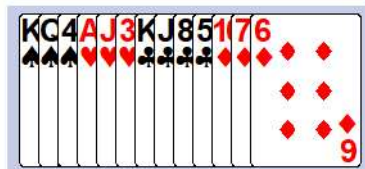
You might make 2♠. Your partner's hand will be able to win some tricks with high cards. You are going to win some tricks with trumps. Together you might just win 8 tricks in 2♠!

2♠ provides an accurate description of your hand. Your partner will be well-placed to know if he should bid anymore regardless of whether the opponents bid again or not.

2♠ takes up a lot of bidding space. The opponents may have a difficult time entering the auction or discovering their best contract as a result of your jump.

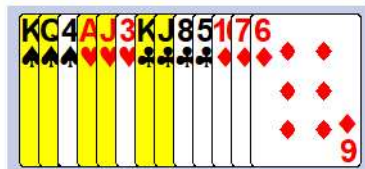
Hopefully you have been convinced that using the jump shift here as preemptive has a lot going for it. Just make sure you do not abuse this bid! If you had another Ace, for example, your hand would be too strong for 2♠. A simple (and forcing) 1♠ would be the correct bid in this case.

The 2NT **response** to a 1-level **opening bid** is perhaps the clearest example of a **bid** that should have a different meaning over an **opponent's takeout double**:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2NT

The 2NT **response** to a 1-level **opening bid** is perhaps the clearest example of a **bid** that should have a different meaning over an **opponent's takeout double**:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2NT

This **balanced** hand with 14 **HCP**, no 4-card **major**, and **stoppers** in all of the **unbid** suits is perfect for a **jump** to 2NT after your **partner opens** 1♦ and the next hand **passes**. 2NT is **forcing to game** and gives your **partner** a perfect description of your hand.

Before we get into the hows and whys of using a **jump** to 2NT over an **opponent's takeout double** to describe at least a **limit raise** in **support** of the suit that your **partner opened**, here are some important things you should know about this **bid**:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2NT

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbl	2NT



Before we get into the hows and whys of using a **jump** to 2NT over an **opponent's takeout double** to describe at least a **limit raise** in **support** of the suit that your **partner opened**, here are some important things you should know about this **bid**:

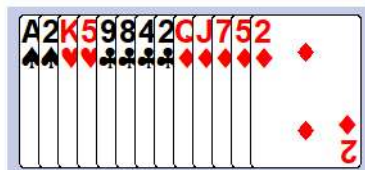
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2NT

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbl	2NT

When the **opening bid** was a **minor**, the 2NT **bid** promises at least 5-card **support**.  
When the **opening bid** was a **major**, the 2NT **bid** promises at least 4-card **support**.

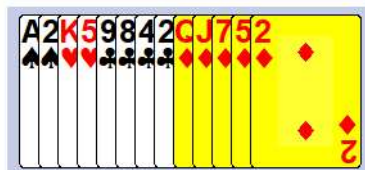
With a **limit raise** that includes 4-card **support** for **partner's minor** or 3-card **support** for his **major**, start with **redouble** and then **raise** his suit at your next opportunity to **bid**.

If your **partner opens the bidding** with 1 of a suit and the next hand **passes**, a **jump raise to 3** of your **partner's suit** shows a **limit raise**. For example:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	3♦

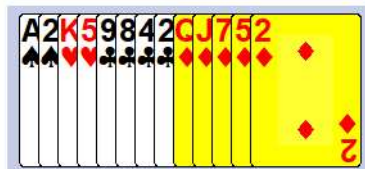
If your **partner opens the bidding** with 1 of a suit and the next hand **passes**, a **jump raise to 3** of your **partner's suit** shows a **limit raise**. For example:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	3♦

This hand has 10 **HCP** and 2 **short suit points** for the 2 **doubletons** (remember to use **short suit points** instead of **long suit points** when you are thinking of **raising your partner**). With 12 **total points** and 5-card diamond **support**, this hand is ideal for a **limit raise of 3♦**.

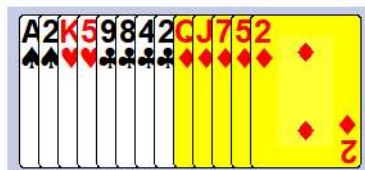
If your **partner opens the bidding** with 1 of a suit and the next hand **passes**, a **jump raise to 3** of your **partner's suit** shows a **limit raise**. For example:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	DbI	2NT

This hand has 10 **HCP** and 2 **short suit points** for the 2 **doubletons** (remember to use **short suit points** instead of **long suit points** when you are thinking of **raising your partner**). With 12 **total points** and 5-card **diamond support**, this hand is ideal for a **limit raise of 3♦**. However, you have just been told that if East makes a **takeout double of 1♦**, the way to show your 5-card **limit raise** in **SAYC** is with a **jump to 2NT**.

If your **partner opens the bidding** with 1 of a suit and the next hand **passes**, a **jump raise** to 3 of your **partner's suit** shows a **limit raise**. For example:



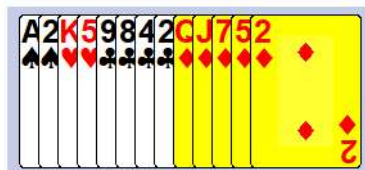
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2NT

This hand has 10 **HCP** and 2 **short suit points** for the 2 **doubletons** (remember to use **short suit points** instead of **long suit points** when you are thinking of **raising your partner**). With 12 **total points** and 5-card **diamond support**, this hand is ideal for a **limit raise** of 3♦. However, you have just been told that if East makes a **takeout double** of 1♦, the way to show your 5-card **limit raise** in **SAYC** is with a **jump** to 2NT.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	3♦

Are you wondering what it means in **SAYC** if you **jump raise** your **partner's 1-level opening bid** to the 3-level after an **opponent makes a takeout double**?

If your **partner opens the bidding** with 1 of a suit and the next hand **passes**, a **jump raise to 3** of your **partner's suit** shows a **limit raise**. For example:



West	North	East	South
	1♦	DbI	2NT

This hand has 10 **HCP** and 2 **short suit points** for the 2 **doubletons** (remember to use **short suit points** instead of **long suit points** when you are thinking of **raising your partner**). With 12 **total points** and 5-card **diamond support**, this hand is ideal for a **limit raise of 3♦**. However, you have just been told that if East makes a **takeout double of 1♦**, the way to show your 5-card **limit raise in SAYC** is with a **jump to 2NT**.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	DbI	3♦

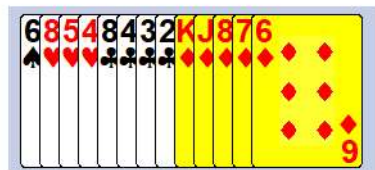
Are you wondering what it means in **SAYC** if you **jump raise your partner's 1-level opening bid to the 3-level** after an opponent makes a **takeout double**?

A **jump raise of the opener's suit over an opponent's takeout double is preemptive**. The **responder should have roughly 5-8 points in support of his partner** for this action.

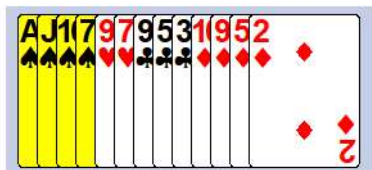


Here are some examples of hands that are appropriate for a **preemptive jump raise** after an **opponent's takeout double**:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	3♦



West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbl	3♠

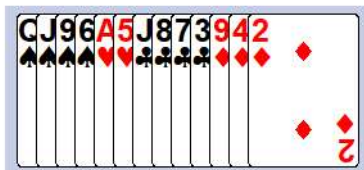


The first hand has only 4 HCP, but the **singleton spade** is worth 3 **support points**. With 7 **total points in support** of diamonds and 5 **trumps**, this hand is typical for a **preemptive jump raise** to 3♦. Since diamonds is a **minor suit**, 3♦ here promises to deliver at least 5-card **support**. If you had a similar hand with 1 less diamond, you would have to content yourself with a simple **raise** to 2♦.

The second hand has 5 HCP and 1 **support point** for the **doubleton heart**. With 6 **total points in support** of spades and 4 nice **trumps**, a **preemptive jump raise** of 3♠ is the **bid of choice**. Since spades is a **major suit**, 4-card **support** is sufficient for a **jump** to 3♠ over East's **takeout double**. If you had a similar hand with only 3 spades then **raising** to only 2♠ would be correct.



In each of the following exercises, your **partner opens the bidding** with 1 of a suit and the next hand makes a **takeout double**. What call would you make with each of the following hands?



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	?

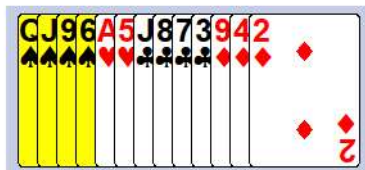
What call would you make?

Pass
Rdbl

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

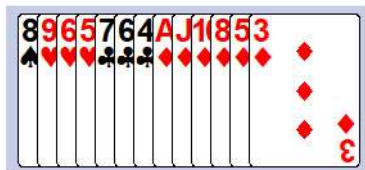
Tell me

In each of the following exercises, your **partner opens the bidding** with 1 of a suit and the next hand makes a **takeout double**. What call would you make with each of the following hands?



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	1♠

**Bid 1♠**, the same bid that you would have made if East had **passed**. The alternative of 1NT is not horrible with this **balanced** hand, but your **partnership** could still have an 8-card spade fit. **Bidding** 1NT here would tend to deny a 4-card **major** of any reasonable strength.



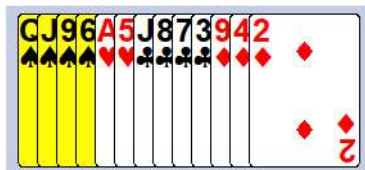
West	North	East	South
	1♣	Dbl	?

What call would you make?



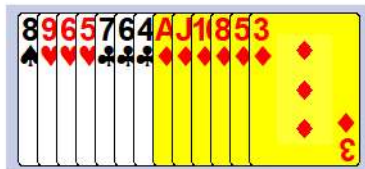
Tell me

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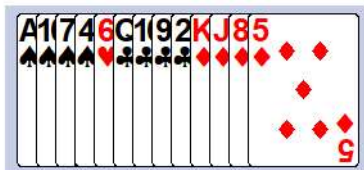
West	North	East	South
	1♦	DbI	1♠

**Bid 1♠**, the same bid that you would have made if East had **passed**. The alternative of 1NT is not horrible with this **balanced** hand, but your **partnership** could still have an 8-card spade fit. **Bidding** 1NT here would tend to deny a 4-card **major** of any reasonable strength.



West	North	East	South
	1♣	DbI	2♦

**Try 2♦**. In **SAYC** a **jump shift** over an **opponent's takeout double** is a weak bid suggesting a good 6-card suit and little outside strength. That's an awfully good description of this hand! If East had **passed** you would have **responded 1♦** since a **jump shift** to 2♦ is a very strong bid in that situation. East's **takeout double** changes everything. Take advantage of this situation to describe your hand and to make life a little bit more difficult for the **opponents**!

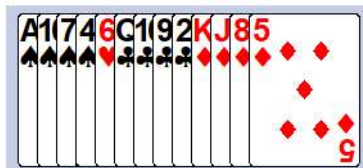


West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Dbl	?

What call would you make?

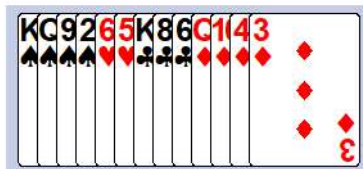
Pass Rdbl  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Tell me



West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dbf	Rdbl

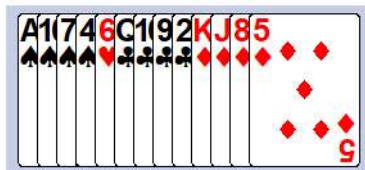
You should **redouble** and be prepared to **double** the **opponents** wherever they end up. This bid suggests good **defensive** values and at least 10 HCP. This hand has exactly 10 HCP. Furthermore, your **singleton** in the suit your **partner** bid is a strong indication that it might be right to **double** the **opponents**. You would have **responded** 1♠ if East had **passed**, but his **takeout double** has given you a chance to tell your **partner** about your general strength and your **defensive** orientation. Take advantage of this chance!



West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbf	?

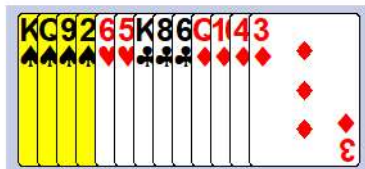
What call would you make?





West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dbf	Rdbl

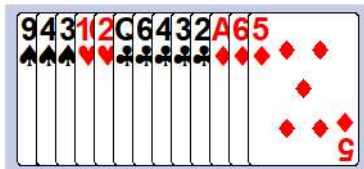
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West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbf	2NT

You should **bid** 2NT to describe a **limit raise** of spades with at least 4-card **support** for your **partner's** spades. This hand has the 10 HCP that a **redouble** would promise, but **redouble** would suggest a **defensive** hand. Your **strong support** for spades makes this hand suitable for offense. A 2NT **response** allows you to describe your strength and **support** to your **partner** in a single bid. What could be finer than that?



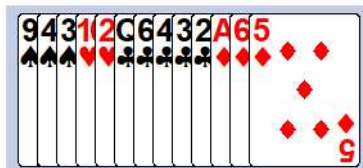


West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	?

What call would you make?

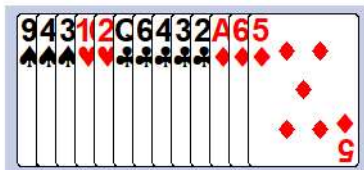
Pass Rdbl  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Tell me



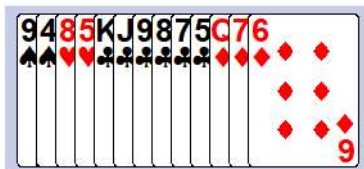
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Pass

With 6 HCP and 1 long suit point for the 5-card club suit, you would have been obliged to keep the bidding open by responding 1NT if East had passed. East's takeout double has relieved you of that obligation. With so few high card points and no stopper in either major you should not even think about bidding 1NT now that you don't have to. It is best to pass for now. If your side should be playing the contract your partner will bid again.



West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Pass

With 6 HCP and 1 long suit point for the 5-card club suit, you would have been obliged to keep the **bidding** open by **responding** 1NT if East had **passed**. East's **takeout double** has relieved you of that obligation. With so few **high card points** and no **stopper** in either **major** you should not even think about **bidding** 1NT now that you don't have to. It is best to **pass** for now. If your side should be playing the **contract** your **partner** will **bid** again.

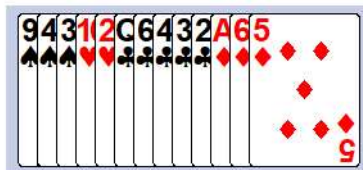


West	North	East	South
	1♣	Dbl	?

What call would you make?

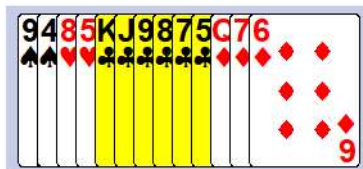


Tell me



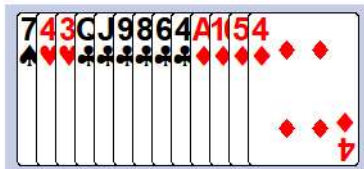
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbf	Pass

With 6 HCP and 1 long suit point for the 5-card club suit, you would have been obliged to keep the **bidding** open by **responding** 1NT if East had **passed**. East's **takeout double** has relieved you of that obligation. With so few **high card points** and no **stopper** in either **major** you should not even think about **bidding** 1NT now that you don't have to. It is best to **pass** for now. If your side should be playing the **contract** your **partner** will **bid** again.



West	North	East	South
	1♣	Dbf	3♣

**Bid 3♣** - a **preemptive jump raise** given East's **takeout double**. 3♣ would have been a **limit raise** if East had **passed**, but 2NT is available to show a **limit raise** after an **opponent's takeout double**. That frees up the **jump raise** to show a hand like this one - a lot of **trumps** and not much in the way of **high cards**. **Jumping** to the 3-level takes up a lot of **bidding** space and this will make it more difficult for your **opponents** to explore for their **best contract**.

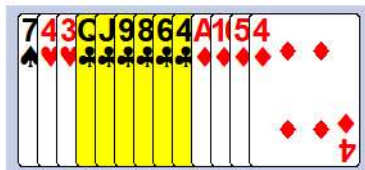


West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Dbl	?

What call would you make?

Pass Rdbl  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

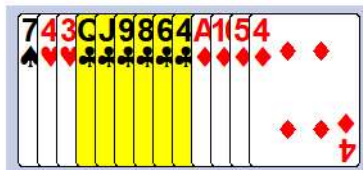
Tell me



West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dbf	2♣

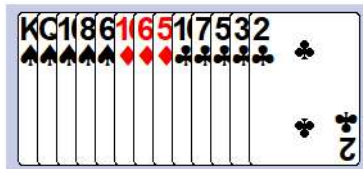
You should **bid** 2♣. Your hand would not be strong enough for a **two over one response** if East had **passed**. You would have had to **respond** 1NT in that case - not very appealing given the **unbalanced** nature of your hand. East's **takeout double** gives you a chance to show what you have. 2♣ shows a long strong suit in a hand that contains less than 10 **HCP**. Furthermore, 2♣ is **non-forcing** and, if all 3 players **pass**, it should be a fine place to play!





West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dbl	2♣

You should bid 2♣. Your hand would not be strong enough for a **two over one response** if East had **passed**. You would have had to **respond** 1NT in that case - not very appealing given the **unbalanced** nature of your hand. East's **takeout double** gives you a chance to show what you have. 2♣ shows a long strong suit in a hand that contains less than 10 HCP. Furthermore, 2♣ is **non-forcing** and, if all 3 players **pass**, it should be a fine place to play!



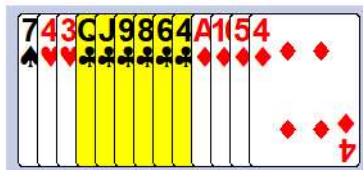
West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbl	?

What call would you make?

Pass
Rdbl

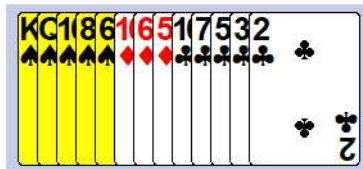
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Tell me



West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dbl	2♣

You should **bid** 2♣. Your hand would not be strong enough for a **two over one response** if East had **passed**. You would have had to **respond** 1NT in that case - not very appealing given the **unbalanced** nature of your hand. East's **takeout double** gives you a chance to show what you have. 2♣ shows a long strong suit in a hand that contains less than 10 HCP. Furthermore, 2♣ is **non-forcing** and, if all 3 players **pass**, it should be a fine place to play!



West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbl	4♠

**Jump** all the way to 4♠. It is true that 3♠ would be a **preemptive jump raise**, but with strong 5-card **trump support** for your **partner's major suit** and a **void** in hearts, this hand is too powerful for a mere 3♠ **bid**. You should **bid** 4♠ with this hand even if East had **passed** over 1♠. His **takeout double** gives you all the more reason to **preempt** to the 4-level. This **bid** will make it very difficult for the **opponents** to judge correctly. If they let your **partner** play in 4♠ he might well make that **contract** even if he has a minimum **opening bid**.