§27. The Contested Auction. Take-out Doubles

Notes on the basic principles to be taught in this section.

- This chapter is all about take-out Doubles and how to handle them.
- The emphasis is on take-out Doubles being *shape-specific*. One example of an approved takeout Double is a 4·4·4·1 hand with only 10 points. Shape is often more important than strength.
- The action of "responder" is discussed as well, with a jump response indicating roughly 8-11 points.

Four hands need setting up (overleaf); none is a full deal. Three of the West hands (in "Hands" 1, 2 and 3) are irrelevant and have been greyed out.

"Hand" 1 contains three examples of take-out Doubles.

The North, East and South cards correspond to Examples 1, 2 and 3 in the student notes.

Over an opening bid of 1♦ North would Double; Over an opening bid of 1♠ East would Double and over an opening bid of 1♥ South would Double.

"Hand" 2 contains two examples of take-out Doubles and one where a 14-count would Pass.

The North, East and South cards correspond to Examples 4, 5 and 6 in the student notes.

Over an opening bid of 1 \bullet North would Double. Not ideal with a 4·3·3·3 pattern, but the hand is too good to Pass. Over an opening bid of 1 \bullet East is worth a take-out Double, despite the lack of values. The excellent pattern (4·4·4·1) makes up for having only 10 points, there being the strong likelihood of a decent trump fit.

South should Pass over 1 to id simply, "because I have 14 points." Press home the point that you should Pass if the enemy bid one of your long suits.

"Hand" 3 contains three examples of keeping quiet after an opening bid on the right.

The North, East and South cards correspond to Examples 7, 8 and 9 in the student notes.

Over an opening bid of 1 A North should Pass (rapidly and in an even tempo). There is simply nothing else to do. Over an opening bid of 1 (or 1) East has nothing to say. Overcalling 1 with 1 on a lousy suit is a real no-no. Over an opening bid of 1 (or 1) South has nowhere to go. Pass and await developments. Overcalling 1 with 2 on a feeble five-card suit is not on in any circumstances.

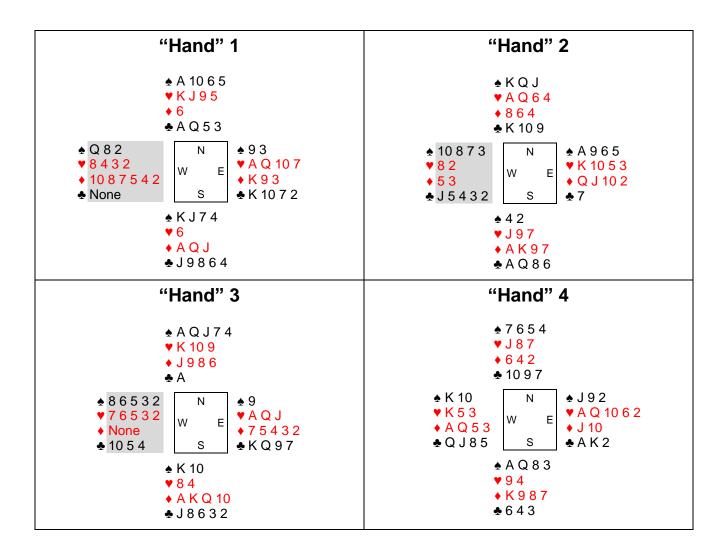
"Hand" 4 contains four examples of responses to a take-out Double.

The North, East South and West cards correspond to Examples 10, 11, 12 and 13 in the student notes.

After partner has Doubled 1, North has a rubbish-dump of a hand that, nonetheless, must respond 1. This attempts to establish the principle that a minimum response promises *nothing*. Thus, East must not respond 2, after partner has Doubled 1. With five Hearts and 15 points it is best to bid 4, directly. If you don't have nothing, you have to show it.

South makes a jump bid of $2 \pm$ after a Double of $1 \pm$. This is not-forcing but shows around about 8-11 points. West jumps to 3NT after a Double of $1 \pm$. The hand has 15 points and a double Diamond stopper, so should be secure.

Example 14 in the student notes does not appear in the prepared hands overleaf; it shows another jump to game after a take-out Double of 1.



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