

Lightner Doubles

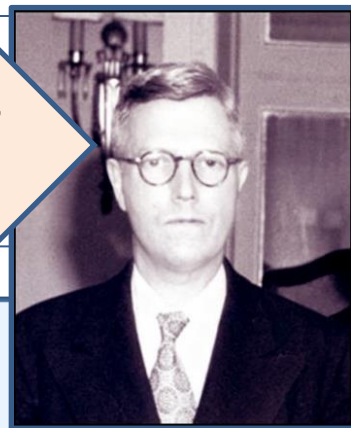


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If the opponents are sacrificing against a contract you would've made, you must be free to double them without any special meaning.

Lightner Doubles

Theodore Lightner
NYC, 1941



A Lightner Double is a lead-directing convention used when the opponents have bid a small or grand slam intending to make it.

It's based on the premise that a slam freely bid by a pair will either make or go down only one, so a double should be reserved to ask for an unusual lead by partner to try to beat it, not just to gain an additional 50 or 100 points.

The opening leader is requested by his partner to choose an unusual lead:

- 1) Not trumps and
- 2) Not an obvious suit bid by either defender.

The doubler often expects to either ruff the opening lead of a side suit or take the first two tricks in that suit.

An interesting hangover from the days of the convention's inception is that by partnership agreement (and alertable) the lead may tend to ask for either:

- 1) The first bid suit of dummy or
- 2) The highest suit not bid by the opponents (usually spades).

Partner can usually deduce the requested lead from the context of the auction.

* Jacoby 2NT: 4+ ♥'s, 12+ HCPS, asking for shortness and range.

Example #1

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1H	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3D*	Pass
3H*	Pass	4C	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5C*	Pass
6H	Dbl*	Pass	Pass

Singleton or void in ♦'s.

Still interested and have ♣ cards, but not a void in ♦'s.

Lightner Double.

KCB for ♥'s (1430).

North

♠ K5
♥ A543
♦ A4
♣ AJ642

East

♠ AQ643
♥ 9
♦ 108532
♣ 97

West

♠ 9872
♥ 107
♦ KQJ96
♣ 85

South

♠ J10
♥ KQJ862
♦ 7
♣ KQ103

Best Lead:
2♠

N/S goes down 1 in 6H.

Example #2

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1H	2S	3H	5D
6H	Pass	Pass	Dbl*
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lightner Double.

North

♠ A8
♥ AKJ93
♦ A
♣ KQ643

West

♠ ---
♥ 62
♦ Q10986432
♣ 1085

East

♠ Q1097654
♥ 1084
♦ 5
♣ A9

South

♠ KJ32
♥ Q75
♦ KJ7
♣ J72

Best Lead:

4♠

Why did East lead a low ♠? To tell his partner how to get back to his hand.

N/S goes down 2 in 6H.

By the way, both these examples fare better in 6NT!