Rosenkrantz, Responsive, and Snapdragon Doubles

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Some doubles are intended to communicate specific information to your partner in the 2/1 Game Force System, depending upon how they are used. In this Bridge Bit, I will discuss Rozenkrantz, Responsive and Snapdragon doubles. Depending on your agreement each "double" is used to convey very different information.

"Responsive", "Rosenkranz", and "Snapdragon" doubles occur in very similar, yet unique bidding situations, and the messages are very different. Most doubles are not alertable; however, all these doubles are alertable.

Responsive Double when Overcaller Doubles for Take-out

A "Responsive" Double is a Take-Out double by a Responder to the Overcaller following an immediate raise **in the same suit**, most often at the 2- or 3-level over Partner's Takeout Double. The double is Responsive and not for Penalty.

How high do you agree to use the Responsive double? Many use 3♠/4♦/4♥. If you do not want the opponents to steal the bid, it can also be undefined =∞. Now Partner can pass or correct.

Examples

1♣/1♦   X   2♣/2♦   X*= Responsive

This Responsive double shows both majors. With one major, bid it do not use the Responsive double.

1♥/1♠   X   2♥/2♠   X*=Responsive

This Responsive double shows both minors. If you have 4 of the other major, say 4 spades over a X followed by 2 hearts, you should bid 2♠ do not use the Responsive double!

What do you do over; two spades because now your bid is at the 3-level if you hold 4 hearts. The same is true if the opponents bid to the 3-level (e.g. 1♣ - X - 3♣ - X*). Now you can bid 3♥, with 4, provided you have 11+HCP; and, the Responsive double would show 11+ HCP over a 3-level bid of say 1♣ - X - 3♣ - X = 4-4 in the majors with 11+ HCP.

The Responsive double requires about 6-10 HCP; however, to bid at the 3-level requires 11+ HCP. At the 4- level, one needs game going values, 13+ points.

When the "Responsive" position, has values for the suits bid after a take-out double, do not use the Responsive Double; instead, bid 2NT to show a stopper, with two, bid 3NT and 12+ points.

1♥   X   2♥   2NT = 1 stopper - invitational and 3NT= 2 stopper - good hand

Overcaller's bids after the Responsive Double

- A minimum bid shows minimum values.
- Jump bids or 2NT show extra values and are invitational to game.
- A cue-bid is the only forcing bid.
- Passing a responsive double is rare.

Responsive Double when an Overcaller Bids

A "Responsive" Double may also be used when the Overcaller bids and does not double again following an immediate raise, most often to the 2- or 3-level. A double is either Responsive or Rosenkrantz and not for Penalty. For now we will assume it is Responsive.

Now the Responsive double shows support for the TWO un-bid suits.

Examples

1♣   1♥   2♣   X*= Responsive

This Responsive double shows spades and diamonds.

1♣   1♠   2♣   X*= Responsive

The responsive double shows hearts and diamonds.

1♥   1♠   2♥   X*=Responsive

This Responsive double shows both minors.

The bid may also be used over 2-level bids.

2♥   2♠   3♥   X*-Responsive --- Shows the minors

Strength requirements for a Responsive Double for the Overcall bid are the same as above.

Rosenkrantz Double/Redouble

As Responder to an Overcall bid, one may use instead of a Responsive Double, the "Rosenkranz" Double or Redouble --- NOT BOTH. Rosenkrantz shows at least 2- card support holding the Ace/King or both in the bid suit. More often than not it shows 3-cards, again with A/K or both. Unlike Responsive Doubles, it is used whether or the opener's partner supports the openers bid suit or bids a new suit.

How high do you agree to use the Responsive double? Most partnerships use 3♠.

Examples

1♣   1♦/1♥/1♠   2♣   X*= Rosenkrantz

This Rosenkrantz double shows support for the Overcaller's bid suit, usually 3 cards with the A/K or both in the suit. Without the A/K, and 3-card support the suit is merely supported at the 2-level (e.g. bid 2♦/2♥/2♠) or the 3-level. If the Opener's partner doubles the Overcaller's bid suit, a re-double is also Rosenkrantz. Again showing support. All responses to the Rosencrantz double/redoubles are alerted. It shows SUPPORT for the suit bid.

1♣   1♥   X   XX*=Responsive with A/K or both
1♣   1♥   X   2♥*=3-card support without A/K or both

The primary advantage to Rosenkrantz doubles over Responsive Doubles it that it SHOWS SUPPORT for partner's bid suit and is card showing, rather than the lack of support.

Overcaller's bids after the Rosenkcrantz Double

- A minimum bid shows minimum values.
- Jump suit bids or 2NT show extra values and are invitational to game.
- A cue-bid is the only forcing bid.
- A Rosenkrantz double is never passed.

Similarities Between Responsive and Rosenkranz Doubles:

1. Both are used by a Responder ("Advancer") to Partner's overcall bid

2. Both show 6 or more HCP and an interest in competing

3. Both forcing and not meant for penalty and alertable

Differences Between Responsive and Rosenkranz Doubles

1. "Responsive" Doubles occur only when a single suit has been bid and raised by the two Opponents, whereas, in the case of the use of a "Rosenkranz" Double, the

Opponents have either bid two different suits or used the "Negative" double implying at least one additional suit held by Opener's responding Partner.

2. "Responsive" Doubles occur only in the form of a "Double," whereas, "Rosenkranz" Doubles can occur both as a "Double" or a "Re-Double."

3. "Responsive" Doubles shows the two un-bid suits, whereas, a "Rosenkranz" Double or Re-Double shows support for Partner's overcalled suit and holding either the Ace/King or both honors.

Snapdragon Double

As Responder to an Overcall's (NON-JUMP) bid, the Opponents may bid two DIFFERENT suits instead of showing support for a suit. When this occurs, the Responder to the overcaller may X (double) to show at least 3-card support for the Overcaller's bid suit and 5-card support for the un-bid suit. This double is used instead of the Rosencrantz double and also shows support for the Overecaller's suit, but does not guarantee a top honor and the un-bid suit. It is called the "Snapdragon" Double.

The Double is a fourth seat double that show support for the Overcaller's bid suit and the un-bid suit.

Examples

1♣   1♥   1♠   X*= Snapdragon

Now the double shows 3-card support for clubs and a 5-card diamond suit.

1♦   2♣   2♠   X*= Snapdragon

The double shows 3-card support for diamonds and a 5-card heart (NON-JUMP) suit.

If you do not double, but bid the fourth suit, you are denying support for the Overcaller's bid suit.

Most Partnerships play the Snapdragon double through 2♠/3♠; after that level, the double becomes a penalty double. Again, the bid requires 6-10 HCP.

Observe that the "Snapdragon" Double and the "Rosenkrantz" are mutually exclusive. However, both show SUPPORT.

Overcaller's bids after the Snapdragon Double

- A minimum bid shows minimum values.

- Jump suit bids or 2NT show extra values and are invitational to game.
- A cue-bid is the only forcing bid.
- A snapdragon double is never passed.

The doubles in this Bridge Bit are used when the overcaller makes a bid --- they are Advancer Doubles; NOTE ---- Support Doubles are used when an Opener bids!

Support Doubles/Redoubles are used by the Opening Bidder

The support double is a double used by opener after partner makes a suit response and the opponent interferes. The support double is also not penalty-oriented, but shows exactly 3-card support for partner and has unlimited strength. A direct raise, shows 4-card support, while any other action denies support.

Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠

X*=support

- Double by Opener shows 3-card heart support
- The bid of 2♥ shows 4-card heart support
- Pass or other bids: fewer than three hearts

A support redouble applies when Advancer makes a take-out double of the response of one of a major: 1♦ - (Pass) - 1♠ - (Double)

- Redouble by Opener: 3-card spade support
- 2♠ shows 4-card spade support
- Pass or other bids: fewer than three spades

The "Advancer" uses the Responsive, Rosenkrantz, and Snapdragon double after an Overcall; they are card-showing doubles not penalty double. The Support Double is also card showing and not for Penalty; however the Opening bidder uses it based upon a bid by the Advancer. DO NOT GET THEM CONFUSED!