

DOUBLES -Session 2

Baloney Bill

A **negative double** is similar to a takeout double, asking partner to bid, but this double is made by the responder to the opening bidder. If you want to be the world's leading expert on negative doubles, find many articles by bridge expert Larry Cohen on line. He has done wonders for the world of bridge.

The negative double, according to Larry, occurs "only in this auction:" Your partner opens, your RHO overcalls in a suit (not no trump), then you double. **You, the partner of opener, are the only one that can employ the negative double.**

Here's a Cohen example: Your partner opens one diamond, and your hand looks like this:

8 2 K 10 7 6 J 4 2 A 8 7 6 (spades first, then hearts, then diamonds, then _____)

You are thinking a one heart response would be a superb bid, but your RHO bids one spade. Hmm, no way to bid one heart now and you cannot bid two hearts (why not? _____).

But you can employ a negative double after the one spade overcall, asking partner to pick a different suit, almost always the unbid major, because your negative double *promises exactly four cards in the unbid major*. To do so, you need only 7+ HCPs. Partner doesn't have to bid the other major, if s/he doesn't have 4+ cards in that suit; partner can rebid his/her suit, bid one no trump if s/he has a stopper in overcaller's suit, or on rare occasions, simply pass if s/he thinks she can set your opponent.

Another example: Partner opens one diamond, and your RHO opponent overcalls 2 spades. What do you do with the following hand?

8 2 K 10 7 6 Q 4 2 K 8 7 6

You _____. To make a negative double at the two level, you should have 9+ points.

What if you had the following hand?

9 4 3 A 10 8 7 A Q A Q J 10

Employ a negative double! Your partner will bid his/her four-card heart suit, if s/he has one. Or perhaps her club suit. Regardless, your next bid will be strong, showing partner your superb hand.

Please know that if partner opens and is overcalled by one no trump by your RHO, if you double, it is a **penalty double**, not a negative double. You must have 9+ HCPs to employ this penalty double. *There is no such thing as a negative double when opponent overcalls your partner with a 1 NT bid.*