

TAKE OUT DOUBLES

Take out doubles suggest a desire for partner to choose an unbid suit. Unless you have 18+, you should have support (meaning at least three cards) in all the unbid suits.

RHO
1♥

YOU
?

	A		B		C
♠	AJ43	♠	A1076	♠	KQ43
♥	6	♥	--	♥	32
♦	AJ87	♦	J10873	♦	873
♣	A1065	♣	AJ65	♣	AK65

Double with all three of these hands.
Just like bidding one "clubdiamondspade."

RHO
3♦

YOU
?

	D		E		F
♠	AJ4	♠	A1076	♠	KQ43
♥	J6543	♥	KQ76	♥	A32
♦	7	♦	3	♦	73
♣	AK65	♣	AJ65	♣	AQ65

Double on all three--similar to a double of 1♦ except by forcing 3-level action, the doubler implies more than minimal values.

Opener **Partner** **Responder** **YOU**
1♥ Pass 2♥ ?

	G		H
♠	AJ43	♠	A1076
♥	6	♥	76
♦	QJ765	♦	A653
♣	KQ10	♣	AJ6

Double for takeout on both hands – just like doubling a 1♥ opening bid.

Opener **Partner** **Responder** **YOU**
1♣ Pass 1♥ ?

	I		J
♠	KQ43	♠	A1076
♥	6	♥	76
♦	K8765	♦	A653
♣	A32	♣	AJ6

Double on both hands. Opening values and support for the unbid suits.

RHO
1♠

YOU
?

	K		L		M
♠	AJ43	♠	A87	♠	Q43
♥	6	♥	K2	♥	QJ2
♦	AJ87	♦	Q1087	♦	QJ73
♣	A1065	♣	AJ65	♣	KJ5

Do not double with any of these hands. Simply "PASS"—not a dirty word.

ADVANCING TAKEOUT DOUBLES

RESPONSE	MEANING (APPROXIMATE VALUES)
NON-JUMP IN A NEW SUIT	0-8/9 points, longest unbid suit.
JUMP RESPONSE IN A NEW SUIT	9-12 points, four or more cards. Non-forcing.
JUMP TO GAME IN A SUIT	Usually distributional values but good hand.
BID OPPONENT'S SUIT (CUE BID)	Artificial, forcing. Promises a rebid.
AFTER RHO BIDS ('FREE BID')	6-10 points, constructive.
PASS	Converts take out to penalty. Length and strength in the opponent's suit. Not out of fear!
1NT	6/7-10/11 points, stopper(s).
2NT	11-12 points, stopper(s). Invitational.
3NT	13+ points, stopper(s).

Opener Partner Responder YOU
1♣ **X** **Pass** **?**

	A		B		C
♠	Q1053	♠	A1076	♠	432
♥	62	♥	32	♥	432
♦	A872	♦	J1087	♦	5432
♣	1065	♣	AJ6	♣	432

Opener Partner Responder YOU
1♥ **X** **Pass** **?**

	D		E		F
♠	53	♠	76	♠	K432
♥	K62	♥	108732	♥	32
♦	8742	♦	1087	♦	AQ32
♣	10652	♣	J62	♣	A32

Opener Partner Responder YOU
1♦ **X** **1♥** **?**

	G		H		I
♠	Q543	♠	76	♠	K932
♥	62	♥	QJ87	♥	A2
♦	874	♦	A1087	♦	8632
♣	10652	♣	J62	♣	1032

POWER DOUBLES

(DOUBLING AND THEN BIDDING)

Immediate take out doubles initially suggest an interest in hearing partner's opinion, and in fact, this will be the case most of the time. On occasion, it may be necessary to double, followed by correction to a suit or notrump, not to gain an opinion, but to express one. This is called a 'power double'.

Examples:

After RHO opens 1♣, Double with: ♠J54 ♥65 ♦AKQJ65 ♣AK, planning to correct partner's advance to diamonds.

After RHO opens 1♦, Double with: ♠KQJ542 ♥A5 ♦AQ6 ♣K2, planning to correct partner's advance to spades.

Opener You Responder Advancer
 1♥ X Pass 1♠
 Pass 2♣

	A		B
♠	K3	♠	A76
♥	62	♥	A
♦	AQ2	♦	A653
♣	AKQ1065	♣	AQ652

Doubling and bidding again is natural and shows 18+ (but it is not forcing).

Opener You Responder Advancer
 2♥ X Pass 2♠
 Pass 2NT

	C		D
♠	KJ3	♠	A7
♥	K102	♥	AJ2
♦	AQ2	♦	AJ53
♣	AQJ5	♣	AQ52

Doubling and bidding notrump shows more than a notrump overcall (19-21) and a stopper(s).

Opener You Responder Advancer
 1♦ X Pass 1♥
 Pass 2NT

	E		F
♠	AKQJ	♠	AQ
♥	KQ2	♥	AJ2
♦	AQ2	♦	AJ3
♣	Q103	♣	AQ852

Because doubling and bidding 1NT would show 19-21, this auction shows more.