



BY **LARRY COHEN**
larrycohen.com

Bidding Basics

More on negative doubles

We will wrap up the year and this series with two months of examples.

Here are West and East hands and how they should be bid using negative doubles.

On the first set of examples, West starts with 1♦ and North overcalls 1♠.

1	♠ A J 2	♠ 9 5
	♥ K J 2	♥ A Q 10 3
	♦ K 10 7 6	♦ A Q J
	♣ J 3 2	♣ 9 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

East learns that West has 12–14 balanced (presumably spades stopped), so places the contract in 3NT.

2	♠ 2	♠ J 9 5 4
	♥ K Q J 2	♥ A 10 9 3
	♦ K J 10 7 6	♦ A 9
	♣ A 3 2	♣ J 10 9

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

East could respond in notrump but looks for a 4–4 heart fit. West (with 14 HCP, a source of tricks and a ruffing value) has too much to bid only 2♥. After the invitational 3♥, East has enough to put the partnership in the heart game.

3	♠ Q 10 2	♠ 8 7 3
	♥ K Q 3	♥ A J 10 2
	♦ K 10 7 6	♦ J 2
	♣ A K J	♣ Q 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

East doesn't have much, but West's 2NT rebid shows roughly 18–19 with spades stopped. Accordingly, East has an easy raise to 3NT.

On the next set of deals, West starts with 1♥ and North overcalls 2♣.

4	♠ A Q 10 2	♠ K 9 5 3
	♥ K J 8 7 2	♥ A 3
	♦ 6	♦ J 9 3 2
	♣ Q 3 2	♣ 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♣	Dbl	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Both partners have minimums and bid accordingly to stop in a partscore. Notice that 2♠ is not considered a “reverse.”

5	♠ K 2	♠ A 10 8 7
	♥ Q 8 7 6 5	♥ K 2
	♦ K 3 2	♦ A Q J 10
	♣ K J 2	♣ 10 5 4

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♣	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

East explores for a 4–4 spade fit and then happily settles on 3NT when West shows a flat minimum with clubs stopped.

6	♠ A J 7	♠ K 4 2
	♥ A 10 8 7 6 2	♥ 9
	♦ A 10 3	♦ K 8 7 6
	♣ 2	♣ Q 10 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

East wants to make a penalty double of the 2♣ overcall. Of course, double would be negative, so he must pass at his first turn. West, with club shortness, balances with a takeout double and East happily converts it to penalty.

Next (and final of this series) month, we will look at some auctions where the opponents preempt. ■