



## Test Your Knowledge of Take-out Doubles

*This lesson will provide examples to help advance your understanding. Remember: All great partnerships need to learn to think alike. Both you and your partner should take these quizzes and agree on the answers or how you would handle these bidding situations. For your convenience, bidding summary notes are given at the end.*

*Let's get started.*

Dr. Bob Vollbracht

### Group A:

1H – Dbl – P - ? What do you respond as advancer to partner's Take-out Double?

1. ♠J876 ♥87 ♦K87 ♣9876
2. ♠Q876 ♥A8 ♦K87 ♣9876
3. ♠Q10762 ♥87 ♦A87 ♣K87
4. ♠AJ87 ♥A7 ♦Q87 ♣Q976
5. ♠AJ876 ♥76♦K87 ♣AJ97

A1	Bid 1S	Make a minimum response to a take-out double with 0-8 points.
A2	Bid 2S	Jump to 2S with 9-11 points with 4 spades. A jump response to a take-out double shows invitational values of 9-11 points.
A3	Bid 3S	A double jump to 3S shows a 5-card suit with 9-11 points, invitational but not forcing. Compare this to A2 where you jump to 2S with 9-11 points but only show a 4-card suit.
A4	Bid 2H	Cue bid 2H with this hand. You have game values. Partner's take-out double does not guarantee 4 spades. Partner would make a take-out double with ♠KQ6 ♥64♦AK6 ♣AK854.  With game values you can start with a cue bid when not absolutely certain of the best strain to play game. 3NT may be a preferred contract if the takeout Doubler only has 3 spades.  Bidding could proceed 1H-Dbl-P-2H; P-2S-P-4S finding your 4-4 spade fit or 1H-Dbl-P-2H; P-3C-P-3NT bidding 3NT without a 4-4 spade fit.
A5	Bid 4S	Game values with a 5-card suit. Partner's double promises 3 spades.

**Group B:**

1S – Dbl – P - ? What do you respond as advancer to partner's Take-out Double?

1. ♠876 ♥J876♦K87 ♣J964
2. ♠87 ♥KJ87♦KQ7 ♣J964
3. ♠87 ♥KJ876♦KQ7 ♣J9
4. ♠87 ♥K10876♦KQ7 ♣K9
5. ♠75 ♥KQ♦AQJ872♣J87

B1	Bid 2H	With 0-8 points make a minimum response. Over a 1S opening you have to bid at the two level no matter how weak your hand is.
B2	Bid 3H	With 9-11 points make a jump bid in a new suit as an showing an invitational hand in response to a take-out double.
B3	Bid 3H	Over 1S you have to jump to 3H with 9-11 points with either a 4 or a 5-card suit. There is no bidding room to distinguish a 5 card from a 4-card suit unlike examples A2 and A3 above.
B4	Bid 4H	11 hcp with one extra point for a 5-card suit. You have no wasted values in spades with fitting honors in the other suits implied by the double. Bid game with this nice fitting hand after partner's take-out double
B5	Bid 2S	With game values but no major to bid start with a cue bid hoping partner has a stopper in spades for a 3NT game. Partner's first priority is to bid 2NT with a stopper in opponent's spade suit. Otherwise, you will bid your diamonds suit. Starting with a cue bid then bidding your own suit of diamonds is forcing.  Bidding might proceed: 1S-Dbl-P-2S; P-2NT-P-3NT with a spade stopper or 1S-Dbl-P-2S; P-3H-P-4D bidding your excellent diamond suit.

**Group C:**

You have 4 spades and 4 hearts when partner makes a Take-out Double.

1D – DbI – P - ? What do you respond as advancer to partner’s Take-out Double?

1. ♠9763 ♥Q654 ♦765 ♣54
2. ♠K1063 ♥7654 ♦653 ♣54
3. ♠Q875 ♥KJ62♦87 ♣964
4. ♠Q1075 ♥KJ62♦A7 ♣964
5. ♠QJ75 ♥KQ62♦7 ♣A964

C1	Bid 1H	With a very weak hand make your cheapest bid in your best suit.
C2	Bid 1S	Prefer to bid spades and not hearts as lead directing against opponent’s probable contract with this weak hand.
C3	Bid 1S	<p>With values of 5-8 points and 4-4 in the majors you may want to bid both suits in a competitive auction. Start with 1S showing 0-8 points intending to bid hearts if needed. For example, the bidding goes 1D-DbI-P-1S; 2D-P-P-2H. You are able to bid both suits and find a fit at the two level. Partner who doubled can pass 2H with 4 hearts or go back to 2S with 4 spades.</p> <p>Responding to a take-out double is different than responding to an opening bid when you would bid 1H bidding your 4 card suits up the line. The difference is you intend to bid both suits if needed in a competitive auction after partner’s take-out double who promises 3 cards in each major and likely has one 4 card major but may not have both 4 card majors.</p> <p>By bidding the higher suit, spades, then the lower suit, hearts, you show both suits economically. This example is frequently missed. Study and master this concept. You are not showing 5 spades and 4 hearts with this bidding in response to a take-out double.</p>
C4	Bid 2D	<p>Cue bid with 4-4 in the majors after a takeout double of the minor with invitational or better values. Partner for his take-out double will have one 4 card major but may not have both. The cue bid allows you to find a 4-4 major suit fit.</p> <p>Bidding goes 1D-DbI-P-2D; P-2S. 2S shows 4 spades (denies 4 hearts). Raise to 3S showing invitational values by raising partner’s bid major.</p> <p>A Cue bid followed by the bid of a new suit is game forcing. An example is 1D-DbI-P-2D; P-2H-P-2S where you bid a new suit after a cue bid. This sequence would show 4 spades but denies 4 hearts with game values.</p>
C5	Bid 2D	<p>Game values with 4-4 in the majors start with a cue bid after a takeout double of a minor. Doubler will bid a major and you will raise to a major suit game.</p> <p>With this hand you could bid 4D as a splinter bid after partner’s major suit response. Full bidding could be 1D-DbI-P-2D; P-2H-P-4D showing a diamond shortness with 4 hearts with game values.</p>

## Summary of Advancer's responses to a Takeout Double

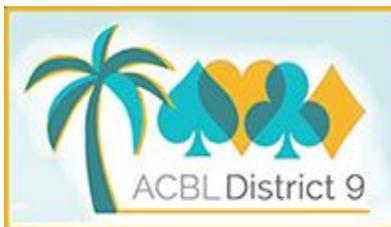
- ♠ Minimum suit Response with 0-8 points in your best suit.
- ♠ Jump response in a new suit with 9-11 points
- ♠ Game values 12+ points: bid game or cue bid
- ♠ With two 4 card majors in response to 1C/1D – Doubled
  - Cheapest bid with 0-4 points or best major suit.
  - Bid 1S with 5-8 points, intending to bid 2H if needed
  - Cue bid with 9+ points invitational or better for partner to bid a major
- ♠ NT bids: 1NT: 7-10 hcp, 2NT: 11-13 hcp, 3NT: 14+ hcp.

*Dr. Bob Vollbracht* has been interested in bridge bidding systems since college. He had the opportunity to play with Max Hardy, noted expert and author of *Two Over One Game Force* in three regional tournaments. In 2020, Bob finished in the top 25 of the *Bridge World Master Solver's Bidding Quizzes*.

Bob is co-editor with Dar Webb of *The 6 Bridge Quick Reference Decks* and author of the companion *2/1 Workbook*. He is co-editor along with English professional player, Ben Norton of the Vu-Bridge product: *2/1 Transition Kit*.

Bob had a successful 20-plus year partnership with Jack Brawner. They represented District 9 in the Grand National Team, Flight B and North American Pairs, Flight B. In 1988 at the Reno Nationals, Bob and Jack won the 0-2000 six session knockouts, which was the precursor to the Mini-Spangold.

Bob and Jack have had the honor to be teammates with world champions Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth during club qualifiers for the Grand National Teams. At present, Bob Vollbracht is a Sapphire Life Master.



***Let's Play Bridge!***