



Dr. Bob Vollbracht

Bidding after a Take-out Double

Last Quiz, we discussed responding to a takeout double as advancer. This month we are bidding as responder after your right-hand opponent makes a takeout double.

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 provided at the end.

Let's get started.

Group A: 1C – Dbl – ? Your bid as responder after RHO Take-out Double.

1. ♠J876 ♥87 ♦K872 ♣987
2. ♠A8 ♥KQ76 ♦K87 ♣9876
3. ♠8 ♥QJ10876 ♦753 ♣Q87
4. ♠KJ5 ♥A87 ♦K963 ♣1087
5. ♠AQ8 ♥76♦987 ♣AJ976

A1	Pass	You have nothing special to say with this weak hand.
A2	Bid 1H	Bids at the 1 level are forcing. Bid a good major suit even with 4 cards. The Doubler may not have 4 hearts and you can have a 4-4 fit. You show a stopper and partner may bid NT. A new suit by responder at the 1 level, as 1H here, is forcing with a minimum of 6 points but can be unlimited. You could Redouble with 10+ hcp but experience has taught us it is best to ignore the double and bid naturally your good suits. If you redouble and opponents preempt to 2 or 3 spades you have not described your hand.
A3	Bid 2H	Weak Jump shift in competition. With a stronger hand start with 1H.
A4	Rdbl	Redouble with 10+ hcp. Rdbl sets up a forcing sequence to double or bid to at least the 2NT or 3 of a minor. After a redouble either partner should double with defense against a suit that the opponent's bid. An option is 1NT instead of Rdbl. 1NT in competition shows 8-11 hcp
A5	Bid 2NT	Jordan 2NT is a limit raise or better with 5 cards in the bid minor (rarely 4 diamonds). 2NT cannot be natural. With 10+ hcp you would redouble first. 3C is preemptive and a raise to 2C shows 6-9 points. Jordan 2NT is played after a major or a minor opening bid.

Group B: 1H – Dbl - ? Your bid as responder after RHO Take-out Double.

1. ♠87 ♥J876♦K87 ♣J964
2. ♠87 ♥KJ87♦KJ7 ♣9643
3. ♠A7 ♥KJ87♦QJ42 ♣973
4. ♠87 ♥Q987♦73 ♣AJ1087
5. ♠75 ♥KQ3♦KQ87♣J874
6. ♠J1076 ♥void♦J87♣QJ10872

B1	Bid 3H	Preemptive Raise with 4 trump with less than 6 hcp in competition.
B2	Bid 2H	2H raise in competition shows 6-9 points. With 4 trump you will compete to the 3 level if needed based on the Law of Total Tricks.
B3	Bid 2NT	Jordan 2NT showing a limit raise or better with at least 4 trump.
B4	Bid 3C	<p>Fit Showing Jump Shifts is a convention after a take-out double used by advanced partnerships. After a takeout Dbl of a major suit opening, a jump shift to the three level shows a decent 5 card suit with 4 trumps and 6-9 points, a mixed raise. You may uncover a double-double fit allowing a good game bid or successful sacrifice with two hands that fit well.</p> <p>Strongly consider adding this convention to your partnership. Not playing Fit Showing JS you would bid 2H bid which shows values planning to compete further if needed. A 3H bid is preemptive, this hand is too strong.</p> <p>Jump shift (1H-Dbl-3C) options are: 1. Preemptive with a long club suit, 2. Some play Bergen Raises ON (Bergen is off in competition normally), 3. Many experts prefer Fit Showing Jump Shifts.</p>
B5	Rdbl	With a 3-card limit raise, start with a redouble then support the major. You may be able to play the hand at the 2 level instead of the 3 level if partner has a weak opening. Bidding might go: 1H-Dbl-Rdbl-2D; P-P-2H all pass
B6	2C	<p>Bids at the 2L after a take-out double are not forcing and are usually rescue bids with shortness in partner's bid major suit.</p> <p>If you pass it will likely go 1H-Dbl-all pass for a horrible result. This hand bids 2C as a rescue bid. With a doubleton heart you could pass.</p> <p>With 10+ hcp and a minor suit to show at the 2-level start with a redouble then bid your suit. A redouble then bidding a new suit is forcing as 1H-Dbl-Rdbl-P; P-1S-2C showing 10+ hcp with a club suit.</p>

Guidelines for Responders bids after a take-out double:

1. Bids at the one level are forcing as 1C-Dbl-1S.
2. You can bid your suit at 1 level instead of a redouble with 10+ points.
3. Bids at the two level are not forcing as 1H-Dbl-2D with less than 10 points.
4. Redouble: 10+ hcp usually without a fit for opener's bid suit.
5. There is no natural 2NT bid. You would redouble with 10+ hcp.
6. Jordan 2NT is a limit raise in Partner's suit. Requires 4 card support for a major and 5+ card support for a minor (rarely 4 diamonds)
7. With a 3-card limit raise or better in a major suit start with a Redouble.
8. 1NT as 1X-Dbl-1NT shows 8-11 hcp without a fit for partner's opened suit.
9. Consider adding Fit Showing Jump Shifts to your agreements after a take-out double.

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.