

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 2
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 10 6 5 4 2
♣ Q 8 3

♠ A 7 3
♥ A Q J 10 6
♦ K Q
♣ 9 7 4

N
W E
S

♠ K Q J 9 8 5
♥ 5 3
♦ J 7
♣ K J 2

16
2 11
11

♠ 6 4
♥ K 9 8
♦ A 9 8 3
♣ A 10 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

I admit it, I tried to trap you. Just because this is a lesson about Negative Doubles doesn't mean you should abandon your normal good bidding practices. You have a known 8-card ♥ fit so you don't need to bother telling partner about your two 4-card Minors. With 12 points and support you make a cue-bid in the opponent's suit which tells partner you have limit-raise or better.

Partner now bids 4 ♥ which you pass.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 10 9 5 **♠** 6 4
♥ Q J 4 3 **♥** K 9 8 6
♦ — **♦** 9 8 3
♣ J 9 8 3 **♣** K Q 6 5

8 8 10 14	N W E S	♠ Q 8 7 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A 10 7 5 4 2 ♣ A 7
		♠ A 3 ♥ A 10 7 5 ♦ K Q J 6 ♣ 10 4 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 8 points and 4 ♥s you have enough to make a negative double. Partner bids 2 ♥. What do you say now?

Partner also has 4 ♥s. Unfortunately his strength is only in the 13-15 point range. So you pass.

Deal 3North Deals
None Vul

♠ K
♥ 5 2
♦ K 8 7 5 2
♣ 9 8 6 4 2

♠ 6 4
♥ K J 9 8
♦ A 9 3
♣ A Q 10 5



♠ A Q J 10 9 3
♥ 10 7 4
♦ J 10
♣ K J

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ Q 6 4
♣ 7 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♠	Dbl
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
2 ♥ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner is showing you a ♥ suit with at least 6 points. With 4 ♥s in a minimum strength hand your rebid is 2 ♥. Everyone passes.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 6 4

♥ J 9 8 6

♦ 7 3

♣ Q 6 5

♠ 9 3

♥ A K Q 10 5

♦ 8 4

♣ 7 4 3 2

7
9
15

W N E S

♠ A 8 2

♥ 4 2

♦ K Q 9 5 2

♣ 10 9 8

♠ Q 10 7 5

♥ 7 3

♦ A J 10 6

♣ A K J

West

North

East

South

1 ♦

1 ♥

Dbl

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

2 ♠ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You just scrape 7 points together. With your 4-card Major that's enough for a Negative Double. So you double and partner jumps to 2 ♠. What is your bid?

Partner's jump is inviting but it takes more than just a simple jump to get you excited with this junk. Even though partner has 16-18 points you pass.

Deal 5

North Deals	♠ K J 7 3
None Vul	♥ 6
	♦ A Q J 7
	♣ A 10 8 5
♠ 10 9 8	♠ 5 4
♥ Q 5 4	♥ A K J 10 9 3
♦ 10 9 4 3	♦ K 6 2
♣ Q 9 3	♣ 7 4
	♠ A Q 6 2
	♥ 8 7 2
	♦ 8 5
	♣ K J 6 2



West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	1 ♥	Dbl
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner has indicated a 4-card ♠ suit. Since you also have 4 you will naturally bid them. However, with the ♠ fit your hand revalues to 17 points. So you jump to 2 ♠. Partner bids the game.

Deal 6
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 4
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ 7 3
♣ Q 10 6 5

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



13
10 4
13

♠ 7 3
♥ A J 9 5
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A K J 3

West North East South

1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 ♣
Pass 4 ♥ Pass Pass

4 ♥ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 13 points and 4 of the "other" Major you make a Negative Double. Partner's rebid is 2 ♥. What is your next bid?

Partner has 4 ♥s and an opening hand. You have 4 ♥s and an opening hand. That adds up to a game bid and an 8-card ♥ fit. You bid 4 ♥.

Deal 7

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 5 2

♥ 9 8 6 5

♦ 9 7

♣ A 3

$$\begin{matrix} 17 \\ 5 \quad 8 \\ 10 \end{matrix}$$

♠ K 10

♥ A 4

♦ K J 10 6

♣ K Q J 6 5



♠ 9 4
♥ Q 3 2
♦ A Q 5 4 3
♣ 9 7 2

♠ A Q 7 3
♥ K J 10 7
♦ 8 2
♣ 10 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♦	Dbl
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner's Negative Double in this situation shows both Majors. You can't support either Major but with 18 points and good ♦ stoppers you jump to 2 NT. Partner bids 3 NT and everybody passes.

Deal 8
South Deals
None Vul

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

10
10 3
17

W N E S
♠ 6 2
♥ Q 3
♦ 10 4
♣ J 9 8 6 5 4 2

♠ K 9 8 3
♥ 10 4
♦ K Q 5 2
♣ A K Q

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	Dbl	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass			Pass
4 ♠ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

If you bid 1 ♠ now it would be showing a 5-card ♠ suit. So instead you make a Negative Double. Partner jumps to 2 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner's jump shows a Medium hand, 16 - 18 points. Add your 11 and you have enough for game so you bid it.

Deal 9

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A J 9 7 5 2

♥ 10 9 6 3

♦ J

♣ A Q

♠ K 10 8 4

♥ K J 7 2

♦ 7 3

♣ J 9 5

♠ Q

♥ 8 5 4

♦ 9 6 5 2

♣ 8 7 6 3 2

♠ 6 3

♥ A Q

♦ A K Q 10 8 4

♣ K 10 4

8

12

2

18

12

2

18

12

West North East South

1 ♦

1 ♠

Dbl

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

3 NT

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have a very good hand but only 2 of partner's ♥ suit. You are actually too strong to just jump in ♦s so you cue-bid the opponent's suit. Partner now bids 3 NT which you pass.

Deal 10

South Deals	♠ 10 8 2		
None Vul	♥ 9 3		
	♦ K Q 9 4		
	♣ A J 9 6		
♠ A K J 9 7 4	♠ 6 5		
♥ —	♥ J 10 6 5 4		
♦ A 10 5 3	♦ J 6		
♣ 10 8 3	♣ K Q 4 2		
	♠ Q 3		
10	♥ A K Q 8 7 2		
12 7	♦ 8 7 2		
11	♣ 7 5		
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
2 ♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Ahhh, a perfect Negative Double. Both Majors have been bid and you have 4 cards in each Minor. So you double. Partner bids 2 ♥. What do you say next?

Well let's see. Partner shows no interest in your two Minors or notrump. And he has 6 ♥s and a minimum hand. He wants to play it at 2 ♥ so you pass and let him.

Deal 11North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q
♥ 8 3 2
♦ 8 7 5 3
♣ J 10 9 7 5

16
3 13
8

♠ A 9 3
♥ A Q J 9 6 4
♦ Q 4
♣ K 4

N
W E
S

♠ K J 10 7 6 5 4
♥ K 7
♦ A 10 2
♣ Q

♠ 8 2
♥ 10 5
♦ K J 9 6
♣ A 8 6 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	1 ♠	Dbl
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner is showing both Minors but you are not interested in either one. Bidding notrump is a possibility but with just a single ♠ stopper is not advisable. With 18 points and a 6-card suit you jump in the suit. You bid 3 ♥ and partner raises to 4 ♥.

Deal 12

South Deals	♠ 10 8		
None Vul	♥ 9 3		
	♦ AJ 9 4		
	♣ K Q 9 6 5		
♠ K 5	♠ A Q J 9 6 4 3		
♥ Q J 10 7 6 2	♥ —		
♦ 6 3	♦ 10 8 2		
♣ A 10 3	♣ 8 7 2		
	♠ 7 2		
10	♥ A K 8 5 4		
10 7	♦ K Q 7 5		
13	♣ J 4		
West	North	East	South
2 ♥	Dbl	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
3 ♦ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

When the two Majors have been bid, a Negative Double shows both Minors. So you double. Partner now bids 3 ♦. What do you say next?

This is difficult. You forced partner to bid and he supported your known ♦s. But he didn't jump so you figure him for 13-15 points. Revaluing your hand you get up to 13 points so it is just possible you have a 28 point total. That's not enough for game in ♦s so you pass.

As you can see you will lose 2 ♣s and 1 ♣ so you made the right decision.

Deal 13

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10 8 4 3**♥ 10 6 5 3****♦ J 8 2****♣ Q****♠ A 5****♥ K J 9 4****♦ A Q 10 5 4****♣ 4 3****♠ K 9****♥ 2****♦ 9 7 3****♣ A K J 9 7 6 5****♠ Q 7 6 2****♥ A Q 8 7****♦ K 6****♣ 10 8 2****14
4 11
11**

West

North

East

South

1 ♦

2 ♣

Dbl

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

3 ♥

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

Pass

Pass
4 ♥ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner's double promises 4 cards in at least one of the Majors. You certainly hope it is ♥s. You bid 2 ♥ and partner raises to 3 ♥. What do you bid next?

Once partner confirms he has the ♥s you can revalue your hand to 17 points. This gives you enough extra to accept partner's invitation. You bid 4 ♥.

Deal 14
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 6	♠ 10 8 7 5		
♥ 9	♥ A K 6 4		
♦ A K 10 6 2	♦ 9 7 4		
♣ Q 10 9 5	♣ 3 2		
	♠ 4 2		
	♥ J 10 7 5 2		
	♦ Q J 5		
	♣ J 8 7		
15 7	♠ K J 9 3		
15 5	♥ Q 8 3		
13	♦ 8 3		
	♣ A K 6 4		
West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Dbl	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
1 ♠ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have the special hand, 4-4 in the Majors, so you make a Negative Double. Partner replies 1 ♠. What do you say?

Partner has a minimum opener with 4 ♠s. You have a minimum response with 4 ♣s. Pass and be grateful the opponents aren't bidding.

Deal 15

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 5 4
♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ K 10 7
♣ 10 7 3

14
3 12
11

♠ K 10 9 8

♥ A K 7 6 4

♦ 4

♣ A 9 6

N
W E
S

♠ A 2
♥ 5 2
♦ A Q J 8 3 2
♣ J 5 2

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ Q J
♦ 9 6 5
♣ K Q 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	2 ♦	Dbl
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Sometimes using Negative Doubles seems like you can read minds. You know for sure that partner has 4 ♠s since that is the only unbid Major. You know for sure that partner has T+ points because he made a Negative Double of a 2-level overcall. So you conclude that your side has 8 ♠s and 27+ points and you bid 4 ♠.

Deal 16

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 3
♥ 3 2
♦ A J 7 6 4
♣ 7 4 3

8
8 10
14

N
W E
S

♠ K 10 9 4
♥ A J 8
♦ 9 3 2
♣ 10 9 6

♠ A 7 5 2
♥ K 10 6 4
♦ 8 5
♣ K 8 2

♠ 8 6
♥ Q 9 7 5
♦ K Q 10
♣ A Q J 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT
1 NT by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

The general guideline for a Negative Double when both Majors are unbid is that you must have 4+ cards in at least ONE of the Majors. But for this specific sequence, 1♣ - 1♦, you do not double unless you have BOTH Majors. When you have only one of them you just bid it. Like this hand. You bid 1♠. Partner rebids 1 NT. What do you say?

Partner has a minimum hand and fewer than 4 ♠s. A good time for you to pass.

Deal 17
West Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 4 3
♥ Q 2
♦ A K 9 6 5 2
♣ K 5

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

12
14 10
4
♣ J 9 7 6 2
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ —
♣ Q 10 7 4

West North East South
1 ♥ 2 ♦ Dbl Pass
Pass Pass
2 ♦× by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner has T+ points, a ♠ suit and fewer than 3 ♥s. Doesn't this look like the perfect hand to pass for penalties? Yes.

Deal 18
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ J 4 2
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ J 8 6 5 4
 ♣ Q J

13
 9 5
 13

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			

♠ A 10 9 6
 ♥ K Q J 6
 ♦ 9 3 2
 ♣ K 8

♠ Q 5 3
 ♥ 9 7 4
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ 7 6 5 4 2

♠ K 8 7
 ♥ 10 5 3
 ♦ A Q 10
 ♣ A 10 9 3



The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

This is one of the nicer parts of Negative Doubles. When the bidding is 1♣ - 1♦, a double by you promises both Majors. It's like you are allowed to bid both suits at once, 1♣♥. So you double and partner says 1 NT. It is your bid.

Partner doesn't have 4 of either Major. But he does have 13 points and ♦s stopped. You also have 13 points so you bid 3 NT.

Deal 19

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 2
♥ K Q 10 9 7
♦ A 8 3
♣ 9 5 3

12
9 7
12

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 10 9 4
♥ A 8 6
♦ 9 5
♣ K 10 4

♠ A 8 6
♥ J 4 2
♦ 7 6 2
♣ Q 8 7 2

♠ J 7 3
♥ 5 3
♦ K Q J 10 4
♣ A J 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

It is the sign of a novice to support responder's 1-level response with only 3 of the suit. Very often he will have responded in a 4-card suit and you end up playing in a 7-card fit.

But that is not the case here. If partner had only 4 ♠s he would not have bid the suit, he would have made a Negative Double. Since his ♠ bid promises 5 it is quite correct for you to support with only 3. So you raise to 2 ♠ and partner bids the game.

Deal 20

East Deals	♠ J 10 8 4 2
None Vul	♥ J 4
	♦ Q J 9 7 4 3
	♣ —
♠ 9 6 3	♠ A K 7 5
♥ 10 5 2	♥ A 9 8 3
♦ A 2	♦ K 8 6
♣ K Q 10 8 6	♣ 9 5

5	♠ Q
9 14	♥ K Q 7 6
12	♦ 10 5
	♣ A J 7 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	2 ♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		
2 ♣ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

First let's agree on what you DON'T say. You don't say "double" because that would a Negative Double showing at least one 4-card Major. You don't support partner's ♦s with just two of them. You probably don't bid 1 NT with no honor in either Major. So you pass. This is called a "Trap Pass". Partner re-opens with a double. What do you say?

Now you see why it's called a "Trap Pass". When an overcall is followed by two passes Opener should try to find another bid. In particular he should try to double for takeout if he can. That's what East did here, but you converted it to a Penalty Double by passing.