

Deal 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 7 5 2
♥ K 10 6 4
♦ 8 5
♣ K 8 2

10 14
8 8

West North East South
Pass 1♣ 1♦ 1♠
Pass
1 NT by North

♠ 8 6
♥ Q 9 7 5
♦ K Q 10
♣ A Q J 5

♠ Q J 3
♥ 3 2
♦ A J 7 6 4
♣ 7 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ K 10 9 4
♥ A J 8
♦ 9 3 2
♣ 10 9 6

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 2
North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 7 6 2
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ —
♣ Q 10 7 4

14
4 12
10

♠ 8
♥ A K 7 6 4
♦ Q J 10 8 4
♣ A 8

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

♠ A K Q 5
♥ 5 3
♦ 7 3
♣ J 9 6 3 2

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

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 3
 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

N
 W E
 S

♠ 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 4
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ K Q 10 9 4	♦ A 8 6		
♥ A 8 6	♦ J 4 2		
♦ 9 5	♦ 7 6 2		
♣ K 10 4	♣ Q 8 7 2		
	♠ J 7 3		
	♥ 5 3		
	♦ K Q J 10 4		
	♣ A J 6		
	♠ 5 2		
12 7	♥ K Q 10 9 7		
12 9	♦ A 8 3		
	♣ 9 5 3		
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
4 ♠ by West			

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 5West Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 7 5	♦ Q
♥ A 9 8 3	♦ K Q 7 6
♦ K 8 6	♦ 10 5
♣ 9 5	♣ A J 7 4 3 2
	N
	W E
	S
	♦ 9 6 3
	♥ 10 5 2
	♦ A 2
	♣ K Q 10 8 6
12	♠ J 10 8 4 2
14 9	♥ J 4
5	♦ Q J 9 7 4 3
	♣ —

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

Double by passing.

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 West did here, but you converted it to a Penalty