

Deal 1

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 8
 ♥ A K 7 6 4
 ♦ Q J 10 8 4
 ♣ A 8

12
 14 10
 4

West

1 ♥

Pass

2 ♦ × by North

♠ 10 4 3

♥ Q 2

♦ A K 9 6 5 2

♣ K 5



♠ J 9 7 6 2

♥ J 10 9 8

♦ —

♣ Q 10 7 4

North

2 ♦

Pass

East

Dbl

South

Pass

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 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 4 2
♥ A 8 2
♦ J 8 6 5 4
♣ Q J

13
9 5
13

West

1 ♦

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

♠ A 10 9 6

♥ K Q J 6

♦ 9 3 2

♣ K 8



♠ K 8 7

♥ 10 5 3

♦ A Q 10

♣ A 10 9 3

North

Dbl

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♣

1 NT

Pass

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 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 5 2
♥ K Q 10 9 7
♦ A 8 3
♣ 9 5 3

12
9 7
12

West

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ K Q 10 9 4

♥ A 8 6

♦ 9 5

♣ K 10 4



♠ J 7 3

♥ 5 3

♦ K Q J 10 4

♣ A J 6

North

1 ♠

4 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♦

2 ♠

Pass

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 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10 8 4 2
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ Q J 9 7 4 3
 ♣ —

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



♠ A K 7 5
 ♥ A 9 8 3
 ♦ K 8 6
 ♣ 9 5

5
 9 14
 12

♠ Q
 ♥ K Q 7 6
 ♦ 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 be 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.