

Practise Reopening Doubles

NG34Bridge

Choose your next bid

Hand: 1 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 1♥ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ A 10 7 5 ♥ 9 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ A Q 9 6 2
Hand: 2 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 2♣ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ A J 7 5 4 ♥ A K 10 6 4 ♦ A 8 ♣ 2
Hand: 3 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 2♣ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ A 6 ♥ K J 8 4 ♦ K 10 9 5 3 2 ♣ J
Hand: 4 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 1♠ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ K 4 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ A K Q 10 5 ♣ Q 9 2
Hand: 5 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 1♠ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ 9 ♥ A K J 10 ♦ A Q 10 7 ♣ A J 10 5

Answer: Dbl

Although our hand is close to minimum, it's ideal for a reopening double, with just a singleton in the overcall suit and tolerance for any suit partner may bid if he takes out our double. It's possible that partner has 6 hearts or 5 strong hearts, in which case he would have been unable to take action over the 1♥ overcall. He would be hoping that we could reopen with a takeout double so that he could pass for penalties.

No harm will befall us if partner is unable to make a penalty pass. We shall be quite happy if partner takes out to 1♠, 1NT or 2♣. If all that he can say is 2♦, he'll have a 5 card suit most of the time.

Answer: Dbl

The most flexible reopening action on this promising hand is a takeout double. If partner has a penalty doubling hand with 9+ HCP and 5 clubs or 4 very strong clubs, we shall be happy when he passes for penalties. If (as is more likely given our 16 HCP)) partner takes out to 2♦, we can continue with 2♥.

Answer: 2♦

Even when the overcall is at the 2 level, we should rarely pass it out with a singleton in the opponent's suit. If we knew that partner had strong clubs we could make a takeout double, but he might be planning to bid spades instead, which would mean we would have to bid 3♦. We should therefore settle for a simple rebid of our suit.

Answer: 1NT

When partner passes over an overcall, a reopening 1NT shows about 17-19 points. It would normally show 3 or 4 cards in the opponents' suit, but on this hand our ♠Kx and good diamonds are more than adequate. We can stop the first or second round of spades and run our diamonds, expecting to make six tricks on the trot. Indeed, if partner raises to 2NT we should continue to 3NT.

Answer: Dbl

There's no upper limit for a reopening double. If, by any chance, partner has the 9 HCP required for a penalty double, we'll probably collect a large penalty. If not, we can continue by raising partner's response in any suit (or No Trumps) to the 3 level.

Hand: 6 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 2♦ Pass Pass 1♥ ?	South ♠ A Q J 7 ♥ K 10 6 5 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ 9 8
Hand: 7 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 1♠ Pass Pass 1♥ ?	South ♠ A ♥ K J 9 7 6 4 ♦ A 6 ♣ A 10 5 2
Hand: 8 Dealer: South Vul: None West North East South 2♣ Pass Pass 1♥ ?	South ♠ A Q J 7 ♥ K 10 6 5 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ 9 8
Hand: 9 Dealer: North Vul: None West North East South Pass 1♠ 2♦ Pass Dbl Pass ?	South ♠ 7 5 4 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ Q 7 5 ♣ A 9 8 6
Hand: 10 Dealer: North Vul: None West North East South Pass 1♣ 1♦ Pass Dbl Pass ?	South ♠ 10 7 6 ♥ 9 3 ♦ A Q 5 4 2 ♣ 10 8 7
Hand: 11 Dealer: North Vul: None West North East South Pass 1♥ 2♦ Pass Dbl Pass ?	South ♠ 10 5 ♥ J 8 6 ♦ A 9 5 4 2 ♣ 10 7 3
Hand: 12 Dealer: North Vul: All West North East South Pass 1♥ 1♠ Pass Dbl Pass ?	South ♠ A Q 10 8 4 3 ♥ K 9 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ J 7

Answer: **Pass**

Despite our 16 points, there is no sound reopening action on this hand. We cannot rebid 2NT, for which we would need 20+ HCP (partner may have zero points), and would need 6 hearts to repeat our hearts, and 2♠ requires 5 spades which would promise 6 hearts. We should be happy to pass and collect a small penalty or concede a small minus score. Partner can't have a strong hand with good diamonds, so we almost certainly won't miss a game by passing out the overcall.

Answer: **Dbl**

Reopening with a takeout double is our most flexible action. In the unlikely event of partner passing for penalties (9 HCP and 4 good spades), we have good defensive values. If partner instead responds 2♦, with 6 hearts we can correct to 2♥ and partner will have a good picture of our hand.

Answer: **Dbl**

Although our hand is rather balanced, this is a good hand for a reopening double. If partner passes for penalties, this will almost certainly give us a good result. We'll also be pleased if partner takes out into 2♠. We'll be less happy if he bids a red suit, but our high cards should be enough for us to scrape home.

Answer: **2♠**

Partner has protected with a reopening double in case we had a penalty doubling hand. With 3 card support for partner's spade suit, we should take out the double into his suit.

Answer: **1NT**

Although we have good cards in the overcall suit, we are not strong enough to convert the takeout double into a penalty double. We have just 6 HCP and partner might have just 11 HCP. We have to take out the double. With a balanced hand and with the opponents' suit very well stopped we should therefore bid NT instead.

Answer: **2♥**

Despite our 5 diamonds, we are well short of the requirement for leaving the double in for penalties. our best action is to show support for partner's suit. Normally partner will have 5 hearts, so 2♥ will be a satisfactory contract.

Answer: **Pass**

Despite our support for partner's hearts, we can easily justify a penalty pass on this hand. It's possible that West might rescue to a minor suit, but if partner can't double again for penalties we can support his hearts on the next round.

Hand: 13 Dealer: North Vul: None West North East South 1♥ 2♣ Pass Pass Dbl Pass ?				South ♠ J 8 3 ♥ 2 ♦ A 7 6 4 ♣ K J 9 5 4
Hand: 14 Dir: North Vul: None West North East South 1♦ 1♠ Pass Pass Dbl Pass ?				South ♠ 9 7 5 2 ♥ Q 10 7 4 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ 5 3

Answer: **Pass**

Our trumps are good enough for a penalty pass at the 2 level. In addition, our singleton heart provides ruffing opportunities and makes defending even more attractive.

Answer: **2♥**

We clearly don't have a penalty doubling hand so should be quite happy to take out the double by introducing our 4 card heart suit. Partner will have catered for this possibility when reopening.