

Improver Course Take-Out Doubles

<p> ♠ 54 ♥ Q72 ♦ AKQ532 ♣ Q5 ♠ AK108 ♠ QJ32 ♥ 863 ♥ KJ104 ♦ 1084 ♦ 9 ♣ J32 ♣ AK76 ♠ 976 ♥ A95 ♦ J76 ♣ 10984 </p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better. 1♠ shows 0-8 points. Whenever West gains the lead in his hand with a trump he should lead hearts, using the entries to finesse, leading up to ♥10 and later ♥J. He is also lucky that when (after drawing trumps) he cashes ♣AK, North's ♣Q falls, making his ♣J a winner. Note that he doesn't try leading ♣J for a finesse because he doesn't have ♣10.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
	1♦	Dbl	Pass										
1♠	All Pass												
<p> ♠ 108 ♥ 863 ♦ 108432 ♣ Q32 ♠ 9764 ♠ AK5 ♥ A542 ♥ Q7 ♦ J ♦ AKQ765 ♣ 10984 ♣ J5 ♠ QJ32 ♥ KJ109 ♦ 9 ♣ AK76 </p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better. North has to bid: he cannot pass just because he has nothing. He cannot bid 1NT which would show 6-9 points and at least one diamond stopper so he makes the best of a very bad job by bidding 1♥. 1♥ would make a few tricks but East understandably won't sell out to 1♥.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥	2♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
		1♦	Dbl										
Pass	1♥	2♦	All Pass										
<p> ♠ J9 ♥ A54 ♦ J532 ♣ J842 ♠ Q732 ♠ 10864 ♥ KJ109 ♥ 8632 ♦ 10 ♦ Q84 ♣ AK76 ♣ Q3 ♠ AK5 ♥ Q7 ♦ AK976 ♣ 1095 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better. Without North's 2♦ bid East would have had to bid. The 2♦ bid has released him from that obligation. If he chooses to bid now he should have about six points or more.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Dbl	2♦	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
			1♦										
Dbl	2♦	All Pass											
<p> ♠ QJ32 ♥ KQJ9 ♦ 10 ♣ AK76 ♠ 654 ♠ 97 ♥ A7 ♥ 10542 ♦ AKJ976 ♦ 8532 ♣ J9 ♣ 1054 ♠ AK108 ♥ 863 ♦ Q4 ♣ Q832 </p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better. 2♠ shows 9-12 points. North is about an ace better than a minimum opening bid so bids game. North should end up with 11 tricks in 4♠, losing tricks to just the two missing red aces.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
1♦	Dbl	Pass	2♠										
Pass	4♠	All Pass											

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<p> ♠ AK5 ♥ AJ ♦ A7654 ♣ J95 ♠ 642 ♠ QJ83 ♥ 863 ♥ KQ109 ♦ KQJ109 ♦ 2 ♣ Q3 ♣ AK76 ♠ 1097 ♥ 7542 ♦ 83 ♣ 10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better.</p> <p>West has a rare hand when it is correct to pass his partner's takeout double. West is positively choosing diamonds as trumps.</p> <p>When West passes East's takeout double East should lead a trump. If West regains the lead he can draw all of declarer's trumps and hold him to four tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Dbl	All Pass				
West	North	East	South										
	1♦	Dbl	All Pass										
<p> ♠ 642 ♥ 863 ♦ KQ109 ♣ Q32 ♠ Q107 ♠ AK5 ♥ 7542 ♥ AJ ♦ J83 ♦ A7654 ♣ 1084 ♣ J95 ♠ J983 ♥ KQ109 ♦ 2 ♣ AK76 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better.</p> <p>1NT shows 6-9 points and at least one stopper in diamonds. South must not remove 1NT: he has already shown this type of hand by doubling and needs to respect North's decision.</p> <p>East will lead a fourth highest ♦5. West will play ♦J (third hand high) leaving declarer with three diamond tricks if he chooses to play a diamond straight back.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	1♦	Dbl			All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1NT	1♦	Dbl										
		All Pass											
<p> ♠ 1074 ♥ 7542 ♦ Q8 ♣ 10854 ♠ J983 ♠ KQ2 ♥ KQJ10 ♥ 863 ♦ 2 ♦ KJ109 ♣ AK76 ♣ Q32 ♠ A65 ♥ A9 ♦ A76543 ♣ J9 </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better.</p> <p>2NT shows 10-12 points and normally two stoppers in diamonds.</p> <p>South leads ♦5. North will play ♦Q (third hand high) leaving declarer with three diamond stoppers. He should make ten tricks, losing just three aces.</p>	West	North	East	South	Dbl	Pass	2NT	1♦	3NT	All Pass		Pass
West	North	East	South										
Dbl	Pass	2NT	1♦										
3NT	All Pass		Pass										

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<p> ♠ J983 ♥ KQJ ♦ 10 ♣ AK764 ♠ A65 ♠ 1074 ♥ A6 ♥ 5432 ♦ AJ6543 ♦ KQ ♣ J9 ♣ 10852 ♠ KQ2 ♥ 10987 ♦ 9872 ♣ Q3 </p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better. North has the choice between 2♣ and double. It is a close decision but the priority of looking for a major suit fit makes double slightly preferable. North has to accept South's choice. To bid again would show a strong hand.</p> <p>West has a difficult lead. He should not cash (or underlead) unsupported aces against a suit contract. Maybe he will lead ♣J. Whatever West does declarer he is likely to succeed in 1♥ despite the uneasy 4-3 trump fit.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥	All Pass							
West	North	East	South														
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥														
All Pass																	
<p> ♠ 65 ♥ A6 ♦ AK7654 ♣ J92 ♠ AKQ2 ♠ J98 ♥ Q983 ♥ KJ102 ♦ J103 ♦ 2 ♣ Q3 ♣ AK764 ♠ 10743 ♥ 754 ♦ Q98 ♣ 1085 </p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better.</p> <p>East has the choice between 2♣ and double. It is a close decision but the priority of looking for a major suit fit makes double slightly preferable. West wants to play in game and wants to be sure of finding a 4-4 fit. He bids 2♦, opener's suit, showing 11+ points and asking for more information. East bids his cheapest 4-card major and West now knows the correct contract. Declarer should lose tricks to just the two missing red aces.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Dbl	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
	1♦	Dbl	Pass														
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass														
4♥	All Pass																
<p> ♠ Q32 ♥ Q83 ♦ J103 ♣ AKQ2 ♠ J98 ♠ 105 ♥ 754 ♥ A96 ♦ Q98 ♦ AK7654 ♣ 10653 ♣ 74 ♠ AK764 ♥ KJ102 ♦ 2 ♣ J98 </p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South has the choice between 1♠ and double. It is a close decision but the priority of looking for a major suit fit makes 1♠ slightly preferable. North would insist on game opposite an opening bid but is content to make a game try opposite a one level overcall. South is not minimum so bids on to game.</p> <p>Declarer should lose tricks to just the two missing red aces.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
		1♦	1♠														
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠														
All Pass																	

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<p> ♠ 32 ♥ Q754 ♦ Q93 ♣ 10653 ♠ AKJ6 ♠ Q9874 ♥ KJ102 ♥ 83 ♦ 82 ♦ J10 ♣ J98 ♣ AKQ2 ♠ 105 ♥ A96 ♦ AK7654 ♣ 74 </p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better. West's shape of 4-4-2-3 is not quite as suitable for a takeout double as 4-4-1-4, but it pays to get into the auction if you have two 4-card major suits. East is confident that West has at least three spades and has the values for game. This contract depends on declarer getting the hearts right. He draws trumps and leads ♥3 towards dummy's ♥K J 10. As second hand South should play low, leaving declarer with a guess. If declarer remembers South's opening bid he will reason that South almost certainly has ♥A, so he will play dummy's ♥K.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Dbl	Pass	4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
			1♦										
Dbl	Pass	4♠	All Pass										
<p> ♠ AK ♥ KJ ♦ QJ10987 ♣ J98 ♠ 10754 ♠ J32 ♥ AQ6 ♥ 10975 ♦ AK654 ♦ 3 ♣ K ♣ Q10653 ♠ Q986 ♥ 8432 ♦ 2 ♣ A742 </p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North is pretty confident he can beat 1♦ but he cannot double because that would be for takeout. 1NT wouldn't be stupid, but it generally pays to pass if you have great strength in the opposition's suit. It isn't just declarer who can draw trumps. This time a defender, North, has great trump strength. It is in his interests to prevent declarer using his small trumps, so the opening lead should be a trump.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	All Pass						
West	North	East	South										
1♦	All Pass												
<p> ♠ 10754 ♥ Q6 ♦ AK654 ♣ K3 ♠ Q986 ♠ AK ♥ A1098 ♥ KJ ♦ - ♦ QJ10987 ♣ AQ542 ♣ J98 ♠ J32 ♥ 75432 ♦ 32 ♣ 1076 </p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East is pretty confident he can beat 1♦ but he cannot double because that would be for takeout. 1NT wouldn't be totally stupid, but it generally pays to pass if you have great strength in the opposition's suit. East is amply rewarded when West makes a takeout double, which East is delighted to pass! It isn't just declarer who can draw trumps. This time a defender, East, has great trump strength. It is in his interests to prevent declarer using his small trumps, so the opening lead should be a trump.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
	1♦	Pass	Pass										
Dbl	All Pass												

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<p> ♠ A432 ♥ AK76 ♦ 2 ♣ A432 ♠ Q10 ♠ K76 ♥ 983 ♥ QJ10 ♦ QJ87 ♦ AK543 ♣ J1097 ♣ K8 ♠ J985 ♥ 542 ♦ 1096 ♣ Q65 </p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double of a suit bid below 2♠ is for takeout. South must bid his best suit however weak he is, so 2♠ doesn't guarantee holding any points. North is wise to pass. East may or may not bid on to 3♦, which makes if he guesses the clubs correctly.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
		1♦	Pass														
2♦	Dbl	Pass	2♠														
All Pass																	
<p> ♠ Q10 ♥ 983 ♦ QJ87 ♣ J1097 ♠ A432 ♠ J985 ♥ AK76 ♥ 542 ♦ 2 ♦ 1096 ♣ AQ32 ♣ 654 ♠ K76 ♥ QJ10 ♦ AK543 ♣ K8 </p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double is for takeout, showing an opening bid or better. East is not obliged to bid after North's 2♦ but West has a very strong hand and hasn't finished yet. He makes a second double, also takeout. This time East must bid. 2♠ does not guarantee holding any points and having already bid strongly West is wise to pass. South may or may not bid on to 3♦, which will fail by one trick.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Dbl	2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
			1♦														
Dbl	2♦	Pass	Pass														
Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass														
<p> ♠ K1092 ♥ AKQ76 ♦ 102 ♣ 43 ♠ AJ6 ♠ 543 ♥ 10 ♥ 9832 ♦ AQJ65 ♦ 74 ♣ AK76 ♣ QJ109 ♠ Q87 ♥ J54 ♦ K983 ♣ 852 </p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Double of a suit bid below 2♠ is for takeout. West knows that East is weak because he passed 1♥, but West is very strong. East removes the takeout double into his best suit. Declarer should use whatever entries he has to his hand to finesse diamonds. If he manages to finesse twice and then ruffs a diamond then dummy's fifth diamond becomes a winner because ♦6 is the only remaining diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♣	All Pass				
West	North	East	South														
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass														
Dbl	Pass	2♣	All Pass														