

A PUZZLEMENT by Barbara

What will we do with the following hand? 1D on your left and partner makes a takeout double (TOD). Pass on your right. This is your hand.

S 752
H 632
D K10743
C 87

If you pass, you will now be converting partner's TOD to a penalty double.
If you pass, opponents will make 1 D doubled.
He will score lots of points for doubled overtricks and the insult of being doubled.

740 is the score for 1D doubled making 3 overtricks, vulnerable

Partner will not understand ... there goes another partnership!

When your only long suit is the opponent's suit and you are the responder to the takeout double...you must respond.

MAKE YOUR CHEAPEST BID IN A 3 CARD SUIT. Bid 1 H on the hand above.

But with this hand:

S 652
H A84
D QJ1098
C 87

Now you can pass partner's takeout double as you feel sure you can defeat 1 D

NOTE: You may only pass partner's TOD when you have 3 sure trump tricks and an outside trick.

This should not occur more often than once every 5 years!

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIPS

Hand # 1

You hold this hand:

S Q32
H 876
D AK1065
C 65

The bidding goes:

1S by RHO. You and partner are not bidding.

1S - 3S (Limit raise)
4N - 5H
6S

Do you double or pass?

Hand # 2

You hold this hand:

S KJ82
H K987
D AQ5
C J10

Your RHO opens 1NT. You and partner are not bidding.

1NT - 2D
2H - 3NT

What will you lead?

a) S 2 b) H 7 c) D Ace d) D 5 e) C J

ANSWERS:

1: Don't double. If you are playing against decent players, they will not use Blackwood holding two or three little cards in a side suit (a non-trump suit). Odds are they have a singleton in Diamonds. Also, when you double, they are guided now and have a clue about who has the missing Spade Queen. Give them no clues; just pass.

2: The opponents got to 3NT. They have 25 or 26 HCP between them. You are on lead and have 14 HCP. There are only 40 HCP in the deck. How many does that leave for partner? Zip! Nada! If you lead any of choices a) b) c) or d) , you will give Declarer a trick. Lead the Club Jack. When you get on lead again, lead the Club 10. Declarer will have to lead Spades, Hearts and Diamonds herself and you will get more tricks this way. We call this the Rule of 40. Before leading, always estimate how many points your opponents have and add to yours. This will tell you how many points partner can have. This will guide you in making your lead.

If you are in 3rd seat and partner has led a King and can only possibly have 5 points in his hand, you have just seen all 5 points as he is now known to also hold the Q in that suit. When you get on lead, expect nothing more from partner.

This is a very important concept. Do not play a single card at trick one until you have done the math and worked out how many points partner can have.

BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIP:

When partner opens the bidding and your RHO makes a takeout double (abbreviated TOD below) , that changes everything. Your first choice in traditional standard is to Redouble if you have 10 or more HCP.

You should discuss with partner your actions after a takeout double by RHO. In modern day bridge, Redouble shows no fit with partner i.e. 2 or fewer of partner's major or 3 or fewer of partner's minor and promises 10 or more HCP. Holding a fit with partner bid 2NT. This is called the "Jordan" convention. it shows 10 or more HCP and a fit.

It is still acceptable to bid a new suit at the one-level after a takeout double by RHO and that is considered forcing. But a new suit at the two-level (after a takeout double by RHO) is considered NOT forcing. Weird as that sounds.

In the following questions, partner has opened 1S and your RHO has bid Double.

What will you bid with these hands?

a)	b)	c)	d)	e)
S Q65	S 97	S 5	S KJ7	S QJ65
H 52	H Q932	H K8	H 76	H 8
D 9854	D KJ9	D 8754	D AQ86	D 9832
C Q1087	C J876	C AQJ862	C J832	C 9865

ANSWERS:

a) Bid 2S. When the opponents double, it is best to strive to interfere. It makes it tougher for them to now get to the right spot. If there had been no takeout double, you would just pass.

b) Bid 1NT. It shows 6-9 points, just as though there had been no double. If it is a shabby 6 points, just pass.

c) Redouble. If you bid 2C, it shows a weak hand and a new suit at the two-level (after a TOD on your right)

d) This is the Jordan Convention showing 10 or more HCP and at least 3 of partner's suit. Some play that 4 cards support is required for this bid so you and partner should agree. We prefer only 3 or more as being necessary. Remember that Jacoby 2NT is cancelled after interference so do not confuse this with Jacoby 2NT. Also, some people play Bergen Raises over a Double. It is important to discuss this with partner.

e) 3S. This shows 2-6 points including distribution and four card support. This interferes a lot with the opponent's communication. Just do it. It is always a weak bid after the TOD.