

Competitive Bidding III—Negative Double
(September 27, 2021)

Your partner opens 1H and you hold one of the following hands. Assume standard bidding methods and NO interference by the opponents. What would you bid holding the following hand?

1H (P) ???

a) Jx Qxx Kxxx Qxxx

With this hand, you probably would make a simple raise to 2H, which promises three card support and 6-9/10 high card points (HCP).

b) Jxx QJx AJxx Qxx

With this hand, you probably would bid 1N (forcing) and then rebid 3H, which promises three card support and eleven plus HCP.

c) Axx KQxx KQ xxx

With this hand, you probably would bid 2NT (Jacoby) which promises four card support and a minimum of twelve HCP.

d) Axx KQx x KQxxxx

With this hand, you might consider making a 4D bid (splinter bid which shows a singleton/void in diamonds) and promises excellent trump support. Or, you might consider making a 2C bid which is a 2/1 game forcing bid. Later in the bidding, you can show your heart support.

Your partner has opened the bidding with one heart. Your right hand opponent (RHO) bids 1S/2C/2D. What would you bid holding the following hands? NOTE: Assume standard bidding.

1H (1S/2C/2D) ???

a) xx Qxx Kxxx Qxxx

With this hand, you might make a simple raise to 2H, promising at least three card support and 6-9 high card points (HCP).

1H (1S/2C/2D) ???

b) xx QJxx Kxx Jxxx

With this hand, you might bid 3H showing 4 hearts and 7-9 HCP (known as a mixed raise).

c) xxx QJxxx x Qxxx

With this hand, you might bid 4H showing 5 hearts, a singleton or void, and not many high card points.

d) Qxx Kxx Axx QJxx

With this hand, you might cuebid your opponent's bid suit. This bid promises heart support and twelve plus high card points. It is the strongest bid you can make in support of your partner after an intervening bid.

Your partner has opened the bidding with 1H. Your right hand opponent bids 1S. What would you bid with the following hand? NOTE: Assume standard bidding.

1H (1S) ???

xxx Qx Kxxx Qxxx

Your problem is that you hold a doubleton in partner's suit; thus, making it impossible to raise to 2H. You do not hold a spade stopper; thus, you cannot rebid 1NT. However, you do hold 7 HCP. **You make what is called a NEGATIVE DOUBLE.**

NEGATIVE DOUBLE

When your partner has opened the bidding and your (RHO) has overcalled at the one level. His bid has interfered with your natural response. How can you convey to your partner that you have at least 6/7 high card points (HCP) and at least four cards in the unbid suits? Make a **Negative Double**. If an opponent overcalls at the two level, you need about 9/10 HCP and four cards in the unbid suits to make a **Negative Double**.

Example 6. RHO overcalls with 1S. **1D (1S) ???**

You hold the following hand: x KQxxx Axxx Qxx

Bid 2H. You have the strength (11+ HCP and a five card suit), plus you have diamond support for your partner.

Example 7. RHO overcalls with 1S. **1D (1S) ???**

You hold the following hand: AQ10xx xx xx Jxxx

PASS. Partner may reopen with a double and then you can pass and convert the double to a penalty double.

Example 8. RHO overcalls with 1S. **1D (1S) ???**

You hold the following hand: AQx xxx Kxx Jxxx

Bid 1NT. This bid shows values and a sure spade stopper. Don't consider making a negative double holding only three hearts.

Example 9. RHO overcalls 1S. **1D (1S) ???**

You hold the following hand: AJ10 Kxxx Qx Kxxx

Make a **Negative Double**. Here, even holding a spade stopper, you should first try to find a 4/4 heart fit. You can always bid 3NT later if your partner does not rebid 2H. If he does bid 2H, then you should bid 4H.

Example 10. RHO overcalls 2S (weak two bid). **1D (2S) ???**

You hold the following hand: x AJxxx Axx xxxx

Make a **Negative Double**. You are not strong enough to bid 3H; but, your singleton spade should prove extremely valuable if your side plays in hearts.

NOTE: All of the above examples cover situations in which an opponent has made an overcall. But, what happens when an opponent makes a takeout double of your partner's opening bid? In another lesson, we will look at examples of the various hands which you might hold as the responder.

Let's finish by looking at a complete hand.

J6		Both sides nonvulnerable				
KJ109						
Q63		Bidding:	South	West	North	East
Q963			1C	1S	Dbl	2S
			3H	P	P	P
AQ1095	K83					
753	62					
K2	A8754					
985	J72	Contract:	3H by South			
		Opening Lead:	Ace of spades			
742						
AQ84						
J109						
AK4						

Analysis of Hand:

Total Losers:

Spades: 3 (two unavoidable; one can be eliminated by ruffing in the dummy)
Hearts: 0
Diamonds: 2 (unavoidable)
Clubs: 0

West leads the ace of spades. His partner signals with the eight of spades. West leads the ten of spades, hoping his partner will read it as suit preference for a diamond shift. Notice if East underleads the ace of diamonds, and his partner returns the two of diamonds, East can give his partner a ruff for the setting trick. Top players would recognize that leading back a third spade to be ruffed in the dummy cannot be the best line of defense.

If your opponents do not find the "killing" defense, then declarer should have no problem in making this hand. If a third spade is returned, you ruff in the dummy and proceed to pull trumps. The opponents can take two diamond tricks. You make your contract.

If you had let them play in 2S, they will make two for +110; but, if you make 3H you will score +140. Even if you go down one, it is only -50. If they double for penalty and you go down 1, it is only -100.

NOTE: Always try to push the bidding to the three level if you can do so safely!

Assignment: What would you bid with the following hands?

1. 1D (1S) ???

You hold the following hand: xxx A98x Jxxx Kx

2. 1D (1S) ???

You hold the following hand: Jxx Axx Qxx AQ10x

Next Week: We will focus on partner's rebids after you have made a negative double.