

## Competitive Bidding VIII (November 1, 2021)

In competitive auctions, it is essential to know how many trumps are held between your partner's hand and yours. Several bidding innovations have been invented to aid you in this determination. One of the most important is that of the **Support Double/Redouble** which was originally developed by the famed Eric Rodwell.

The Support Double/Redouble is used when the opener starts with one of a suit, the responder makes a new suit reply, and the next player interferes by bidding a suit or doubling. The goal is to help you distinguish 3- and 4-card trump support, which can be invaluable. In the following examples, an asterisk indicates a support double/redouble bid showing **exactly three-card trump support**.

<b>Example 1.</b>	<b>You</b>	<b>LHO</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>RHO</b>
	1C	(P)	1H	(1S)
	Db1*			

Your Hand:       K3  
                    A104  
                    43  
                    AQ10643

Your support Double shows exactly three hearts. It says nothing about your overall strength. Partner will initially assume that your hand is minimum; but, you can bid strongly thereafter when you have extra points.

If instead you were to raise directly to 2H (or 3H or 4H), you would be promising 4-card support and showing your strength at the same time. A rebid of 2C would show extra club length but deny three hearts.

**NOTE: The support double/redouble is ONLY made by the opener at his first opportunity to make a rebid.**

**ALL SUPPORT DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES MUST BE ALERTED!!!!!!!**

Example 2 below shows the type of bidding fiasco that the support double can prevent

<b>Example 2.</b>	<b>You</b>	<b>LHO</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>RHO</b>
	1C	(P)	1H	(1S)
	1N	(3S)	3N	All Pass

Your Hand:

K10  
AJ8  
K97  
Q10963

65  
KQ952  
A852  
KJ

Your partner's 1H bid only promises a 4-card suit. So, when RHO overcalls 1S, your options are limited. Pass feels conservative and 2H would promise 4-card support. You settle for a rebid of 1NT given your balanced hand and spade stopper.

Your partner is stuck when the preemptive bid of 3S is made. Consequently, he guesses to bid 3NT instead of doubling for penalty. Unfortunately, the hand goes down when the opponents lead a spade to knock out your king. When they regain the lead with the ace of clubs, they run all their spades and set the contract.

Enters the support double. If you could have doubled the 1S overcall to show 3-card heart support, the auction would have proceeded as follows:

<b>You</b>	<b>LHO</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>RHO</b>
1C	(P)	1H	(1S)
Dbl	(3S)	4H	All Pass

What a difference in the auction. Your double shows exactly three hearts. Your partner now knows your side has an 8-card fit. He puts the final contract in 4H instead of 3NT. Notice that the value of differentiating 3-card and 4-card support can be a game swing!

In the above auction, if RHO had doubled instead of overcalling 1S, a redouble by you would promise exactly three hearts.

**NOTE: A support double/redouble is ONLY made by the opener at his first opportunity to make a rebid.**

## When to Play Support Doubles

- Opener and responder must have bid two different suits at the 1-level
- Usually, responder has bid a major.
- Usually, support doubles are on through 2S or two of our suit.
- There is no point count minimum or maximum to make a support double.
- Making a support double is opener's first priority. This is more important than rebidding notrump to show an enemy stopper, rebidding a 6-card minor suit, bidding a new suit, etc. Opener denies 3-card support if she makes any call other than double. (Excluding natural raises of responder's suit, of course.)
- If the opponents' interference is in the form of a double, a redouble by opener shows 3-card support. This is called a support redouble.

## When Support Doubles do NOT Apply

- Support doubles are off when opener or responder has bid notrump.
- Support doubles are also off when advancer bids a strong notrump.
- Opener isn't necessarily required to make a support double. She may be allowed to pass holding 3-card support with a weak balanced hand.

Let's look at some hands.

<b>Example 3.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1C	(1D)	1H	(2D)
	2H*			

\*2H guarantees 4 hearts. If West had doubled, it would have been a support double showing 3 hearts.

<b>Example 4.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1C	(P)	1H	(1S)
	2C*			

\*2C shows 6+ clubs and denies as many as 3 hearts. Making a support double is the opener's first priority.

<b>Example 5.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1D	(P)	1S	(Dbl)
	Redbl*			

\*Support doubles can also be used if the opponents double responder's bid. In this case, West makes a support redouble to show 3 spades.

## Responder's Rebids

### Weak Rebids:

In each of the following auctions, responder has roughly 6-9 HCP.

<b>Example 6.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1C	(1D)	1S	(2D)
	Db1*	(P)	2S**	

\*Support double showing 3-card spade support

\*\*6-9 HCP and possibly just 4 spades

<u><b>West</b></u>	<u><b>East</b></u>
AK7	QJ532
9543	A92
9	Q65
AK876	109

<b>Example 7.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1C	(P)	1H	(1S)
	Db1*	(P)	1N**	

\*Support double showing 3-card heart support

\*\*6-9 balanced points, only 4 hearts. Tends to promise a spade stopper.

<u><b>West</b></u>	<u><b>East</b></u>
Q108	A87
753	A942
A9	10875
AQJ76	109

<b>Example 8.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1C	(P)	1H	(1S)
	Db1*	(P)	2C**	

\*Support double showing 3-card heart support

\*\*6-9, only a 4-card major. Promises 4+ card support for opener in case clubs are a better fit. Note that East is too unbalanced to bid 1N, while 2H would promise a 5-card heart suit.

<u><b>West</b></u>	<u><b>East</b></u>
J1085	9
Q53	A942
A9	K753
AQJ7	10954

### Invitational or Better Rebids:

If responder jump-rebids her suit at the 3-level, then she has 10-12 HCP with a five+ card suit. Opener is invited to bid game.

<b>Example 9.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1D	(P)	1H	(2C)
	Db1*	(P)	3H**	

\*Support double showing 3-card heart support

\*\*10-12 HCP with 5+ hearts. Invitational to game.

<u><b>West</b></u>	<u><b>East</b></u>
AQ	1098
K53	AQJ84
KJ754	A62
976	J5

If responder rebids 1NT or jump-rebids 2NT, then she has 6-9 or 10-12 balanced points and only a 4-card suit. Either bid promises one or more stoppers in the enemy suit.

<b>Example 10.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1D	(P)	1H	(2C)
	Dbl*	(P)	2NT**	

\*Support double showing 3-card heart support

\*\*10-12 balanced points, invitational to game. Shows only 4 hearts.

<u><b>West</b></u>	<u><b>East</b></u>
AQ	432
K53	Q1084
KJ1054	A62
976	AQ4

### Game Forcing Hands:

**NOTE: If the responder makes an artificial cue-bid, then she has a good 12+ hand. She is forcing the hand to game.**

<b>Example 11:</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1D	(P)	1S	(2C)
	Dbl*	(P)	3C**	

\*Support double showing 3-card spade support

\*\*Game forcing cue-bid, may have only 4 spades

<u><b>West</b></u>	<u><b>East</b></u>
K53	AQJ42
AQ	K32
KJ1054	A62
976	102

**ASSIGNMENT: The bidding has proceeded as follows:**

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
1C	(P)	1H	(2D)
Db1*	(P)	6H**	All Pass

\*Support double showing 3-card heart support

\*\*For some reason, South leaps spectacularly to 6H!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Note: You should get to 6H; but, perhaps there is a more scientific way to bid the hand.

**North**

1092

Q108

AK6

A753

**West**

AJ4

3

QJ10974

K104

**East**

8763

62

8532

QJ9

**South**

KQ5

AKJ9754

VOID

862

How do you play the hand?

Next Week: Responsive Doubles and Rebids