

# Takeout doubles

Requirements for a normal takeout double:

- ♣ Shortage in opener's suit.
- ♣ A hand on which you would have opened the bidding. In theory there is no upper limit.
- ♣ Tolerance for any suit partner may bid – ideally 3+ cards.

**Don't forget** – in Standard English Acol ALL doubles of no trump bids are for penalties.

## *Responding to partner's takeout double*

Table of responses to partner's double of 1♦:

- ♣ 1♥, 1♠, 2♣ 0-8 HCP, at least a 4-card suit
- ♣ 2♥, 2♠, 3♣ 9-12 HCP, at least a 4-card suit
- ♣ 1NT 6-9 HCP, stoppers in diamonds
- ♣ 2NT 10-12 HCP, stoppers in diamonds
- ♣ 3NT 13-15 HCP, stoppers in diamonds
- ♣ 2♦ 11+ HCP, no obvious bid

The responses are similar after opening in other suits.

For example,

West	North	East	South (you)
1♥	Double	Pass	?

1	2	3	4	5
♠ 7 5 3 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ J 7 4 3 2 ♣ Q 6	♠ J 9 8 2 ♥ Q 8 7 3 ♦ K 2 ♣ 7 5 4	♠ K 8 3 2 ♥ 9 5 ♦ J 8 6 3 2 ♣ 8 7	♠ A J 9 5 4 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 7 6 5	♠ K 3 ♥ Q J 9 6 ♦ Q 10 3 2 ♣ Q J 5

## Answers to takeout doubles

- 1 Bid 2♦ – no other choice – lowest level possible
- 2 Bid 1♠ – not enough points for 2♠, 1NT would be ghastly!
- 3 Bid 1♠ – prefer the major
- 4 Bid “Stop” 2♠.
- 5 Bid 2NT with decent points and two stops in LHO’s suit it should be comfortable.