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### Responsive Doubles

When partner makes a takeout double, and RHO raises opener's suit, a double by you says "I have values, but have no particular preference as to suit. Please pick your best suit."

After 1D – X – 2D - ? with S –AJxx H -Qxxx D – xxx C -Kx , you are happy with either major suit. Double and let your partner pick.

After 1H – X – 1S - ? , with S -x H-xx D-KQxxx C-Axxxx, you could make a responsive double asking partner to pick his better minor. For this particular sequence you want a better hand and shape than with the first example, because partner will have to bid at the two level.

After 1D – X – 3D\* - ?

\*Preemptive

You will want very solid values to make a responsive double, because you will be at the three level. At the three level this should show a minimum of good shape and ~10 points, and invites partner to game with extras. (Note that if the opponents jump raise was standard [10 – 12 pts] you will never have hand good enough on strength to make the responsive double. A responsive double by you will be strictly based on great shape.)

Any time you can make a responsive double, you are under no obligation to bid (because by definition RHO's bid has relieved you of the obligation to respond to partner's takeout double. When you make a responsive double, you are promising some definite values, and the higher the level the better the hand you need.

Responsive doubles do not come up very often, but are very useful in getting to the right contract when they do.