

**Presents:** 

**The Negative Double** 

The **Negative Double** is one of the most essential bids in any Bridge Player's arsenal. It is primarily used to help partnerships discover Major Suit Fits in competitive auctions.

Take our hand to the right. Our partner has opened I Club and the East player has overcalled I Spade. If East had passed we would have made our normal response of I Heart. So what now?

The Negative Double is perfect for exactly this situation.

**Rule I:** The Negative Double only exists after a I Level Opening bid by our side and an immediate suit overcall by the next opponent.

**Rule 2:** If after the I<sup>st</sup> two bids there is an unbid Major Suit, then a double will always show 4+ cards in this unbid Major Suit. (i.e. In the auction to the right Hearts is the unbid major, so a double by South will show 4+ Hearts)



LearnBridge.nyc tip: Always think of the Negative
Double as a response because it only exists after partner
has opened the bidding. It is essentially a
RESPONDING DOUBLE.

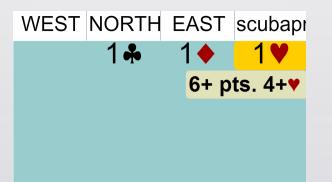


When we have our bid available we make it. So after our partner opens I Club we respond I Heart.





We still have our bid available, so we bid I Heart. This shows exactly the same thing as hand one.





On Hand 3 our I Heart bid is gone due to the I Spade overcall. Enter

THE NEGATIVE DOUBLE



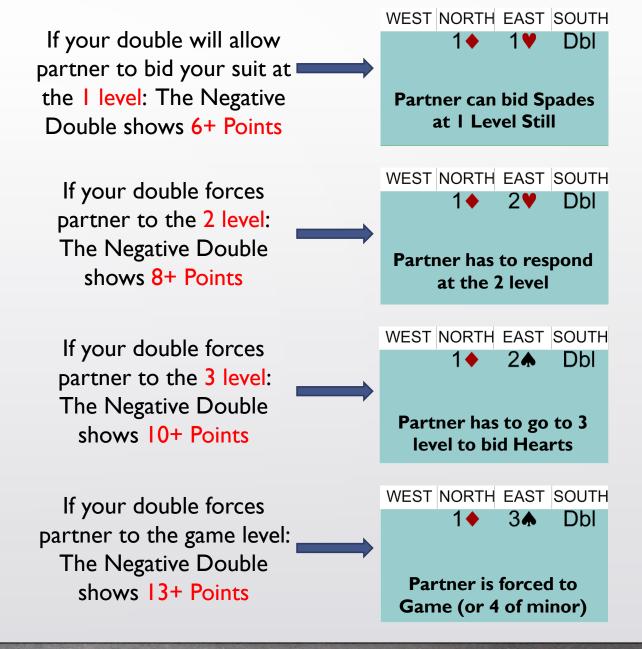
The Negative Double means the same as the I Heart response in the I<sup>st</sup> two hands. It is the same as a normal **response** at the I Level.

The number of points you need to make the Negative Double varies based upon the level of the opponent's overcall.

**Rule:** The higher the level of the overcall, the more points the Negative Double shows.

Rule: There is no upper range on points when using the Negative Double (Just like new suit responses)

Rule: The Negative Double is 100% FORCING



Back to our hand:

Here we have successfully executed our Negative Double. We've shown 8+ points and 4+ cards in the Heart suit.

Partner has responded 2 Hearts which shows a fit in that suit. This means partner also has 4 hearts.

What is your next call with this hand?



**LearnBridge.nyc reminder**: the bid of 2 Hearts with the South hand here would show **10+ points** and **5+ Hearts.** We certainly have the values for the 2 level but not the correct number of Hearts. This usually suggests that the Negative Double is where we start.

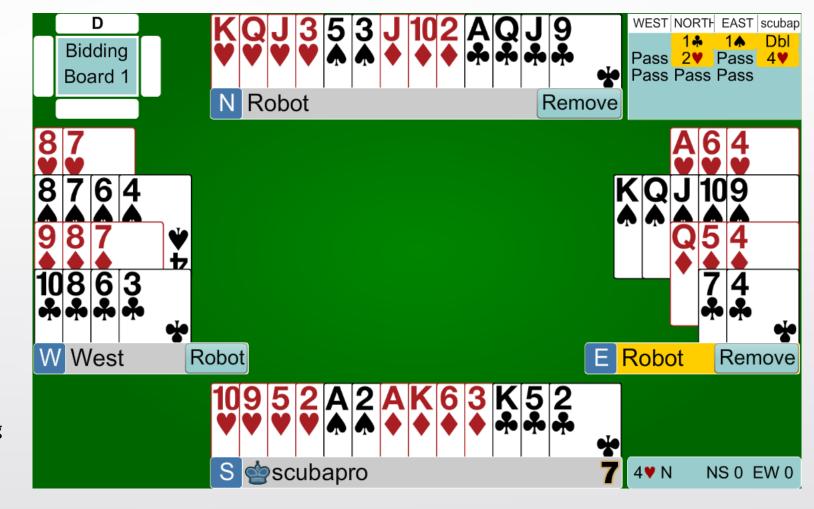
Did you bid 4 Hearts?

Remember the Negative Double is Forcing, but only for one round.

We have discovered our Major Suit fit and with our values we know we have enough to play game. Now it is our job to bid that game.

### Rules after a fit is discovered:

- 6-9=Pass
- 10 12 = Invite game (Usually by bidding our suit at 3 level)
- 13+ = Bid game in our suit



This hand is a bit different than the last example because here we have a 5 card Heart suit.

So let's bid 2 Hearts right?

#### NO!!

Remember, in order to bid Hearts at the 2 level in this auction we must not only have 5+ Hearts, but also 10+ total points.

So we have the correct number of Hearts but our hand isn't good enough for a bid at the 2 level.

No worries, The Negative Double works with these hands also. Hands like this are why the Negative Double shows 4+ cards in the unbid Major.





So we make our Negative Double and partner responds 2 Hearts.

What now?



### We Pass!

Remember, we have shown these values already by making the Negative Double. Partner only bid 2 Hearts in response, showing a minimum opening hand.

Responding to the Negative Double is essentially the same thing as bidding after partner makes a normal response.

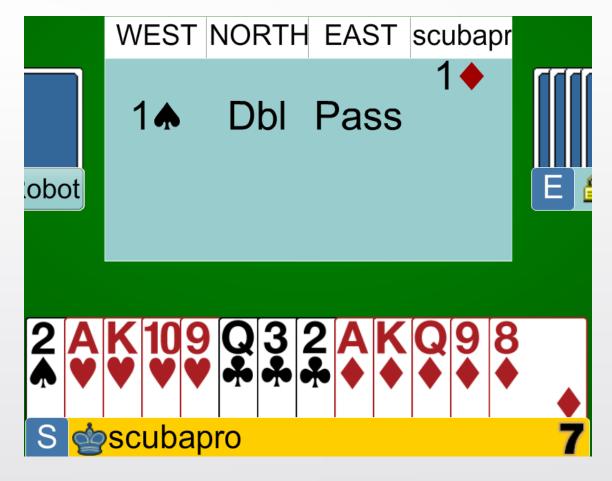
After I Level Negative Doubles..

#### With a fit:

- & a minimum, we bid the suit at the lowest level
- & 16 18 we jump to the 3 level of our suit
- &19+ we bid game in our suit.

#### Without a fit:

- & a minimum, we make our most descriptive bid at the lowest level
- & extra values, we make our most descriptive bid at the appropriate level



So now it is our bid after partner's Negative Double response.

What are you bidding as Scubapro?

## Did you bid 4 Hearts?

We have 18 high card points but because of our Heart fit we can add an extra 2 points for our singleton Spade.

**Note:** Even without this extra value in Spades, our Diamond suit is probably enough extra value on it's own to make game a good bet

**Reminder:** Do not forget to reevaluate your hand after discovering a fit.



## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE NEGATIVE DOUBLE



**#I:** How do we show Spades on this hand? Do we bid I Spade? Do we make a Negative Double?



#2: How should we bid this hand? If East passed we would always bid I Heart (majors up the line!). What about now?



**#3:** How would we show this hand on the above auction?

## **Special Circumstance #1**

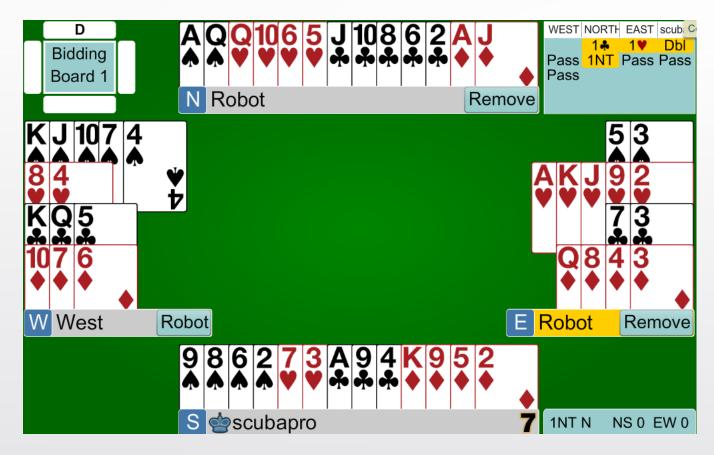
When partner opens I of a minor suit and our right hand opponent overcalls **Exactly I Heart,** we have two ways to show Spades.

We can bid I Spade or we can make the Negative Double. Because we have 2 bids that essentially mean the same thing we can use this spot to be more descriptive with our bids.

**Rule:** After partner opens I of a minor suit and our right hand opponent overcalls I Heart:

- Double shows exactly 4 Spades & 6+ points.
- The I Spade bid shows 5+ Spades & 6+ points.





After showing exactly 4 Spades and 6+ points our partner shows a minimum hand, with no fit and a stopper in the opponent's Heart suit. We correctly pass and end up playing I No – Trump.



Note: This treatment with the Spade suit only works after I of a minor – I Heart overcall. On the above auction, South would simply bid I Spade which would show 6+ points and 4+ Spades (same as always).

# **Special Circumstance #2**

When partner opens I Club and this is followed by a I Diamond overcall the Negative Double takes on a special meaning.

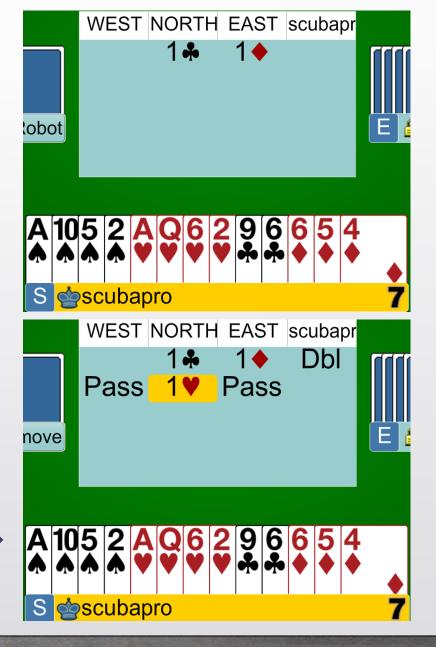
Over the I Diamond overcall we can still bid both of our Major suits at the I level. The bids of I Heart and I Spade would show 4+ cards in the respective suits and 6+ points.

We can show BOTH Majors in this auction by using the Negative Double.

**Rule:** After I Club → I Diamond overcall:

- The bid of a Major shows 4+ cards in the suit & 6+ points.
- The **Double** shows 4 cards in **BOTH Major suits** & 6+ points.

What is your next call as Scubapro in this auction??

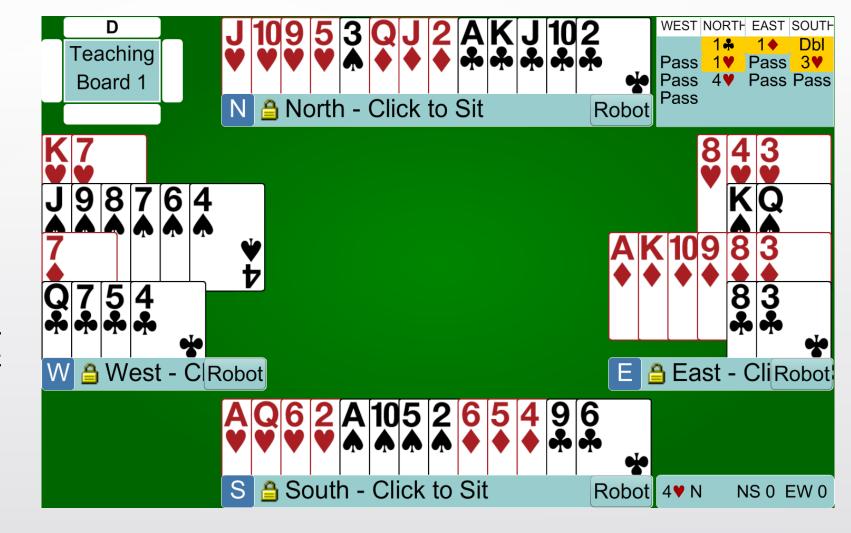


### Did you bid 3 Hearts?

We found our fit but when we ask ourselves; "Do we have enough for game?"

The answer is Maybe...

Remember our partner opened the bidding so whenever we have a good 10 - 12 points we should invite game. Here we have a solid 11, (don't forget to reevaluate and add the club shortness to your values) so inviting partner to game is the best course of action.



## **Special Circumstance #3**

On this hand our partner has opened I Heart and East has overcalled I Spade.

Wait... there are no unbid Major suits on this auction. So I guess we can't use the Negative Double?

Not so fast...

**Rule:** When both Major suits have been bid, the Negative double will show 4+ cards in both minor suits.

This may not come up as often as the other scenarios we've seen so far but it is still a very useful strategy to show the shape of your hand and to let partner know you have some values.



On this auction we would Double with the South cards. This will always show BOTH Minor suits.

Last chance to Excel!!

What do you bid next as Scubapro?



Did you remember?

This is Special Circumstance #1 again. We opened I Diamond and West overcalled I Heart.

Partner now has 2 ways to show the Spade suit.

#### Rule:

- Double shows exactly 4 Spades
- I Spade shows 5+ Spades

So partner's I Spade bid showed 5+ Spades and 6+ points.

We can now confidently raise Spades to the 2 level with a guaranteed 8 card fit.



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