

DEFENSE AGAINST TWO-SUITED CONVENTIONS

Two-suited conventions covered in this section are of six general types:

- (1) A call that shows two specific suits without naming either.
- (2) A bid that shows the suit named, plus another specified suit
- (3) A bid that shows the suit named, plus an unspecified suit
- (4) A call that shows a specified suit other than the one named, plus an unspecified suit
- (5) A call that shows two unspecified suits
- (6) A call based on either two specific suits or one specific suit, none named

Type 1 Defense - Unusual Over Unusual

One of the most popular conventions for showing a two-suited hand is Unusual Notrump, wherein a notrump bid that could not be "usual" asks partner to choose between the minor suits (or two lower unbid suits). A conventional 1NT overcall showing the two unbid suits is known as Sandwich Notrump. The defense shown here may be used against other any artificial calls that shows two specific suits without naming either, such as:

- Michaels cue bid over a minor opening, showing both majors
- Top-and-bottom cue bid over any natural suit opening, showing the highest and lowest-ranking unbid suits
- 2♣ or 2♦ over a 1NT opening, showing both majors
- "Unusual" 2NT overcall, showing both minors

Unusual Over Unusual is applied a bit differently to the Flannery 2♦ opening, which shows five hearts and four spades. See section 12-6, Marvin vs Flannery. It also does not apply if one of the opposing suits is typified as a four-card suit (as many top-and-bottom bidders play). In such cases a bid in that suit is natural.

Definitions:

The "cheaper" suit is the closer of the two suits shown by the opponent going up the line from his bid. If his bid is 2♥ and the two suits shown are spades and clubs, then spades are the cheaper suit and clubs are the "dearer" suit, even though spades rank higher than clubs.

General Rules (examples will follow for all of them, but they are sufficient and there are no exceptions):

Natural new-suit bids are strong unless the bid is cheaper than either of the intervenor's suits (if cheaper, it's weak).

Rebids of the same suit and raises of partner's suit are merely competitive, not forward-going.

A bid in the dearer opposing suit is usually strength-showing and a bid in the cheaper suit usually is not.

If the partnership has bid just one suit, a bid in the dearer opposing suit shows a strong hand featuring that previously bid suit. If it is partner's suit this is called "Dear Partner." If it is one's own suit, it is called "Dear Me." Actually bidding the suit is a weaker action. In either case, bidding the cheaper opposing suit shows the suit not yet shown by either side, in a hand not good enough to make a strong bid in that suit.

If the partnership has bid two suits, then a bid in the cheaper opposing suit also shows strength. In this case the dearer suit is used for showing a strong raise for partner's suit ("Dear Partner"), and the cheaper suit is used for a strong rebid in one's own suit ("Dear Me"). This is the only case in which bidding the cheaper opposing suit shows strength. Just remember that a previously bid suit has to have a "dear" bid available. That means two "dear" bids if the partnership has bid two suits.

Note that a bid in the cheaper opposing suit allows partner a convenient bidding space for a "mark time" bid in the dearer opposing suit when he has no clear-cut action. Such bid has no significance regarding that suit. This convenient space isn't available after a bid in the dearer suit, so we apply the general rule that bidding the dearer opposing suit is a strong action.

If neither partner has bid a suit, the rule of "Cheap-Cheap" applies, which is that a bid in the dearer opposing suit shows a moderate bid in the dearer "unbid" suit, and a bid in the cheaper opposing suit shows a moderate bid in the cheaper "unbid" suit. Actually bidding those suits is a stronger action.

All notrump bids are natural.

A double of the opponent's conventional suit bid just says "I could have bid that." The hand may be limited to that degree of strength, but could be much stronger too (which can be revealed later). A double of a conventional notrump bid just shows "cards," enough HCP to suggest that the hand belongs to one's side. It does not guarantee further action, however.

Whenever a natural bid is labeled forcing, that of course applies only to an unpassed hand.

As usual, jumps in one of the opponent's suits is a splinter bid.

Unless indicated otherwise, conventional 2NT bids in the following auctions show the minors.

After a Direct Intervention Over One of a Suit

-- A bid of the "fourth suit" (not shown by either side) is forcing:

South	West	North
1♠	2NT	3♥ - forcing

South	West	North
1♣	2♣*	2♦ - a weak bid, because cheaper than the majors
		3♦ - strong, forcing

* majors

-- Jump raises are preemptive and jump rebids of the same suit deny good defensive values, while other jumps retain their normal meaning:

South	West	North
1♠	2NT	4♠ - standard preemptive raise 4♣/4♦/4♥ - splinter bid in support of spades

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	2NT	4♥/4♠ - not strong defensively (if so, double)	

South	West	North
1NT	2NT	4♣ - Gerber 4♦/4♥ - Texas transfer bids

Seeking a 4-4 fit in the majors is unwise, as the suit is likely to break badly.

South	West	North
1♣	2♣*	4♣ - weak, preemptive 3♥/3♠ - splinter bid in support of clubs 3♦ - strong, forcing

* majors

-- A bid in the dearer (not the cheaper) of the two suits indicated by the opponent shows full values (or better) for a raise of partner's suit. Merely raising is a weaker action

South	West	North
1♠	2NT	3♦ - limit raise or better ("Dear Partner") 3♠ - competitive spade raise 3♥ - forcing 3NT - natural

If South rebids 3♠ over 3♦, North may pass. If she voluntarily bids again, she shows more than a limit raise.

-- A bid in the cheaper (not the dearer) of the two suits indicated by the opponent shows the "fourth suit" but an unwillingness to force with a bid in that suit.

South	West	North
1♥	2NT	3♣ - heart suit, unwilling to force with 3♥

This agreement leaves room for opener to make a "mark-time" bid in the dearer suit when unable to raise hearts or bid something else, which permits responder to "rebid" a six-card suit and perhaps stop at the three level. The 3♣ bid ("unwilling to force with 3♥") does not necessarily show less than game-going strength. Responder might want to save bidding space for some reason, e.g., to let opener show heart support cheaply, with a 3NT bid in reserve..

South	West	North
1♣	2NT*	3♣ - good raise, not much of a stretch 3♥ - strong raise, values for the four level 3♦ - spades, unwilling to bid 3♠ 3♠ - forcing 4♣/5♣ - weak, preemptive

* hearts and diamonds

North's bid of the dearer suit, hearts, is equivalent to a strong club raise, necessarily a bit better than a normal limit raise. It is not game-forcing, however, so North may pass a 4♣ bid by South. Here a minimum raise implies good values for a three-level raise, since there is no other way to show such a hand. With less strength in support of clubs North can double to show values for a 2♣ raise. With five or more clubs, the weak jump raises are available.

South	West	North
1♦	2NT*	3♣ - spades, not enough to force with 3♠ 3♠ - forcing 3♦ - good values for a raise 3♥ - strong diamond raise, too good for 3♦

* hearts and clubs

It might seem logical to reverse the general rules for this situation, using 3♣ for a strong diamond raise and 3♥ to show spades. We don't do this for two reasons: (1) to avoid an exception to the general rules, and (2) reversing the meaning might crowd the bidding too much for opener, who can rebid diamonds (perhaps stopping there!) or bid a mark-time 3♥ when unable to support spades.

-- A double of an artificial notrump bid shows "cards" (9+ HCP?), enough strength to suggest that the hand belongs to the opening side, but with no suitable bid. The double does not promise another bid, however. If opener passes RHO's response to the conventional call, the doubler may also pass if she has no reasonable alternative. Similarly, a pass or later suit bid by the doubler is not forcing on opener:

South	West	North	East
1♠	2NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass/3♥/3♠	- not forcing

Neither the pass nor a three-level bid is forcing on South. A 3♥ bid by North implies a hand that wanted to double an opposing 3♦ bid, but is not interested in defending against 3♣. The heart suit is probably five long, so South may "correct" to 3♠ with short hearts and good spades. A 3♠ bid by North at this point implies three-card support and a good hand, but is not forcing.

-- If the conventional call is a double, then a redouble shows "cards."

-- A double of a conventional suit bid shows values for a bid of that suit at that level:

South	West	North
1♦	2♦*	Dbl - diamond raise, weak or maybe three diamonds
		2♥ - clubs, invitational strength
		2♠ - strong diamond raise ("Dear Partner")
		2NT - not forcing
		3♣ - forcing
		3♦ - good raise

*Michaels Cue Bid, both majors

North's double denies values for a 3♦ bid, which should be fairly sound (although not worth a limit raise).

-- A direct double by opener after partner passes is a takeout double:

South	West	North	East
1♠	2NT	Pass	3♣
			Dbl - takeout double, implying four hearts and five-plus spades

-- Balancing doubles by either partner are penalty doubles if either has acted previously:

South	West	North	East
1♠	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl - penalty double	
			3♥ - weak balancing action

With the double, North has enough to beat 3♣, but may not be able to support any further action by South. Bidding in a balancing position after passing is a competitive action:

South	West	North	East
1♠	2NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
		Dbl - penalty double	
			3♥/3♠ - not forcing

North's pass of 3♣ was not forcing.

-- When opener cannot support the suit responder indicates by bidding the cheaper suit, he has room to bid the dearer opposing suit as a mark-time bid, denying three-card support for responder's suit, sufficient assets to rebid his own suit, or the ability to bid notrump. It does not show values in the suit.

-- A bid in an opposing suit is conventional only when made directly over the opponent's conventional call. A later bid in one of the suits is natural, showing strength in the suit and implying none in the other:

South	West	North	East
1♦	2♦*	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	

* Michaels, both majors

North's 2♥ bid is Unusual Over Unusual, showing a club suit. If she had bid 3♣ instead, that would be forcing. Her 3♥ bid shows heart strength and implies spade weakness, suggesting that South bid 3NT with a spade stopper. South's 3♣ (a raise of North's known clubs) is not forcing, so 3♥ shows an unexpectedly good hand, perhaps fortified by the club raise.

South	West	North	East
1♠	2NT	Dbl	Pass
3♣ /3♦ - stopper(s) in that suit, but not in the other			

South	West	North	East
1♠	2NT	Dbl	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♦ - diamond stopper(s), but none in clubs	

Here's how Unusual Over Unusual works against a top-and-bottom cue bid:

South	West	North
1♠	2♠*	Dbl - minimum spade raise
		2NT - not forcing
		3♣ - diamonds, invitational hand
		3♦ - forcing to game
		3♥ - strong spade raise, at least limit-raise strength
		3♠ - too good for a double
		3NT - natural
		4♣/4♦/4♥ - splinter bid in support of spades
		4♠ - preemptive spade raise

* hearts and clubs

In this case clubs are the cheaper suit, hearts the dearer.

South	West	North
1♦	2♦*	Dbl - minimum diamond raise
		2♥ - forcing to game
		2♠ - hearts, invitational hand
		3♣ - strong diamond raise, at least limit-raise strength
		3♦ - too good for a double

* spades and clubs

Now spades are the cheaper suit and clubs are the dearer. While it might be better to change one or more meanings in this case, the general rules work well enough and exceptions are to be avoided.

After a Direct Intervention Over 1NT

-- The rule of "Cheap-Cheap" applies in this case. A bid in the dearer (not the cheaper) of the two suits indicated by the opponent shows values for an invitational bid in the dearer of the two "unbid" suits, while

a bid in the cheaper of the two suits shows values for an invitational bid in the cheaper of the two unbid suits. Seeking a 4-4 fit in a major is not worthwhile, since bad breaks can be expected.

South	West	North
1NT	2NT*	3♣ - invitational heart bid (or better)
		3♥/3♠ - forcing to game
		3♦ - spades, invitational hand (or better)
		4♦/4♥ - Texas Transfer
		4♣ - Gerber
		Dbl - "cards," but not enough to bid 3NT

* minors

The "or better" bids may have a 3NT bid in reserve, wanting to know first if partner has support for responder's suit.

South	West	North
1NT	2♣*	Dbl - club length, weak hand
		2♥ - clubs, invitational hand
		3♣ - natural, forcing to game
		2♦ - natural, weak
		2♠ - diamonds, invitational hand
		3♦ - forcing to game
		2NT/3NT - natural

* major suits

With three ways to show a diamond hand, 2♦ can be used as a weak competitive bid.

South	West	North
1NT	2♦*	Dbl - diamond length, weak hand
		2♥ - clubs, invitational hand (no weak club bid available)
		3♣ - natural, forcing to game
		2♠ - diamonds, invitational hand
		3♦ - forcing to game
		2NT/3NT - natural

* major suits

With long clubs and no game interest, responder may be able to bid 3♣ on the next round.

When Neither Partner Has Bid

In this case the rule of "Cheap-Cheap" applies. A bid in the dearer opposing suit shows a strong bid in the dearer "unbid" suit, and a bid in the cheaper opposing suit shows a moderate holding in the cheaper "unbid" suit.

South West
 2NT* 3♣ - moderate heart overcall
 3♦ - moderate spade overcall, or better
 3♥/ 3♠ - strong overcall
 Dbl - strong hand, undefined
 3NT - natural

* opening bid showing the minors

The bid of 3♦ can be based on a strong hand with both majors. With moderate strength just show hearts (3♣) and then bid 3♠ (not forcing) if partner marks time with a 3♦ bid (denying heart support).

After an Intervention Over a Raise

South West North East
 1♠ Pass 2♠ 2NT
 Dbl - good hand, no suitable bid, probably four spades
 3♣ - hearts, not good enough for 3♥
 3♥ - forcing, game try
 3♦ - spade "rebid," good hand ("Dear Me")
 3♠ - merely competitive
 4♠ - denies good defensive values

After an Intervention Over a New Suit Response

South West North East
 1♣ Pass 1♠ 1NT - diamonds and hearts
 Dbl - good hand, no suitable call available
 2♣ - probably six clubs, near-minimum hand
 3♣ - a better hand
 2♦ - strong club hand ("Dear Me")
 2♥ - strong spade raise ("Dear Partner")
 2♠ - normal raise
 2NT - standard, 19-20 HCP, red suit stoppers
 3♠/4♠ - preemptive raises (expecting to make, but defensively weak)
 4♦/4♥ - splinter bid in support of spades

With three ways to describe a club hand, 2♣ can be used to deny a good hand. Note the exception in regard to the "cheaper" bid, which in this case shows a strong hand, not a moderate holding. A previously-bid suit has to have a "dear" bid available.

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2♣ 2NT - diamonds and hearts
 Dbl - good hand, no suitable call available
 3♣ - normal raise
 3♦ - strong spade rebid ("Dear Me")
 3♥ - strong club raise ("Dear Partner")
 3♠ - competitive bid
 4♦/4♥ splinter bid in support of clubs
 4♣/4♠ - offensively good, not much defensive strength

After an Intervention Over a 1NT Response

South West North East

1♠ Pass 1NT 2NT
 3♣ - moderate hand with hearts
 3♥ - forcing
 3♦ - strong spade rebid ("Dear Me")
 3♠ - merely competitive

South West North East

1♣ Pass 1NT 2NT*
 3♣ - not a strong hand
 3♥ - strong club rebid ("Dear Me")
 3♦ - moderate hand with spades
 3♠ - forcing, strong hand

*diamonds and hearts

Type 2 Defense

This defense applies to a bid that shows the suit named, plus another specified suit. Examples:

- A 2♥ opening that shows five hearts and four spades
- An overcall that shows the suit bid plus another specified suit

There are (at least) four cases of Type 2 conventions:

- (1) Partner has not acted.
- (2) Partner has opened in notrump.
- (3) Partner has doubled 1NT for business.
- (4) Partner has opened with one of a suit.

Case (1) applies when an opponent opens the bidding with a conventional bid that shows the suit bid, plus another specified suit. Here's the defense:

- A double is for takeout, showing strength/length in three suits, including opener's *other* suit, and shortness in the suit opened.
- A "cue bid" in opener's other suit, the one not bid, shows a moderate hand with length in both "unbid" suits.
- A cue bid in the suit bid by opener shows a strong hand with length in both "unbid" suits, or perhaps a very strong one-suited hand with the dearer unbid suit.
- All other bids are natural.

For instance, against a 2♥ opening that shows five hearts and four spades:

North	East
2♥	Dbl - takeout, a three-suited hand
	2♠ - both minors, moderate hand
	3♥ - both minors, big hand (or maybe just diamonds)
	2NT - natural, 16-18 HCP

With length and strength in opener's bid suit, and shortness in his second suit, a pass is usually best. If the opening is passed around to partner, perhaps she can make a takeout double (which you will pass). If third hand responds, you can make a takeout double yourself on the next round:

South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl - takeout		

West usually has good hearts. East will often convert this takeout double into a penalty double by passing with spade strength/length. If East is short in hearts she knows the defense will go well after a trump lead, in view of West's probable heart strength.

Case (2), wherein partner's opening notrump bid is overcalled with a conventional bid that shows the suit named plus another specific suit, is frequently encountered. An example is the Brozel convention, in which a 2♣ or 2♦ overcall of 1NT shows the minor named and a heart suit too. A 2♥ overcall shows hearts and spades. The defense goes like this:

- A double is for penalty.
- A "cue bid" in the opponent's other suit is Stayman, asking opener to bid a four-card major. If the overcall shows both majors, then this is "minor suit Stayman," asking opener to bid a four-card minor.
- A cue bid in the suit named by the opponent shows a singleton or void in that suit, and a game-going hand or better. This may be a prelude to a slam try. If opener has secondary strength in this suit, he should bid 3NT to warn of possible duplication. If not duplicated, as with a bare ace or no stopper at all, opener must not bid notrump.
- A new suit response is not particularly invitational at matchpoint scoring. A jump is forcing at IMP scoring, invitational at matchpoints.

-- A notrump bid is natural.

Let's look at various auctions after a 1NT opening is overcalled with 2♦, showing diamonds and hearts:

South	West	North
1NT	2♦	Dbl - penalty

South	West	North	East
1NT	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl - takeout	

In general doubles after one's side has bid notrump are penalty, but low-level balancing doubles have to be an exception. South may be able to convert this into a penalty double when holding good hearts. By the way, a direct double of 2♥ by South would be for takeout (since hearts are held over him). This is analogous to the takeout meaning of 1NT-2x-P-P; Dbl. Once partner has passed in a competitive auction, the double of a suit known to be held over the doubler is for takeout.

South	West	North
1NT	2♦	2♥ - Stayman

North is asking South to show a four-card spade suit. North may pass if opener makes a minimum bid, so she should jump to 3♠, 4♠, or 3NT with a maximum opening. Both partners must keep in mind that spades may not be breaking well.

South	West	North
1NT	2♦	3♦ - strong hand, game force

South bids 3NT only when holding secondary diamond strength.

The case (3) situation, in which the conventional bid is made over partner's business double of a 1NT opening, is handled similarly to case (2).

South	West	North	East
1NT	Dbl	2♣*	2♦/2♠ - competitive bid
			2♥ - "Stayman," with four spades
			3♣ - strong cue bid

* clubs and hearts

After the 2♥ bid, East may pass West's minimum spade, notrump, or diamond bid.

The case (4) situation, in which an opposing overcall of a suit opening shows the suit bid plus another specified suit, has a similar defense:

South	West
1♦	2♥ - hearts and spades

-- A direct double is for penalties, a balancing double is for takeout:

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl - takeout	

West's jump overcall showed hearts and spades. East no doubt has five diamonds and some club support. she could bid 2NT to show such a hand, so the double implies some defensive strength in case South wants to defend.

- A "new suit" response in the fourth suit is forcing.
- Notrump bids are natural, non-forcing, even a jump to 2NT.
- A cue bid in the suit named by the opponent is a strong slam try, showing support for partner and at least second round control of the cue bid suit.
- A "cue bid" in the opponent's other suit shows a good hand that has no alternative call available.

Note the similarities among the four cases of Type 2 conventions:

- Direct doubles are penalty if partner has acted, otherwise takeout.
- Low-level balancing doubles are takeout
- Cue bids in the bid suit are very strong.
- Cue bids in the other suit show a good, but not powerful, hand.

Type 3 Defense

The Type 3 two-suit convention shows the suit named, plus an unspecified suit. The second suit may be described as being a major, a minor, or red, or black, etc., but is not specifically identified.

Examples:

- 2♠ overcall of a 1NT opening, showing spades and a minor suit

System off, 3♠ is Stayman, all other bids are natural and non-forcing.

- 2♠ opening showing spades plus a minor suit
- 2♥ opening showing hearts and a minor suit

No special defense is needed for this convention type when it is an opening bid. Just bid normally. If partner has opened with one of a suit, a double is penalty and a cue bid is strong.

Type 4 Defense

A Type 4 two-suit convention shows a specific suit other than the one named, plus an unspecified suit. That is, the conventional bid does not name one of the suits held, and only one suit is specifically identified. Examples:

- Michaels cue bid over a major opening, showing the other major plus a minor suit
- Astro overcalls of a 1NT opening (2♦ shows spades and another suit, 2♣ shows hearts plus a minor)
- Raptor 1NT overcall--see section 12-16

After a 1NT Opening

-- System off, because the opposing known suit is used for Stayman. A double is for business, and with a one-suited hand denies the ability to make a stronger bid. The double says, "He just bid my suit, and I don't have enough strength to do anything but double. The doubler will not bid again if one-suited, but if two-suited his hand is unlimited.

South	West	North
1NT	2♣	Dbl

West's bid shows hearts and a minor suit. North has ♠32 ♥876 ♦Q42 ♣KJ873. The double denies the ability to bid 2NT or 3♣, which would be invitational. She might bid something on the next round, however, which then shows a strong hand with clubs. For instance, doubling 2♣ and then bidding 3♣ is forcing, because an invitational hand would bid 3♣ immediately.

-- The forcing nature of a conventional call allows three degrees of strength for a new suit response (minimum bid, jump bid, pass and bid). All minimum suit bids other than the opponent's known suit are natural (no Jacoby transfers) and invitational, and jump bids are forcing. With a weak hand, responder can pass and hope to act on the next round. Texas applies as usual, but it has to be a jump bid. A bid in the opponent's known suit is used for Stayman:

In the following auction 2♣ shows hearts plus a minor:

South	West	North
1NT	2♣	2♦/2♠/2NT/3♣ - invitational
		2♥ - Stayman
		3♦/3♠ - forcing
		Dbl - club suit, not enough for 3♣

After Partner's Suit Opening

-- A direct double shows the suit, but denies the ability to bid the suit at the next level:

South	West	North
1♣	2♥*	Dbl - heart suit

3♥ - forcing

* spades and a minor

With a one-suited hand North has limited his strength by doubling and usually will not bid again. With a two-suited hand, good club support, or a strong notrump-type hand, the double is unlimited. Bidding notrump, or a second suit, or raising later will clarify North's hand if it is strong.

-- A bid in the opponent's known suit is a takeout bid that does not promise another bid. North would bid 2♠ over 2♥ with ♠432 ♥AK65 Jx ♣K872. In this auction it promises enough strength for probable safety at the three level, so don't bid 2♠ with a weaker hand.

-- A jump in the opponent's known suit is a splinter bid, showing first or second round control of the suit, good support for opener, and slam aspirations. Opener's notrump rebid then warns of duplication (secondary strength) in the suit.

-- A new suit bid is forcing.

-- When the opposing bid is in partner's suit, a raise of that suit must have full values for the level involved. You can double to show a light hand with support:

South	West	North
1♠	2♠	Dbl

West's 2♠ bid shows hearts and a minor. North's double limits his hand. She has a normal raise to 2♠, but not enough to bid 3♠ (which ought to be sound, close to a limit raise). A three-card spade holding is likely.

-- A 2NT response is not forcing.

Against an Opening Bid

-- A double shows the suit bid, and with a one-suited hand denies the ability to bid the suit at the next level. With a two-suited or strong notrump-type hand, the double is unlimited.

-- A bid of the known suit is for takeout.

Type 5 Defense

The Type 5 two-suit convention shows an unspecified two-suiter.

Examples:

-- Cansino double of 1NT, showing both minors or both majors

-- 2♣ overall of 1NT, showing an unspecified two-suiter.

-- 2♦ overall of 2♣, showing an unspecified two-suiter

In general, the defense against a Type 5 call over partner's 1NT opening is the general one that the double of a suit overcall shows the suit doubled, new suit bids are not particularly invitational, and a jump is forcing at IMP scoring, invitational at matchpoints. A double of 2♣ is Stayman, however, with "all systems on." A conventional double of 1NT is ignored completely, "all systems on," except that a redouble shows at least 6 HCP in a hand that may have passed 1NT. Opener may be able to double an opposing contract, knowing that partner has something to contribute. After a redouble, all doubles by either partner, direct or balancing, are for business.

When the call is a 2♦ bid made over an artificial 2♣ strong opening, however, a pass serves as a negative or waiting response and controls are not shown:

South	West	North
2♣	2♦	Pass - negative or waiting
		Dbl - diamond suit, positive response
		2♥/2♠/2NT/3♣ - natural positive responses

The double of an overcall higher than 2♦ shows the suit doubled, as usual, with enough strength for a positive response. If one-suited, the double is limited (i.e., the suit is probably not very strong). It is preferable to bid the suit when it is long/strong. With a two-suited hand the double is unlimited.

When the conventional call is a double of partner's natural opening bid in a suit, bid as you would over a takeout double.

Type 6 Defense

The type 6 two-suited convention shows either of two hands: two specific suits or one specific suit, none named. The simplest defense is to double to show the suit bid, but retain the usual meaning for all other calls. Passing and acting later is another option, necessary when holding a strong raise.

South	West	North
1♠	2♦*	2♥/3♦/3♣ - natural response, forcing
		Dbl - diamonds, not good enough for 3♦
		3♠ - limit raise
		4♠ - preemptive raise

* hearts or both minors

With no known suit to use as a cue bid when holding a strong raise, just pass and bid strongly later.