

DEFENSE AGAINST SPLINTER BIDS

Doubling a splinter bid to show strength in the splinter suit is seldom of much value, since there is little to be gained from the opening lead of that suit. A better idea is to use the double to show strength in the highest unbid suit:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♣	Dbl - heart strength

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♥	Dbl - diamond strength

These doubles show strength only, not length necessarily.

The same principle applies when partner has bid a suit:

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	4♥	Dbl - diamond strength

East has ♠10 ♥A76 ♦K3 ♣1076532.

The double may enable West to bid 5♦ as a good save against a spade game. At least it will tell West that it is safe to lead diamonds.

If the doubler later makes a Lightner double of a slam bid, he asks that the indicated suit *not* be led; he wants a different lead, perhaps a suit in which he is void.