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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 1 Club and the East player has overcalled 1 Spade. If East had passed we would have made our normal response of 1 Heart. So what now?

The Negative Double is perfect for exactly this situation.

**Rule 1:** The Negative Double only exists after a 1 Level Opening bid by our side and an immediate suit overcall by the next opponent.

**Rule 2:** If after the 1<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)

WEST | NORTH | EAST | scubapro

1♣ | 1♠

move | E

♠A ♠2 ♥10 ♥9 ♥5 ♥2 ♣K ♣5 ♣2 ♦A ♦K ♦6 ♦3

S ♠ scubapro 7

**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**.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	Pass	
Hand 1			

  

A♠	2♠	10♥	9♥	5♥	2♥	K♣	5♣	2♣	A♦	K♦	6♦	3♦
S	scubapro											7♦

When we have our bid available we make it. So after our partner opens 1 Club we respond 1 Heart.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	Pass	1♥
		6+ pts. 4+♥	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	1♦	
Hand 2			

  

A♠	2♠	10♥	9♥	5♥	2♥	K♣	5♣	2♣	A♦	K♦	6♦	3♦
S	scubapro											7♦

We still have our bid available, so we bid 1 Heart. This shows exactly the same thing as hand one.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	1♦	1♥
		6+ pts. 4+♥	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	1♠	
Hand 3			

  

A♠	2♠	10♥	9♥	5♥	2♥	K♣	5♣	2♣	A♦	K♦	6♦	3♦
S	scubapro											7♦

On Hand 3 our 1 Heart bid is gone due to the 1 Spade overcall. Enter

**THE NEGATIVE DOUBLE**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	1♠	Dbl
		6+ pts. 4+♥	

The Negative Double means the same as the 1 Heart response in the 1<sup>st</sup> two hands. It is the same as a normal response at the 1 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

If your double will allow partner to bid your suit at the **1 level**: The Negative Double shows **6+ Points**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	1♥	Dbl
<b>Partner can bid Spades at 1 Level Still</b>			

If your double forces partner to the **2 level**: The Negative Double shows **8+ Points**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	2♥	Dbl
<b>Partner has to respond at the 2 level</b>			

If your double forces partner to the **3 level**: The Negative Double shows **10+ Points**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	2♠	Dbl
<b>Partner has to go to 3 level to bid Hearts</b>			

If your double forces partner to the game level: The Negative Double shows **13+ Points**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	3♠	Dbl
<b>Partner is forced to Game (or 4 of minor)</b>			

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?

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, the player names are WEST, NORTH, EAST, and scubapro. The bidding sequence is as follows: WEST Pass, NORTH 1♣, EAST 1♠, scubapro Dbl, WEST Pass, NORTH 2♥, EAST Pass. Below the bidding area, the hand for South (scubapro) is shown: ♠ A 2, ♥ 10 9 5 2, ♣ K 5 2, ♦ A K 6 3. The hand is displayed in a row of cards with their respective suits and values. Below the hand, the player's name 'S scubapro' is shown in a yellow bar, and the number '7' is visible in the bottom right corner.

**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

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following elements:

- Bidding Board 1:** A table with columns for WEST, NORTH, EAST, and scubap. The bids are: WEST (Pass), NORTH (1♣), EAST (1♠), scubap (Dbl). A second row shows: WEST (Pass), NORTH (2♥), EAST (Pass), scubap (4♥). A third row shows: WEST (Pass), NORTH (Pass), EAST (Pass), scubap (Pass).
- North (Robot):** Hand: K♥, Q♥, J♥, 3♥, 5♠, 3♠, J♦, 10♦, 2♦, A♣, Q♣, J♣, 9♣.
- West (Robot):** Hand: 8♥, 7♥, 8♠, 7♠, 6♠, 4♠, 9♦, 8♦, 7♦, 10♣, 8♣, 6♣, 3♣.
- East (Robot):** Hand: A♥, 6♥, 4♥, K♠, Q♠, J♠, 10♠, 9♠, Q♦, 5♦, 4♦, 7♣, 4♣.
- South (scubapro):** Hand: 10♥, 9♥, 5♥, 2♥, A♠, 2♠, A♦, K♦, 6♦, 3♦, K♣, 5♣, 2♣.
- Score:** 4♥ N, NS 0, EW 0.

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.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, the bidding sequence is displayed: WEST, NORTH, EAST, and scubapro. Under NORTH, there is a bid of 1♦. Under EAST, there is a bid of 1♠. Below the bidding sequence, the hand for player 'scubapro' is shown. The hand consists of the following cards from left to right: 7♠, 6♠, 2♠, A♥, 10♥, 6♥, 5♥, 3♥, K♣, 8♣, 2♣, 9♦, 8♦. The player's name 'scubapro' is displayed in a yellow bar at the bottom, with a blue 'S' button on the left and a red '7' button on the right.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♦	1♠	Dbf
Pass	2♥	Pass	

  

ove

E

7 6 2 A 10 6 5 3 K 8 2 9 8

S scubapro 7

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

What now?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♦	1♠	Dbf
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass

  

Bidding Board 1

N Robot Remove

W West Robot

E East Robot

S scubapro 7

2♥ N NS 0 EW 0

**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 1 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

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, the player names are WEST, NORTH, EAST, and scubapro. The bidding sequence is 1♠, Dbl, Pass, 1♦. Below the bidding sequence, the player's hand is shown: 2♠, A♥, K♥, 10♥, 9♥, Q♣, 3♣, 2♣, A♦, K♦, Q♦, 9♦, 8♦. The player's name 'S scubapro' and a crown icon are visible at the bottom of the hand display.

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.

Teaching Board 11

D

WEST NORTH EAST scubap

1♠	Dbl Pass	1♦
Pass	Pass	4♥

N North - Click to Sit Robot

8 7 2  
♥♥♥

A Q J 10 9 8  
♠♠♠♠♠

3 2  
♦♦

A J  
♣♣

8  
♥

J 6  
♥♥

7 4 3  
♠♠♠

7 6 5 4  
♦♦♦♦

10 9 7 6  
♣♣♣♣

W West - C Robot

E East - Cli Robot

A K 10 9 2 A K Q 9 8 Q 3 2  
♥♥♥♥♠♦♦♦♦♣♣♣

S scubapro

7

4♥ S NS 0 EW 0

# SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE NEGATIVE DOUBLE

WEST NORTH EAST scubapro

1♣ 1♥

obot E F

♠9 8 6 2 7 3 A 9 4 K 9 5 2

♥A 9 4

♦K 9 5 2

♣A 9 4

S ♠ scubapro 7

**#1:** How do we show Spades on this hand? Do we bid 1 Spade? Do we make a Negative Double?

WEST NORTH EAST scubapro

1♣ 1♦

obot E

♠A 10 5 2

♥A Q 6 2

♦9 6 6 5 4

♣9 6

S ♠ scubapro 7

**#2:** How should we bid this hand? If East passed we would always bid 1 Heart (majors up the line!). What about now?

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♥ 1♠

obot E

♠Q 8

♥K J 10

♦A 9 8 6

♣10 7 5 2

S South - Click to Sit Robot

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

## Special Circumstance #1

When partner opens 1 of a minor suit and our right hand opponent overcalls **Exactly 1 Heart**, we have two ways to show Spades.

We can bid 1 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 1 of a minor suit and our right hand opponent overcalls 1 Heart:

- **Double shows exactly 4 Spades & 6+ points.**
- **The 1 Spade bid shows 5+ Spades & 6+ points.**

The diagram illustrates a bridge hand scenario. At the top, the bidding sequence is shown in a table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	1♥	

Below the bidding table, the hand layout for the player 'scubapro' is shown. The hand consists of the following cards from left to right: 9♠, 8♠, 6♠, 2♠, 7♥, 3♥, A♣, 9♣, 4♣, K♦, 9♦, 5♦, 2♦. The hand is labeled 'S' (Spades) and 'scubapro' with a crown icon, and the number '7' is shown in the bottom right corner.



D Bidding Board 1

WEST NORTH EAST scubapro

Pass 1♣ 1♥ Dbl

Pass 1NT Pass Pass

N Robot Remove

WEST NORTH EAST

Robot

Robot Remove

WEST NORTH EAST

scubapro 7 1NT N NS 0 EW 0

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 1 No – Trump.

WEST NORTH EAST scubapro

1♣ 1♦

Robot

E

WEST NORTH EAST

scubapro 7

Note: This treatment with the Spade suit **only works after 1 of a minor – 1 Heart** overcall. On the above auction, South would simply bid 1 Spade which would show 6+ points and 4+ Spades (same as always).

## Special Circumstance #2

When partner opens 1 Club and this is followed by a 1 Diamond overcall the Negative Double takes on a special meaning.

Over the 1 Diamond overcall we can still bid both of our Major suits at the 1 level. The bids of 1 Heart and 1 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 1 Club → 1 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?? →

The image displays two screenshots of a bridge bidding interface. The top screenshot shows the following bidding sequence: WEST (Pass), NORTH (1♣), EAST (1♦), and South (scubapro, Pass). Below the bidding area, the hand of South (scubapro) is shown: ♠ A 10 5 2, ♥ A Q 6 2, ♣ 9 6, ♦ 6 5 4. The bottom screenshot shows the same bidding sequence, but with an additional bid from North: WEST (Pass), NORTH (1♣), EAST (1♦), South (scubapro, Pass), NORTH (1♥), EAST (Pass), and South (scubapro, Pass). The hand of South (scubapro) is identical to the top screenshot.

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.

D  
Teaching Board 1

N North - Click to Sit Robot

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

	1♣	1♦	Dbl
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

W West - Click to Sit Robot

E East - Click to Sit Robot

S South - Click to Sit Robot

4♥ N NS 0 EW 0

## Special Circumstance #3

On this hand our partner has opened 1 Heart and East has overcalled 1 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.

WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH

1♥ 1♠

Robot E

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

S South - Click to Sit Robot

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?

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, the seating arrangement is WEST, NORTH, EAST, and scubapro. The bidding sequence is shown as 1♥, 1♠, Pass, and 1♦. The player 'scubapro' is shown with a hand of 13 cards: ♠J, ♠8, ♠3, ♥7, ♥3, ♣A, ♣K, ♣2, ♦A, ♦Q, ♦9, ♦8, ♦7. The player's name 'scubapro' is displayed with a crown icon and a score of 7. The interface also shows a 'love' button on the left and an 'E' button on the right.

Did you remember?

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

Partner now has 2 ways to show the Spade suit.

**Rule:**

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

So partner's 1 Spade bid showed 5+ Spades and 6+ points.

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

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following details:

- Bidding Board:** Board 11, Deal D.
- Hand Distribution:**
  - North (Robot):** A♠, K♠, 10♠, 9♠, 2♠, 10♥, 2♥, 5♣, 3♣, K♦, J♦, 10♦, 5♦.
  - West (Robot):** Q♠, 4♠, A♥, K♥, J♥, 8♥, 5♥, 4♥, Q♣, J♣, 4♣, 3♦, 2♦, 4♣.
  - East (Robot):** 7♠, 6♠, 5♠, Q♥, 9♥, 6♥, 10♣, 9♣, 8♣, 7♣, 6♣, 6♦, 4♦.
  - South (scubapro):** J♠, 8♠, 3♠, 7♥, 3♥, A♣, K♣, 2♣, A♦, Q♦, 9♦, 8♦, 7♦.
- Bidding Log:**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
			1♦
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
- Score:** 4♠ N, NS 0, EW 0.

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