



Adventures in Bridge

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This Week in Bridge

(145) Bidding After Responder Redoubles

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Level: 2

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General

When we open the bidding, LHO makes a takeout double, and partner redoubles, partner shows a good hand -- 10+ points, and usually no large fit for our suit since partner could bid *Jordan 2NT* with a large fit for our suit and 10+ points.

Most partnerships have the agreement that this redouble sets up a penalty double auction. If the opponents bid a suit and either of us double from then on, it is a penalty double. But what most players fail to discuss is the meaning of other bids/auctions that follow from here. What bids are forcing and how forcing are they!?!

How Forcing Is Responder's Redouble?

After Responder makes a redouble, the general rule is that the opponents may not play an undoubled contract below Opener's suit at the two level. If they bid a suit at this low level we must either double them for penalty or further compete in the bidding.

Example

1♠	X	XX	2♦
P	P	—	

In this auction Opener's pass is forcing. Responder may not pass the auction out. Responder must either double the opponents for penalty or bid a suit because we may not let the opponents play a contract below 2♠ without doubling it.

Responder's Next Bid

As the auction progresses, the meanings of bids can get more complicated and we reach a point where most partnerships are not on firm ground.

1♠	X	XX	2♦
P	P	2♥	P

—
Is Responder's 2♥ bid forcing?



This is something that you and partner need to talk about – there have been many mix-ups about this exact auction at the bridge table, even by experienced partnerships.

Note: We recommend playing that this 2♥ rebid shows a 5+card ♥ suit, has only 10-11 points, and is non-forcing. With a game forcing hand, Responder can jump to show extra values.

Opener's Rebid After Responder's Redouble

If RHO passes after partner has made a redouble, then the opening bidder has several bids that show extra values and are clearly forcing – and actually game forcing.

Game Forcing Rebids

Any jump bid, whether a jump rebid or a jump in a new suit, shows extra values and is game forcing.

Example

1♠ X XX P
3♠

The jump rebid is game forcing, showing a 6+card ♠ suit.

Example

1♠ X XX P
3♣

This jump shift is game forcing, showing a 5+card ♣ suit.

Non-Forcing Rebids

Other direct bids that are not jumps show minimum distributional hands, and are non-forcing.

Example

1♠ X XX P
2♠

The rebid is non-forcing, showing a 6+card ♠ suit.

Example

1♠ X XX P
2♣

This rebid of a new suit is non-forcing, showing a 5+card ♣ suit.



Opener Passes Responder's Redouble

With a less distributional hand, Opener passes Responder's redouble and waits to see what LHO and partner do next. This allows the partnership to double the opponents for penalty when they bid a new suit.

Conclusion

As you can see, after Responder makes a redouble the auction can become complex. It can quickly get to a place where you and partner have not discussed the meaning of your bids and you are both guessing who has shown what or which bids are forcing and how far. Be careful in these redouble auctions, but keep in mind what you have shown to partner and how forcing the auction is. This will help you make good decisions in these complex situations!