Double Trouble

What does partner mean/What should I do?

reference: Larry Cohen article in May 2012 Bridge Bulletin
and: www.nofearbridge.co.uk/acol/takeout_doubles_general.htm
Double Trouble

Let Me Count The Ways

* If partner Doubles, what does s/he mean?
* Meaning depends on the auction!
* Partner’s double could be: penalty, negative, take-out, support, balance of power, responsive, protection, ...
* There are too MANY kinds of doubles.
Double Trouble

Penalty: The Original, Take-Out: The Most Common

* Auction: 1♥-p-1♠-p- 4♥-Dbl

* This is penalty. Count on partner for a couple Aces (or well placed Kings) and a stack of ♥s.

* Auction: 1♥-Dbl

* This is take-out. Partner wants you to bid. Count on partner to have an opening hand, short in ♥s, holding 4 ♠s with minor suit tolerance.
Double Trouble

When Should I Make A Take-Out Double?

* You are short in opener’s suit,
* AND You have 4 cards in all unbid majors, no obvious bid, so usually balanced,
* AND You have an opening hand in the 2nd seat, or values to compete in the balancing seat,
* OR You have 18+ HCPs, (double and bid new suit)
* Quiz: 1 ♥ -?

* ♠AQxx ♥x ♦KTxx ♣Qxxx (classic take-out double)
* ♠Ax ♥KJx ♦KJxx ♣Jxxx (pass, you can balance later)
* ♠KQx ♥xxx ♦AQJx ♣KTx (don’t like it, but double anyway)
* ♠Ax ♥xxxxxx ♦Axx ♣Ax (pass!!!)
Double Trouble
How Do I Know It’s Take-Out?

“All doubles are take-out, we just leave them in when the auction gets higher.” Remember Mel’s Rule of 9.

Guidelines: Partner’s double is take-out if all of the following are true:

* The opponent’s bid is a part-score
* You have not bid
* The double is made at its first opportunity
Double Trouble

Examples

* All of the following are “take-out” doubles:
  * 1♥-Dbl, or 2♥-Dbl, or 3♥-Dbl
  * 1♥-1♠-2♥-pass- pass-Dbl
  * 1♦-pass-INT-pass- pass-Dbl (*special case*)
  * 1♥-pass-2♥-pass- pass-Dbl
  * 1♥-1♠-Dbl, (called negative, by responder)
  * 1♥-2♣-pass-pass-Dbl, (called protection, by opener)
  * 1♥-pass-pass-Dbl, (called balancing, by 4th seat)
  * 1♥-pass-2♥-Dbl, (called pre-balancing, by 4th seat)
Double Trouble

How Should I Respond To Partner’s Take-Out Double?

* Auction: 1 ♥ - Dbl-pass-?

* Pass: If you meet Mel’s Rule of 9
  * You hold: ♠ xx ♥ AJTxx ♦ Tx ♣ Kxxx (pass)

* Bid your cheapest 4 card suit when weak
  * You hold: ♠ xx ♥ xxxx ♦ Txx ♣ Kxxx (bid 2 ♠)

* Skip bid with 8+ to 12- HCPs
  * You hold: ♠ KJxx ♥ xxx ♦ xx ♣ KQxx (bid 2 ♠)

* Bid game or cue bid with an opening hand
  * You hold: ♠ Kxxx ♥ xxx ♦ Kx ♣ KQJx (bid 4 ♠)
  * You hold: ♠ KQx ♥ Qx ♦ Kxxx ♣ QJxx (bid 2 ♠)
**Double Trouble**

Example, Friday 7/14 NKBC

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**RESULTS OF BOARD 4**

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**HCP QT Cts Losers Len Short Supp**

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**Preferred Auction:** (1 ♣️)1 ♠️(p)p (2♣️)X(p)2♥️