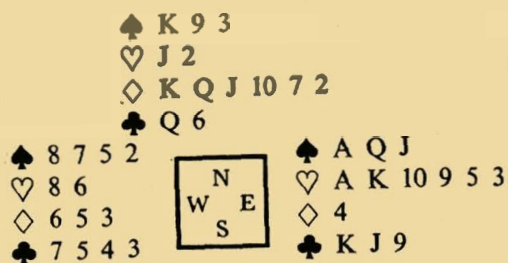


Over-Doubling

My only problem lay in deciding which examples to use and which to reject from the mass of material in my files.

Hands full of Eastern promise like the one below often end in disappointment for the holders.



Game all
Dealer North

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	Double	Redouble
—	—	2 ♥	2 NT
—	3 NT	Double	All pass

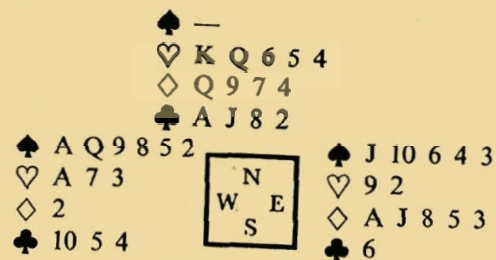
West led a heart and South's queen won the third round, a spade being discarded from dummy. Six rounds of diamonds followed and East's beautiful hand was put through the mincer. In order to keep the club king guarded East had to throw the queen and knave of spades and two winning hearts. The lead of a small spade from the table then established the ninth trick for the declarer.

An initial spade or club lead would have made no difference to the result; South can always make nine tricks.

East should have realized that his hand was too rich in honour cards to make the double a sound proposition. The danger of being squeezed on the run of the diamonds was not hard to foresee. Note the difference if the East hand is weakened by transferring the king of clubs to West. Three no trumps is now defeated without difficulty.

Over-Doubling

Those who double high-level suit contracts with an inadequate trump holding are usually given cause to regret it. The point-count is an unreliable guide to trick-taking potential when distribution is freakish.



East-West game
Dealer West

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Double	4 ♠	5 ♣
5 ♠	—	—	Double
All pass			

South made the right decision on the first round by bidding five clubs, but when the bidding came round to him again he could not restrain himself from doubling on the strength of his twelve points.

An assortment of kings and queens can be virtually useless in defence against a high-level distributional contract. Such ~~is~~ to be the case here. For all their twenty-four points the defenders

no more than one heart and one club trick. The declarer took the right view in trumps and brought home the doubled contract for a score of 850 points.

In the other room South took out insurance against a disastrous swing by bidding six clubs. This was doubled and went two down for a loss of 300 points.