



Mike's Advice

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Useful bidding agreements — part 5

Raising a minor after a takeout double (continued)

Last time we examined the flaws in the existing popular methods for showing a limit raise over a takeout double of partner's minor, namely redouble and 2NT. Here's a different approach that I recommend.

The jump in the other minor

This is a treatment that will solve many of the problems shown above. It shows your values and your support immediately and still allows the partnership to play in 3NT from the right side if there is one.

When your partner opens a minor suit and the next player doubles, you can use a jump in the other minor to show a limit raise or better for partner's suit.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Dbl	2♦

or

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Dbl	3♣

These two bids will work well as long as you remember them. The big advantage is that they do not grab the notrump. After one of these calls, notrump can be explored if it is to be an option.

Of course, there is a downside

to these bids other than the fact that they may be forgotten. The loss to you is that you give up two bids that you may wish you had. My opinion is that not much is lost. In my experience, I can't remember many jumps to 2♦ after right-hand opponent doubled 1♣.

Here are a few examples of this structure.

♠ 763
♥ K2
♦ AQ763
♣ K83

♠ AQ2
♥ 107
♦ J10852
♣ QJ7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Dbl	3♣
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

South bids 3♣, showing a limit raise or better, and North returns to 3♦. South has just a limit raise so he passes.

♠ 8732
♥ AK2
♦ AK76
♣ 83

♠ KQ9
♥ 87
♦ QJ852
♣ AQ9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Dbl	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South shows a limit raise or better. North has too good a hand to bid just 3♦ so he bids 3♥. This shows extras and a heart stopper, too. South bids 3NT, which completes the auction. Note

that 3NT does not promise a big hand. It just says he has stoppers.

♠ KJ83
♥ QJ73
♦ QJ
♣ A93

♠ 104
♥ A9
♦ K98
♣ K10752

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Dbl	2♦
2♠	Dbl	Pass	?

North has good spades and can double. This is not a demand that South pass, but South does have some defense and he has two spades. West is caught up in a 4-3 fit and will pay a price for it.

Note that if West had passed, North would have bid 2NT. South can pass 2NT with a minimum, which is what he would do on this hand.

♠ Q85
♥ 10
♦ K982
♣ AQJ32

♠ J4
♥ J94
♦ AQ10
♣ K10754

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Dbl	2♦
2♥	3♣	All Pass	

South makes his limit-raise-or-better bid of 2♦ and West contests with 2♥. North has a useful minimum and bids 3♣ to show this. 3♣ is not a big bid but it does say that he has a playing hand that wants to play in 3♣. South has nothing extra, so he passes. □

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Hands created by Mike Lawrence.