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Claim with Colchamiro

Redouble? Me double!

“(Please) Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood” was a rock song by the Animals from 1965, but it could also be the cry of the misunderstood redouble. Fellow columnist Karen Walker did a series of articles about the redouble. Here is my contribution:

Redouble means we have the majority of the points. It also means I don’t have a big fit with your suit. Therefore, redouble means we should try to penalize the opponents.

Here’s an example:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
1♠		Dbl	Redbl

The redouble indicates 10 or more high-card points and no fit for spades, a hand such as:

♠4 ♥A J 8 3 ♦K 8 7 3 ♣Q 10 6 3.

The opponents have to bid something, after which I’ll lower the boom with a penalty double. That sets up another principle:

After either partner redoubles, a double by you or your partner is for penalty.

Suppose you hold:

♠A K 7 6 3 ♥K J 7 ♦Q 10 4 3 ♣4,

and the bidding is:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
			1♠
Dbl	Redbl	2♦	?

You should double for penalty — you’ve got ‘em just where you want them.

Other situations

There are other situations where you should redouble, alerting partner that your side has the majority of the points, and the partner with trump length should penalize the opponents:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Redbl

The redouble shows 10 or more HCP and no fit for spades, a hand such as:

♠7 3 ♥A Q 7 3 ♦K 8 7 ♣J 10 5 4.

Here’s another:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Redbl

The redouble shows a maximum raise with only three spades, such as:

♠K 10 4 ♥9 8 3 ♦A 8 6 2 ♣Q 10 7.

Hidden redoubles

Sometimes you express the redouble concept by doubling — a redouble in disguise:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
	1♠	2NT	Dbl

2NT is the minors. For your double, you might hold:

♠7 4 ♥K 9 8 4 ♦Q 7 2 ♣A J 9 8.

In this auction:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
	1♥	2♥	Dbl

2♥ shows spades and a minor. The double might be:

♠K J 6 5 ♥9 3 ♦A Q 8 7 3 ♣10 2.

In each case, the double shows at least 10 HCP, no great fit for opener’s suit and a desire to try to penalize the opponents. If you (or partner) are strong in the suit the opponents escape to, make a penalty double. So a hidden-redouble, double followed by double, is the same as redouble followed by double — it’s for penalty.

Consider this auction:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
	1♥	2♥	Dbl
2♠	?		

If the opener can’t double the suit that West bids, he should normally pass. She should bid only with a hand that has absolutely no interest in defending a doubled contract. Holding:

♠— ♥K Q J 10 7 6 3 ♦A J 8 ♣7 6 5,

partner should bid 3♥. This hand is not suitable for defending 2♠ doubled. Bidding 3♥ sends the message — a hand with weak defense that is much better for offense.

My first book, How You Can Play Like An Expert (Without Having To Be One), has great winning tips, Zia, Catherine Zeta-Jones and much more! It’s available at my web site: www.melbridge.com (lots of free stuff, too) or e-mail me at mcolch@optonline.net.