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# It's Just MayHem

with Bergen

## Redouble is a macho thing

Redouble is one of the most over-used and misused bids in bridge. Often it seems to be an "I dare you" type of bid or "Take that."

Probably one of the first things you learned in bridge is that after partner opens the bidding at the one level, and your right-hand opponent makes an overcall, a redouble shows 10 or more points. That's all — nothing else but 10 or more points.

Players decided that to redouble with a major suit fit for partner was not a good idea. So Robert Jordan invented what is today called the Jordan 2NT (also known as Truscott 2NT since he first published it in 1954). Here's an example:

Partner		You
1♠	Dbl	2NT

The 2NT bid shows a limit raise in spades. Today, that has been expanded to be a limit raise or better.

Some partnerships have extended this convention to include the minor suits while other have reversed the meaning of 2NT and the jump raise for the minors, calling it, appropriately enough, "flip-flop." Jordan's style of redouble would then show 10 or more points, but without four-card support for opener's suit.

Here are examples of Jordan over the majors and flip-flop over the minors:

- 1♥-Dbl-2NT would show a limit raise or better in hearts;
- 1♥-Dbl-Redbl would deny four-card support in hearts, but show 10 or more points;
- 1♣-Dbl-2NT would show five or more clubs with very few values — preemptive;
- 1♦-Dbl-3♦ would show a limit raise in diamonds (but not better than limit);
- 1♦-Dbl-Redbl would show 10 or more points without diamond support.

Here's a suggestion for a better way to play: Failure to redouble does not deny 10 or more points.

If, for example, you hold a two-suited hand, it's usually better to start bidding those suits as cheaply as possible before you get shut out of the bidding and are unable to describe your hand. For example, after 1♣ by partner, double by your RHO, I suggest you bid 1♠ when you hold something like:

♠A Q 8 6 3 ♥4 ♦K J 8 7 3 ♣6 3.

Note that you have 10 points, but if you redouble, LHO is likely to jump in the heart suit and you will not know what to bid at your second turn. It is, therefore, necessary to play a new suit at the one level as 100% forcing. Later bidding will attempt to clarify the value range.

On the other hand, if you have a relatively balanced hand with 10 or more points, a redouble may be best. This redouble should be used to tell partner "unless you have some distributional hand and are definitely not interested in defending, please pass at your next opportunity. Give me a chance to bid or double the opponents as the case may be."

Here's an example:

Partner	Opponent	You	Opponent
1♠	Dbl	Redbl	2♣
Pass	Pass	??	

Doubles in this position are penalty. A belated raise in partner's suit shows about 10 points and three-card support — with more, you must do something else. New suits should be forcing for one round and a cuebid is game forcing.

Please note, however, that if you redouble in this type of auction, you are not allowed to pass at your second turn with these two exceptions:

1. You may pass if you were originally a passed hand, or
2. You may pass if partner makes a simple rebid of his suit (showing weakness).

Another type of redouble is the SOS redouble. That's a redouble requesting that partner make another bid or call, and is used whenever there is no possibility of the redouble having any other interpretation. For example:

West	North	East	You
1♣	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Redbl

Here you may hold as little as:

♠8 7 3 2 ♥9 7 4 3 2 ♦3 ♣8 7 3.

It's probably right to redouble and look for a better place to play.

An infrequent but valuable use of the redouble occurs when opponents decide to double a conventional call as lead directing. The most common of those is the double of Stayman. When that happens, redouble suggests playing 2♣ redoubled.

Similarly, doubles of transfer bids can be converted with the use of the redouble. Not long ago, an opponent doubled my partner's 3♦ bid (transfer to hearts) after my opening 2NT bid and my hand was:

♠A 10 7 3 ♥AK ♦AQ 10 7 3 ♣K 8.

My redouble was very profitable for our side on this particular board. □