

Improvers' Lesson 10: More on Doubles

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 4 2
♥ 6 3 2
♦ Q 8
♣ 10 9 4 3 2

♠ J 10
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 10 5 3 2
♣ Q 8 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
4 ♥	All pass	3 ♥	Pass

Lead: ♣ A

West's double indicates points but no suitable bid to make as they are not strong enough to bid at the 2-level.

East's jump shows 16+ so West bids to game, knowing they have a fit in hearts and enough points for game.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A K 9 6 3
♥ Q J 6
♦ K Q
♣ Q 8 2

♠ —
♥ K 9 7 5 4
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ 10 9 6 5

♠ Q J 10 4
♥ A 8 3
♦ A 9 6 5
♣ 7 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Lead: ♥ A

East has an easy penalty double holding two aces and a good trump holding.

East should lead out the two aces and then sit back and wait for their trump tricks.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K 9 4
♥ 7 2
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ A J 10 9

♠ J 8 7
♥ 9 5 4
♦ Q 9 8
♣ 8 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♣	1 ♥	Dbl
Pass	3 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠
All pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♠

Lead: ♥ 9

South is too strong to overcall 1 ♠. Doubling then bidding a new suit, promises 16+.

North invites and South is happy to accept.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 9 8 7
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ K 10 7
♣ Q 9 3

♠ 5 4 2
♥ J 8 4
♦ 9 4 3 2
♣ 5 4 2

♠ Q J 3
♥ 9 7 5 2
♦ A J 8
♣ K J 6

West	North	East	South
All pass	Pass	1 NT	Dbl

Lead: ♠ 6

A double of the 1 NT is a penalty double. It shows 16+ HCP. If the partner of the doubler has a very weak hand with a long suit, they should bid that suit, otherwise pass.

NS have the balance of the points and 1 NT is not likely to make.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 10 8 6 3
♥ J 9 5 4 2
♦ A 5 2
♣ 4

♠ J
♥ K 7 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 7
♣ A 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♣	Dbl	1 NT
3 ♣	All pass	Pass	2 ♠

Lead: ♥ 2

North bids 2 ♣ being a weak Stayman which promises at least 5/4 in the major suits.

East doubles the artificial bid to show they have clubs and an opening hand.

West has a good fit and bids 3 ♣ in support of partner.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ J 3
♥ A
♦ A Q J 10 9
♣ A 10 9 6 3

♠ 6 5 4 2
♥ 4 2
♦ K 8 7 5 2
♣ J 7

♠ A K Q 8
♥ K J 8 6
♦ 4
♣ K Q 5 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Dbl	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♠	All pass

Lead: ♥ A

East has a perfect takeout double over 1 ♦. West bids 1 ♠ as the hand is not strong enough to bid 1 NT.

East, who has a good hand, competes to 3 ♠ over 2 ♣. West passes. The ♦ K is worth nothing as North is sitting over the king with a good diamond suit.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ A 7
♥ A K Q 4
♦ K 6 2
♣ K 10 4 3

♠ K Q 2
♥ J 9 8 7 3 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A J

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Dbl	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 ♠
All pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♥ 2

North doubles and then rebids 1 NT to show 19+ HCP.

South, with 7 HCP, has enough for game and bids 4 ♠. South knows there is a spade fit as North is balanced and must therefore have 2 spades at least.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 6 4 3
♥ 9 8 7 6
♦ 6
♣ K J 3

♠ A 9
♥ A J 5 4
♦ A 10
♣ Q 10 7 6 5

♠ J 2
♥ K Q 10 2
♦ 9 8 7 4 3
♣ 8 4

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Dbl
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
3 ♥	3 ♠	All pass	Pass

Lead: ♥ K

As there are only two unbid suits, South's double shows at least four cards in each of those unbid suits.

If South overcalls 2 ♦ instead of doubling, the spade fit will not be found.