Beginners’ Lesson 8: Takeout Double

**Board 1**
North Deals
None Vul

- ♠ A K Q 10 7
- ♥ 10 5
- ♦ J 2
- ♣ A 8 5 3

West North East South

1 NT Dbl 3 NT All pass

East has a perfect takeout double - showing support for all unbid suits. West has a poor hand so bids hearts at the lowest possible level.

Lead is ♠ A against a heart contract or ♥ A (partner’s suit) against a spade contract.

Play the hand twice: once in 2 ♥ by West then in 2 ♠ by North.

**Board 3**
South Deals
E-W Vul

- ♠ A K J 9
- ♥ 10 8 7 6
- ♦ 10 7 4
- ♣ K 5 2

West North East South

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 1 ♠

Dbl Pass 3 NT All pass

East, knowing that West has an opening hand, can bid 3 NT with an excellent HCP for game..

Lead is ♠ 3 and North plays the King.

Declarer should win ♦ A and play the ♦ J to set up the ♠ 10 for the 9th trick.

**Board 4**
West Deals
Both Vul

- ♠ A 5 3
- ♥ 9 7 5
- ♦ 10 5
- ♣ A J 6 3

West North East South

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠

All pass

With 6 spades and 8 HCP, South has enough to invite game, so bids 2 ♠. North is minimum and declines the invitation.

Lead is ♠ Q top of a broken sequence.

Declarer draws trumps should play West, the opener, for the ♠ Q.

Therefore play the ♠ K then ♠ 10 and let it run if West does not cover with the ♠ A.

**Board 5**
North Deals
N-S Vul

- ♠ K 7 5 4
- ♥ K 4 3
- ♦ Q 8
- ♣ Q J 10 5

West North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠

All pass

West, with (9)10-12 points, jumps to 2 ♠.

East passes.

Lead is ♠ A.

Declarer should draw trumps first. They make 9 tricks by losing ♠ A, ♠ A, ♠ AK.

**Board 6**
East Deals
E-W Vul

- ♠ K O 4 2
- ♥ 9 6 4
- ♦ A 3 2
- ♣ 7 5 4

West North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠

All pass

North’s best suit is the opponent’s spade suit so should bid 1 NT to show a hold in spades and no more than 9 points.

Lead is ♠ 7.

Firstly, Declarer should play on clubs and later take a heart finesse.

**Board 7**
South Deals
Both Vul

- ♠ A O 8 6
- ♥ 7 6 3 2
- ♦ 9 5 3 2
- ♣ 7 4

West North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠

All pass

This should be a competitive auction. NS bidding spades and EW bidding hearts.

Play the hand twice in spades and hearts. Both contracts should make 9 tricks.

Lead is ♠ K against spades and ♠ 2 against a heart contract.

**Board 8**
West Deals
None Vul

- ♠ Q J 10 7
- ♥ K 9 7 5
- ♦ 4
- ♣ Q 9 5 3

West North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠

All pass

North’s double promises support for all the unbid suits and an opening hand. Whilst South only has 6 HCP, they can make a 1-level bid, as partner probably has 4 hearts.

With 2 of partner’s suit, West leads the top.

South should draw 3 rounds of trumps and set up spades remembering to play ♠ K first, to avoid being blocked.