



Solutions

Board 6

♠ AKQ8	North	East	South	West
♥ Q8		2♥	3♣	3♥
♦ A632	??			
♣ 987				

When the opponents are bidding and raising and when Partner has made a Takeout Double, a Double by us is played as “responsive”. That basic idea has been extended to apply to when Partner has overcalled rather than doubled. How high do you play these Responsive Doubles? Up to 4♦ or 4♥ is common. What strength does the Responsive Double show? The values to be able to compete at the level being doubled, so here at least game-invitational strength. What sort of distribution is required? Here, with two unbid suits, the Double ideally shows both of the unbid suits, but, as in the case of the Negative Double, North should at least have the unbid major.

Board 6

♠ 6542	South	West	North	East
♥ 6				2♥
♦ J9	3♣	3♥	Dbl	Pass
♣ AKQ642	3♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
	??			

What does Partner’s 5♠ mean? The standard interpretation is that Partner has two Heart losers and would like us to bid slam if we’ve got the Hearts covered. We have Heart shortness but our trumps are pitiful and our original overcall is not exactly blessed with high cards. Here are a couple of questions:

- *Is South obliged to bid on with the Hearts covered?* It’s generally played as a “demand bid”, meaning that our discretion is not expected. That being the case, South must bid on, even if she has serious qualms about her first bid and about the quality of her trumps.
- *What should South bid?* We suggest 6♣ saying “I have the Heart situation covered but perhaps 6♣ is a better spot”. Good thinking, her Partner might, for example hold: ♠ AKJ8, ♥ 874, ♦ AKQ6, ♣ 987. If that were the North hand then 6♣ would indeed be much the better slam.

BIDDING 6-PACK 6th Aug 08

Problems

Board 6

♠ AKQ8	North	East	South	West
♥ Q8		2♥	3♣	3♥
♦ A632	??			
♣ 987				

Board 6

♠ 6542	South	West	North	East
♥ 6				2♥
♦ J9	3♣	3♥	Dbl	Pass
♣ AKQ642	3♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
	??			

Board 16

♠ QJ3	West	North	East	South
♥ AT7	1♣	1♦	1♠	2♣
♦ 974	??			
♣ AJT9				

Board 17

♠ A2	West	North	East	South
♥ JT532		1♦	1♥	1♠
♦ J65	??			
♣ 764				

Board 22

♠ A43	East	South	West	North
♥ K864	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
♦ K4	??			
♣ AQ64				

Board 25

♠ K9	South	West	North	East
♥ AQJ94			Pass	4♠
♦ AQ64	??			
♣ 85				

Board 16

♠ QJ3	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ AT7	1♣	1♦	1♠	2♣
♦ 974	??			
♣ AJT9				

Would you make a Support Double of 2♣ with that West hand? Here are three schools of thought:

- One extreme is *always* to make a Support Double with three in Partner's suit.
- The other extreme is only make a Support Double if you would have raised Partner had RHO passed.
- The middle road is *usually* to make the Support Double, but to pass with some minimum hands with poor distribution.

If E-W were middle-of-the-roaders then West would no doubt decline the Support Double with that miserable hand and square distribution (in fact many would pass that instead of opening 1♣).

Board 17

♠ A2	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ JT532		1♦	1♥	1♠
♦ J65	??			
♣ 764				

What are the options for raising Hearts here?

- **4♥**: 5 is certainly the right number of Hearts for this bid, but the bid is generally played as preemptive and we'd prefer not to have that outside Ace.
- **3♥**: Also preemptive.
- **2♥**: For those with that aversion to preempting with an outside Ace, the best plan would be a simple raise to 2♥ followed by a further bid of 3♥ if necessary.

Actually, this is a good hand for Constructive Raises in Competition (CRIC), which provide two additional ways to raise Partner's Hearts:

- **3♣**: 4-card (sometimes 5-card) support with around 6-9 HCP's and a singleton
- **3♦**: Likewise, but without the singleton

On the actual hand, a CRIC of 3♦ works very well indeed, describing the hand well and also obstructing the opponents.

Board 22

♠ A43	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
♥ K864	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
♦ K4	??			
♣ AQ64				

After a Jacoby Transfer, what are your methods for "super-accepting"? We always like to promote the following method, and here we go again:

- With a bad hand we don't super-accept, we give a simple acceptance
- With a medium hand we jump to 3 of Partner's major
- With a good hand we bid 2NT.

As usual, "bad", "medium" and "good" are in the eye of the beholder, it's not just a matter of "15" or "16" or "17", it's necessary also to downgrade the square hands and those which are loaded with quacks. Anyway, we'd say that the East hand qualifies as "good", 16 fine points, the right shape, and the only quack is bolstered by an Ace.

Why do we like that method of super-accepting? Because (a) it's very simple, and (b) it doesn't volunteer information to the opponents about second suits or doubletons or whatever (that information invariably proves useless to Partner and just helps the opponents defend accurately).

Board 25

♠ K9	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
♥ AQJ94			Pass	4♠
♦ AQ64	??			
♣ 85				

Against opening preempts it's most common to play Doubles up to 4♥ as primarily for take-out, and above that for the Double to be value-showing (and quite likely to be passed). South might double here but, opposite a passed Partner, it seems more likely that the hand belongs to the opponents. So, inspired perhaps by the favorable vulnerability, South might bid 4NT here. What does that mean? It used to be played as showing a strong 3-suiter, but nowadays the preferred treatment is for it to be a two-suiter, that hand-type is more likely to occur.

After 4NT, N-S will scramble into a fit. On the actual hand, for example, North is 2=4=6=1, and will bid 5♦, knowing that her side has a fit in at least one of the red suits.