

<http://3nt.xyz> -- Double and Cue Bid -- Problem

♠ J 6 2  
♥ J 10 9 6  
♦ K 10 7 6  
♣ J 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Steve</i>	<i>Pete</i>	<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Stew</i>
		1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	?		

What does South's auction mean?

As North, what would you bid?

### Double and Cue Bid -- Solution

**Board 14**  
 East Deals  
 None Vul

♠ J 6 2		♠ 5 3									
♥ J 10 9 6		♥ A K Q 4 3 2									
♦ K 10 7 6		♦ J 8 4 2									
♣ J 5		♣ K									
♠ K 9 7 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A Q 10 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 7		♥ 8 5									
♦ 9 5		♦ A Q 3									
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 4		♣ A Q 3 2									

West	North	East	South
<i>Steve</i>	<i>Pete</i>	<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Stew</i>
		1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All pass	
3NT by North			
Made 3 — NS +400			

As North, I pushed on to 3 NT. On four rounds of hearts, I discarded two clubs from dummy. The spade finesse lost and diamonds failed, but the ♣ K popped up: nine tricks, no big deal.

When dummy came down, I remarked that I had hoped for a stronger hand. Grand life master Steve Gladyszak piped up that this is how you bid an 18-point hand with 3-card support.

Definitely; I have preferred to play this way for years. Even though Eddie Kantar recommends this treatment, I was not confident that it is standard. I am now assured it is. Stew did not owe me anything with that dummy.

After making a takeout double, a cue bid suggests doubt as to strain, which usually means a good hand with 3-card support. Of course, it could be a stronger hand, but not with a non-forcing 3♦ next.