

Double of a Preempt (1) -- Problem

Board 3

West Deals

N-S Vul



♠ J 10 7 6 3

♥ A K 10

♦ A Q 9

♣ 6 5

West

2♥

North

Dbl

East

Pass

South

?

Take my seat at an online special matchpoint pairs game at the Huntsville AL club. Your bid?

Double of a Preempt (2) -- Problem

Board 15

East Deals

E-W Vul



♠ A J 10 7 6 5

♥ A K 9 2

♦ 10

♣ K Q

West

Pass

North

4♣

East

3♣

Pass

South

Dbl

?

You double 3♣ to keep hearts in play. If partner hurts you in diamonds, your hand is just strong enough to remove to spades.

Partner cue bids - what now?

Double of a Preempt (1) -- Solution

Board 3

West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K Q 5
♥ 6 3
♦ K J 5 2
♣ A K 10 3

♠ 8
♥ J 9 8 7 5 2
♦ 10 4 3
♣ Q 7 2

N
W E
S

♠ A 9 4 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 8 7 6
♣ J 9 8 4

♠ J 10 7 6 3
♥ A K 10
♦ A Q 9
♣ 6 5

West	North	East	South
2♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
All pass			
4♠ by South			
Made 6 — NS +680			

Yup, I missed a laydown slam. Holding no top trump honor I settled for game. I ignored my *fifth* spade, worth two points in response to a takeout double, my two trump honors, and my three and a half quick tricks. I hope you did better. For the double, partner's hand should be worth at least 15 points - no 13 HCP 4-4-3-2 hand, please.

Five spades also misses the slam. That bid asks partner to bid slam with first or second round control of hearts, the enemy suit. According to *Commonsense Bidding* (William S. Root, page 194), a *voluntary* raise to five of a major suit asks partner for control of a specific suit: (A) the unbid suit, if our side has bid three suits; (B) the enemy suit, if an opponent has bid.

The responses are (1) with first round control, cue bid; (2) with a singleton, bid slam; (3) with the guarded king, bid 5 NT; (4) with no control, Pass.

Cue bid 3♥ to show a hand of at least limit raise strength. Partner will bid a minor suit, and you will convert to 4♠, showing slam interest. (Without slam interest, you would have bid 4♠ immediately, even with four spades and five clubs.) Now partner bids 5♠, asking *you* for a heart control. (Your lack of a top trump now applies: don't show first round control of hearts; just bid 6♠.)

Slams can be difficult to bid when the points are divided about evenly between the two hands.

Double of a Preempt (2) -- Solution

Board 15

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ K 8 4 2
♥ Q 7 5
♦ A J 7 5 4
♣ J

♠ Q 9
♥ 8 6 4 3
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ 10 5 4

N
W E
S

♠ 3
♥ J 10
♦ K 9 6
♣ A 9 8 7 6 3 2

♠ A J 10 7 6 5
♥ A K 9 2
♦ 10
♣ K Q

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♣	3♣	Dbl
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♠
6♠ by South			

For the double, South's hand should be worth at least 14 points - no 12 HCP 4-4-3-2 hand, please.

North is not slamming, just attempting to get to the best game, wanting South to pick a major suit. With club shortness, North suspected South might be off-shape with club length. If we land in a 4-3 fit, hearts would be better, since any ruff would be taken in the short hand. (If South does pick hearts, North must pass, since any bid would be slamming.)

Once again, a meek 4♠ bid misses a laydown slam. I think 5♠ shows this hand, and is not just a raise of responder's presumed spade suit. However, if you are worried that partner will pass without a club control, either cue bid 5♣ (as shown above) or count on partner for an ace and leap to 6♠. All these roads lead to slam on this deal.