



# Ask Jerry

Jerry Helms

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**rule for responding to a double is different from the rule for responding to an opening bid and that I should have bid 1♠.**

**Is he right that this is still another rule that I have to remember?**

**Overruled**

With the knowledge of our combined values and fit (or fits), it certainly seems as if we should continue to compete, or at least to drive the opponents to a higher level, giving us a better chance on defense. How would you feel about your current options?

***The one who knows ... goes!***

Your non-jump response to partner's takeout double bracketed your points at somewhere between zero and 8 or 9. Only you know that you have the values to compete to the two level at least.

***“Always plan a second bid before you choose the first.”***

If the auction did turn competitive, you would be better placed had you chosen to respond 1♠ first:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♠
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥

By bidding a second time, your partner knows you have something, rather than the zero points you may have held. In addition, he is in a position to pass 2♥ if that is your eight-card fit, or return to 2♠ if that is your best fit. If he holds only three of each major, which is clearly possible, that's just unlucky. Suggest to your partner that in the future, when you hold only four-card suits, you would strongly prefer that he try to hold at least four in one of them!

A lot of bridge is not about rules, but about thinking ahead. Your partner provided good advice on a sequence that is probably not well covered in many text books. □

Dear Jerry,

My left-hand opponent opened 1♦, and partner doubled. I bid 1♥ holding:

♠Q1064 ♥A982 ♦J73 ♣84,

following the rule that with 4-4 in the majors, you should bid up the line. My partner insisted that the

Hi OR,

Unfortunately for you, I must side with your partner on this issue on this particular hand. Bidding when the opponents have entered the auction is not the same as responding to partner when the opponents are silent.

Let's start with the first of several of my probably now familiar, if not completely worn out, Jerryi-smms that I think apply here:

***“Integrate what you see with what you have heard.”***

Your partner's takeout double suggests support or tolerance for all unbid suits, along with values that approximate at least an opening bid in support of the unbid suit of your choice. In effect, the takeout double is like your partner has opened the bidding 1 clubheartspade.

Looking at your 7 high-card points and hearing about partner's expected 13 or more, tells you that as a partnership, you have at least half the deck in terms of values. In addition, you rate to have an eight-card trump fit in either spades, hearts or perhaps both.

Let's say you responded 1♥ and the auction continued this way:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	?