

Rosenkranz Doubles and Redoubles



Improve Your Defensive Bidding

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When you make a simple overcall, it is helpful to know if partner has a high honor in your suit. George Rosenkranz, a Mexican ACBL Grand Life Master, created the Rosenkranz Double/Redouble (RDR) for this purpose. This is a variation of the original convention.

One Level Overcalls

RDR works best if your overcalls are at least Qxxxx(x). After a one level overcall, advancer (overcaller's partner) shows the A and or K by doubling or redoubling responder's bid.

Overcaller:

♠xx ♥KJxxx ♦Ax ♣Q10xx

Advancer:

♠xxxx ♥Axx ♦xxx ♣Kxx

1♦ 1♥ 2♦ DBL; 3♦

Without the ♥A or ♥K advancer would bid 2♥ with heart support, and overcaller would not lead a heart. Here overcaller confidently underleads hearts, knowing partner has the ♥A.

You can use RDR through a double of three of the overcalled suit. Advancer promises as many cards in overcaller's suit as the level to which the auction is forced – at least A or K, Ax or Kx, or Axx or Kxx to arrive at one, two or three of the overcalled suit. RDR still applies if responder bids 1N or 2N.

Suit Preference Leads

Overcaller can indicate the location of outside strength with the opening lead. Leading a low card in the overcalled suit shows strength in the lower unbid suit (disregard responder's new suit), and a higher card shows the higher unbid. With no outside suit strength lead a middle card.

♠Jx	
♥xx	
♦Qxx	
♣AQ10xxx	
♠A109xx	♠Kxx
♥xx	♥Qxx
♦AJx	♦K10xx
Kx	♣xxxx
♠Qxx	
♥AKJxxx	
♦xxx	
♣J	

Dealer: South

1♥ 1♠ 2♣ DBL; 2♥ 2♠ 3♥

The opening lead of the ♠10 shows diamond strength. After winning the ♠K, advancer switches to a low diamond promising a high honor. In with the ♦A and seeing the club layout, a switch to the ♦J ensures a one trick set.

Redouble

Advancer's double or redouble must be alerted as showing "A and or K and [1, 2 or 3] or more cards in partner's suit." With a RDBL at the one level, you will get partner off to a good lead on this hand.

	♠xxx	
	♥QJxx	
	♦xx	
	♣A10xx	
♠AJ8xxx		♠K
♥x		♥Axxx
♦Axx		♦xxxx
♣Kxx		♣Qxxx
	♠Q10x	
	♥K10xx	
	♦KQJx	
	♣Jx	

Dealer: South

1♦ 1♠ DBL RDBL; 2♥ 2♠ 3♥

After the ♠8 opening lead (suit preference) advancer returns a high diamond to the ♦A followed by ♠A and a spade ruff, resulting in a two trick set.

Ruffing

When advancer holds only two card support (Ax or Kx), returning the overcalled suit typically asks for a ruff as in this layout.

	♠Qx	
	♥Kxx	
	♦Q10x	
	♣K10xxx	
♠A98xxx		♠Kx
♥xx		♥J109
♦AJx		♦Kxxxx
♣Jx		♣xxx
	♠J10x	
	♥AQ8xx	
	♦xx	
	♣AQx	

Dealer: South

1♥ 1♠ 2♥ DBL; P 2♠ 3♥

When the suit preference ♠9 is led, advancer returns the low spade showing a doubleton. Partner obliges by leading the ♠8 (suit preference). If dummy pitches or ruffs low, advancer ruffs and leads a low diamond (showing a high honor) to partner's ♦A. A diamond return to the ♦K beats the contract. If instead dummy ruffs with the ♥K, advancer pitches a club, ruffs the third club, and leads diamonds.

Two Level Overcalls

When the overcall is at the two level, advancer must have the partnership agreed upon values to raise.

1♥ 2♦ DBL RDBL

RDBL shows at least Ax or Kx support.

1♥ 2♦ 2N DBL

DBL still shows at least Axx or Kxx support with a decent hand.

1♠ 2♥ 2♠ DBL

DBL shows at least Axx or Kxx support.

1♠ 2♥ 3♥ DBL

DBL shows at least Axx or Kxx support.

You cannot play Responsive Doubles when using RDR, but my 15 years of experience shows the benefit outweighs the loss.

RDR is an advanced treatment. Be sure to mark your convention card "Rosenkranz Dbl/Rdbl" and alert. Discuss applicable auctions as well as advancer's strength and suit length before using this bidding tool. ♣