

♠♥♦♣ THE "FAKEOUT" DOUBLE ♠♥♦♣

East is the dealer and opens 1♥. You hold:

S	South
♠	AQJ105
♥	KQ
♦	75
♣	AKQ6

This is a very strong hand. Perhaps you would have opened this hand 2♣ if you had been dealer. But since RHO opened, what would you do?

This hand is too strong for an overcall. Your overcalls are limited. The range for overcalls are about 7-17 or so. With this 21 HCP hand, you cannot overcall 1♠. Overcalling 2♠ would be weak and pre-emptive, showing 6 spades and less than 7 HCP. Neither of these bid fit. This is the case where you will make a double. Doubling in the direct seat is normally a simple takeout double. Your partner is asked to bid his longest suit. If he has less than 9 HCP, he will advance at the minimum level. If he has 9-11 HCP he will advance one level higher. With more than 11 HCP, he will bid game. This advance differs from a response in that if his RHO passes, he isn't allowed to pass. Even with no points at all, he must advance with his longest suit – as long as that suit isn't the opener's suit. The only time he can pass is if his RHO bids something – even if its only a redouble. However, if he advances over his RHO's bid, he must have 9 or more HCP's.

But you are not interested in partner suit. You want to play in spades. So, over partner's advance you will bid your spade suit. This is a special kind of double. It has several names. I've always called it a Type II double. It is also called the Power Double. I've recently heard it referred to as the Fake Double, or the Fakeout Double.

When you double in the direct seat and ignore partner's advance or his pass, you are showing a 5+ card suit and strength in excess of 17 HCP.

Over your double, West responds 1NT and your partner passes. East rebids 2♥ and it's back to you. Since you know your partner is too weak to make a free bid, you want to let him know about your strength. You bid 2♠. He confirms a fit in spades with a 3♠ bid. You have a 4 loser hand and hope that he can supply one cover card to reduce that to 3 losers. You rebid 4♠.

West leads the ♦A and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	942
♥	8653
♦	3
♣	J10983

West leads ♦ A

S	South
♠	AQJ105
♥	KQ
♦	75
♣	AKQ6

You have a possible spade loser, a definite heart loser and 2 diamond losers. West's ♦ A wins and he switches to the ♥ 2. East wins the ♥ A and sends back a heart for a ruff. The defenders already have 3 tricks. It looks like your contract will depend on the spade finesse.

Fortunately, West leads a spade, giving you a free finesse. East plays the ♠ K and you take your ♠ A. Now what?

Normally, you want to pull the rest of the trump. But here, you must get rid of the diamond loser in your hand. Ruff the diamond in the dummy before touching the spades. After that, you can pull trump and take your club tricks.

This is the full deal:

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You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4jwtlcf>, Or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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