

PREEMPTS AND LOSING TRICK COUNT

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As discussed in class, the more distributional your hand is, the more you can convert to losing trick count for bidding decisions.

So, when thinking about bidding (or doubling) over a preempt, you can think in terms of 7-loser hands at the two level (like an ordinary, decent opening hand), 6-loser hands at the three level and 5-loser hands at the 4-level.

Since partner will, usually, cover one to two of your losers when an opponent has preempted, this gives you a reasonable margin of safety in terms of making contracts.

Be wary of doubling on highly distributional hands because partner may pass and convert your double to a penalty one. Make sure you have enough quick tricks that you will be OK if partner converts the double to a penalty one.

If you choose to bid on very distributional two-suited hands (like a Michaels or Unusual Two No Trump type of hand), you must be prepared to insist on one of your two suits and not sit for partner's penalty double. (Again, if you have quick tricks, it is OK when partner passes for penalties.) Remember, partner is NOT expecting you to preempt a preempt! Many times this will be OK, but on the misfit hands, it will be a disaster.

Remember, nothing is perfect!!!!

Examples of 5-loser hands with only 16 or fewer HCP., Note how they have 3, 2 & 4 quick tricks.

KQxx	KQxx	Axxx
x	void	x
AKxx	KQxxx	KQxx
QJ10x	J109x	AKx