

DOPI, ROPI, DEPO, REPO – when your Blackwood/Gerber is interfered with.

DOPI (Double 0 Pass 1) and ROPI

It does not matter if you play 4♣ or 4NT to ask for aces (or key cards), if the opponents bid over your asking bid then obviously things change. I have witnessed this at the club when a lay-down 7NT (13 tricks off the top) was missed.

Let's assume you are playing simple Blackwood, you have 2 aces and partner bids 4NT to ask. Your response is 5♥, but what if your RHO sticks in a bid of 5♦? The answer is the DOPI convention:

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Double	=	1 st step	(0 aces)
Pass	=	2 nd step	(1 ace)
Next bid (so 5♥ here)	=	3 rd step	(2 aces)
Next but 1 bid (so 5♠ here)	=	4 th step	etc.

The same principle applies if you play RKCB, Gerber or whatever. Note that the lower responses (double or pass) allow for a possibility of defending against a doubled contract by opponents. Often a good idea if you are short of aces/key cards!

If RHO doubles the asking bid, then there is a similar convention (ROPI)

Redouble	=	1 st step	(0 aces)
Pass	=	2 nd step	(1 ace)
Next bid (so 5♣ here)	=	3 rd step	(2 aces) etc.

Now I have been careful to mention steps here. For example, If you play standard RKCB then 1st step = 0 or 3 key cards, 2nd step = 1 or 4 key cards etc.

DEPO (Double Even Pass Odd) and REPO

This is a less popular variation of the above but has the advantage that the opponent's can always be doubled for penalties.

So when your Blackwood bid is overcalled it's REPO: -

Double	=	Even	(0, 2 or 4 aces)
Pass	=	Odd	(1, 3 or 5 aces)

And if your Blackwood bid is doubled: -

Redouble	=	Even	(0, 2 or 4 aces)
Pass	=	Odd	(1, 3 or 5 aces)

You have to decide if you prefer D(R)OPI or D(R)EPO. I actually know of one pair that play D(R)OPI at the four level and D(R)EPO at the five level. I guess that that makes sense – you are more likely to want to penalise the opponents at the five level.