

# Introduction to Double Boxes (revised 8/03/11)

## Step 1



I drop three balls within a couple of feet of Pete. I watch for any impetus of him trying to move forward. Seeing none I keep quite.

I will leave these balls, although they are not seen in the following photos.

## Step 2



I position my body, 180 degrees from the balls, making sure Pete follows my lead. I tell him to “mark” and send him with “back”.

### Step 3



While Pete is making his initial outrun, I throw a ball over his head.

### Step 4



Pete sees the ball land in front of him, taking his momentum towards it to make the retrieve.

## Step 5



Brea is returning after she has gotten the tennis ball.

## Step 6



I tap the box to encourage her to make the path of her retrieve directly to the box.

And I tap the box rather than blow the “come in whistle” to encourage a quick retrieve.

**Step 7:**



**Pete makes a decent delivery.**

**Step 8:**



**I tell Pete to “hold it” On each retrieve I have him hold the ball a little longer.**

**Step 9:**



**I remove the three balls while Pete watches.**

# Teaching the hold command

## Step 10:



I add a second box into our training equation.

I repeat steps 2 by positioning my body 180 degrees away from the 2<sup>nd</sup> box.

## Step 11:



Again I send Pete and throw a ball over his head.

I watch him make the retrieve and wait for him to return with the ball.

Again, I do not whistle him, but tap the box if it appears he is straying off a straight line.

## Step 12:



This time, instead of taking Pete's retrieve, I tell him to hold it.

**Step 13:**



I then tap the second box, encouraging Pete to change boxes, this time with the retrieve in his mouth.

**Step 14:**



Pete drops the ball in confusion. I don't make a big deal, just encourage him to pick it up and carry on.

**Step 15:**



I then call the pup back onto the first box, telling him to "hold it".

## Step 16:



I make this first lesson a quick one. I will increase the length of time Pete is expected to hold the retrieve over the next few days. I will also increase the space between the boxes as he jumps from one to the other.

For now, I am delighted with small steps.