

Deal 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 9 8 5 3	♦ K J 7
♥ K J 8	♦ 6
♦ 9 2	♦ A Q 10 8 7 5
♣ 8 5 4	♣ A 10 6

W	N	E	S
♠ A Q	♦ 6 4 2	♥ A Q 9 5 3 2	♦ 4
♦ 10 7 4	♣ 9 3 2	♣ K Q J 7	♣ 8 5 4

14	♦ A Q
4 6	♦ 10 7 4
16	♦ K J 6 3
	♣ K Q J 7

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♦	ALL	Pass

6 ♦ by North

Partner's 3 ♦ bid shows a very good hand with probable slam interest. It is very tempting to say 3 NT now but you don't have ♥s stopped and don't know if partner does. So with good ♦ support you bid 4 ♦. Partner bids 4 NT. What is your response?

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠A and ♦K. But you don't have the ♦Q so you answer 5 ♥. Partner bids 6 ♦.

Deal 2

South Deals	♠ A 6 5 2
None Vul	♥ Q J 5 2
	♦ K J 3
	♣ 8 2

♠ Q 9 7 4	♠ J 3
♥ 10 7	♥ 3
♦ 9 8 6 2	♦ A Q 10 7 5 4
♣ J 9 6	♣ 10 5 4 3

¹¹ ³ ⁷ ¹⁹	^{♠ K 10 8} ^{♥ A K 9 8 6 4} ^{♦ —} ^{♣ A K Q 7}
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West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♥
Pass			
6 ♥ by South			

Your partner's 3 ♥ is a limit-raise, 11-12 points with ♥ support. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you want to know is whether partner holds the ♠ A. If you bid 4 NT and he shows two Key-Cards all will be well, you will know they are the two missing Aces. But if he shows just 1 Key-Card you will be in the soup since you can't tell if that Key-Card is the useful ♠ A or the practically useless ♦ A. So you don't use RKCB, you use control-showing and bid 4 ♣. Partner says 4 ♥. What do you bid next?

Partner would have control-bid ♦s if he had the Ace. You may not think that helps but it does since now you can bid RKCB. You bid 4 NT and he answers 5 ♣. What is your next bid?

It was a lot of work but you have figured out that partner holds 11-12 points including one Key-Card which must be the ♠ A. It looks like the slam is a good idea so you say 6 ♥.

Deal 3North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 3
♥ Q 9 6 3
♦ K J 9 4
♣ 10 5 2

16
7 6
11



♠ A Q 9 7 4
♥ 8
♦ A 6 3 2
♣ K Q J

♠ 10
♥ A 5 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 7 5
♣ 7 6 4

♠ K 8 6 5 2
♥ K J 10 7
♦ —

♣ A 9 8 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 ♠ by North			

Your 4 ♦ bid is a Splinter Bid, showing opening hand strength, at least 4 ♠s, and a singleton or void in ♦s. Partner bids 4 NT.

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠K and the ♣A. So do you bid 5 ♥?

No. You have two Key-Cards AND a void. So you bid 5 NT. Partner bids 6 ♠.

Deal 4

South Deals	♠ A 10 8
None Vul	♥ K 9 8 4
	♦ K 9
	♣ K 10 6 5
♠ 7 5	♠ 9 6 4 3 2
♥ Q J 3	♥ 5 2
♦ 10 7 5 4 3	♦ 8 6 2
♣ 8 7 3	♣ A 4 2

13	♠ K Q J
3 4	♥ A 10 7 6
20	♦ A Q J
	♣ Q J 9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

5 ♥ by South

Your partner's 2 NT opener is 20-21 points and the 3 ♣ bid is Stayman. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

You know of 33 points and you know of an 8-card ♥ fit. The math tells you that 6 ♥ should be a good slam but you might as well check Key-Cards, that's why the convention was invented. So you bid 4 NT and partner answers 5 ♥. What do you say?

You say "Darn!" You are missing just one Key-Card, but you are also missing the trump Queen. And with partner holding only a 4-card suit that Queen might well win a trick. Knowing that at best the slam will depend on a trump finesse you pass 5 ♥.