

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q 9 8 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K
 ♣ K Q J 8

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

22
 6 6
 6

N
 W E
 S

♠ 6 5
 ♥ J 9 6
 ♦ J 7 6 4
 ♣ A 10 9 6

♠ J 7 4 2
 ♥ K Q 5 4
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ 7 5 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
5 ♠ by North			

SOUTH's 3♠ supporting bid is enough to convince NORTH to make a slam try.

NORTH bids Blackwood 4 NT. If SOUTH shows one Ace NORTH plans to bid 6♠, but

when SOUTH bids 5♣ NORTH settles for 5♠

Deal 2

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6 4**♥ K J 9****♦ A K Q J 9****♣ K Q****♠ 10 8 5****♥ 4 3****♦ 8 6 4****♣ A 8 6 3 2****♠ J 3****♥ A Q 10 8 6****♦ 10 3****♣ J 10 7 4****♠ K Q 9 7 2****♥ 7 5 2****♦ 7 5 2****♣ 9 5****23****4 8****5****West North East South****2 ♣****Pass****2 ♥****Pass****4 NT****Pass****5 ♦****Pass****6 ♥****Pass****Pass****Pass****6 ♥ by East**

EAST makes a positive 3



response to WEST's 2♣ opener.

This promises at least 8 points and a 5-card suit with two or more honors.

WEST only needs to know one thing - how many Aces in the EAST hand.

A Blackwood 4 NT tells her the answer is one, so she bids 6



.

Deal 3South Deals
None Vul

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

♠ K Q
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ K Q J 9 7 3 2



18
 5 1
 16

West North East South

Pass 4♣ Pass 4♣
 Pass 6 NT Pass Pass

Pass
 6 NT by South

When SOUTH opens 1 NT, point-count alone tells NORTH that 6 NT can surely be made.

SOUTH is bound to hold at least two Aces. But NORTH doesn't want to miss a Grand slam.

NORTH bids 4♣, (Gerber), and SOUTH admits to just two Aces.

So NORTH settles for the small slam.

Deal 4

East Deals	♠ 8 7
None Vul	♥ 10 8
	♦ J 8 4 2
	♣ J 7 6 5 4

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

W	N
S	E

$\begin{matrix} & 10 \\ 2 & \\ 22 & 12 \\ 4 & \end{matrix}$	♠ 10
	♥ Q 9 6 2
	♦ 10 9 6 5
	♣ Q 10 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥		Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
7 NT	Pass		Pass
7 NT by West			

WEST has a powerhouse and knows she will reach a slam somewhere. When EAST

supports the ♠s, it seems she has found her spot.

Blackwood tells her that EAST has two Aces.

She can see there are 12 tricks available and decides to take a chance that

EAST will have a thirteenth trick somewhere among his opening hand points.

She bids 7 NT.

Deal 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 9 6 4
♥ 3
♦ 10 6 5
♣ A 9 7 5 4

8
4 6
22



♠ J 7 3
♥ A J 10 9 8
♦ 8 3 2
♣ Q 8

♠ Q 8 5
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A 9 7 4
♣ 10 3 2

♠ A K 2
♥ K Q 6 5
♦ K Q J
♣ K J 6

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

SOUTH is tempted to go right to 6



when she hears NORTH's positive

response. BUT, she should use Blackwood first.

It's good thing she did because NORTH admits to only one Ace - they are missing two Aces.

Deal 6

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 8 5
♣ A 10 6 3 2

♠ K Q 4
♥ A 8
♦ K Q J 10 7 3
♣ K 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6 3
♥ K 10 7
♦ A 9 4
♣ Q 9 8 7

♠ J 10 8 5
♥ Q J 9 4 2
♦ 6 2
♣ J 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
6 NT by East			

WEST not only has 20 points, he also has a lot of winners.

So when EAST jumps to 2 NT, showing 13-15 points, WEST uses Gerber.

EAST shows two Aces so WEST decides 6 NT will be just right.

Deal 7

North Deals	♠ K Q 8 5
None Vul	♥ J 6 3
	♦ 8 7
	♣ A Q J 4

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

13	♠ A J 9 6 3
2 6	♥ A 4
19	♦ A Q J 6
	♣ K 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 ♠ by South			



When NORTH gives immediate ♠ support, SOUTH's thoughts naturally

turn to slam. This is a good hand to use Blackwood on, so SOUTH bids 4 NT.

NORTH's 5

♦

answer shows one Ace, which SOUTH cleverly deduces

must be the ♣A.

SOUTH bids 6♦ since NORTH has not bid strongly enough to think about 7.

Deal 8
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

5 8 23 4	♠ 7 5 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ A 10 8 6 5
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

6 ♥ by West

EAST expects to bid 2 NT at his second turn, but WEST gives a positive 2

♥

response and his thinking changes! First he supports

♥

s, setting the trump suit.

WEST then bids 3 ♠, showing first round control. EAST tries 4 NT (Blackwood) and

WEST replies 6 ♣. This shows a ♣ void and one Ace, obviously the ♠A.

EAST bids 6

♥

, knowing they must lose the

♦

A.

Deal 9

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 5	♦ K 7
♥ A K 10 7 5 3	♦ K 7
♦ J 9 6	

♠ Q 9 3	♦ Q 10 5
♥ 9 2	♦ Q 10 5
♣ K Q 10 7 3	

14	9 6
11	

N	
W	E
S	

♠ K 5	♦ K 7
♥ A K 10 7 5 3	♦ K 7
♦ J 9 6	

♠ K 5	♦ K 7
♥ A K 10 7 5 3	♦ K 7
♦ J 9 6	

♠ J 10 7 6	♦ 4
♥ 4	♦ J 4 2
♦ A 8 5 4 2	

♠ A 8 4 2	♦ A 9 8 6 3
♥ Q J 8 6	
♦ A 9 8 6 3	

♣ —

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 NT
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass

Pass
7 ♥ by North

SOUTH's jump to 4♣ is a Splinter bid, at least 4-card

♥

support,

at least opening hand, and a ♣ Singleton or Void.

NORTH bids 4 NT, Blackwood.

SOUTH's 5 NT reply shows two Aces and a Void somewhere, obviously ♣s.

NORTH counts thirteen tricks and bids 7

♥

.

Deal 10

East Deals

None Vul

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

9
 8 18
 5

♠ Q J 9 7 4 2
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ Q 7 5
 ♣ A 4

♠ K 5 3
 ♥ K Q J 10 3
 ♦ A
 ♣ K Q 10 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3 ♥	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 ♥ by East			Pass

EAST figures that if WEST holds two Aces he will bid the slam.

WEST only has one Ace, but she has something else just as good - a void in a suit which

is higher-ranking than

♥

s.

EAST manages to figure out that WEST has a ♠ void and bids the slam anyway.

Deal 11

South Deals
None Vul

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

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



8

7 8

17

♣ K J 6 3

West North East South

1 ♠

Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

4 ♠ by South

SOUTH may have a good hand but NORTH merely gave a simple raise.

Even if NORTH has a maximum there won't be a slam.

Deal 12

West Deals

None Vul

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

♥ K Q J 8 6 3

♦ K J 2

♣ A Q 6 5

16	7
10	7



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

♥ A

♦ 10 9 6 5 3

♣ 7 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
6 ♥ by West			

WEST has a tough decision after the two Control-showing bids.

If he uses Blackwood and EAST shows two Aces he will be no better off, because he won't know if one

of the Aces is the useless ♠A. Based on knowing that EAST holds the

♦

A,

he bids 6

♥

, hoping that he can at least make that and that 7 isn't a laydown!

Deal 13

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 5
♥ J 7 5 4 2
♦ 10 5
♣ Q 5 3

21
6 3
10

♠ K 6 2
♥ A 10 9
♦ A K 3
♣ A K 8 4

W N E
S

♠ 10 9 8 4 3
♥ Q 8 6
♦ 6
♣ J 10 9 2

♠ A 7
♥ K 3
♦ Q J 9 8 7 4 2
♣ 7 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 NT	Pass	7 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

7 NT by North

SOUTH isn't sure just how much he can make, but surely 6

♦

isn't

too much to hope for.

He starts with a Gerber 4♣ and NORTH shows three Aces.

Hmmm, 5♣ asks for Kings and NORTH shows three.

Hmm, SOUTH can now count all thirteen tricks, so he forgets about the

♦

slam and bids 7 NT.

Deal 14East Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8

♥ J 7 2

♦ 8 5

♣ A K Q 10 9 6

♠ 7 6 5 3 2

♥ A 9 5

♦ 10 6 4 2

♣ 2



♠ A K Q

♥ K Q 6

♦ K Q 3

♣ J 8 7 5

11 4
20 5

♠ 10 9 4

♥ 10 8 4 3

♦ A J 9 7

♣ 4 3

West

North

East

South

4 ♣

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

4 NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 NT by East

WEST has 13 points and can contribute six tricks so she figures that twelve tricks will be a slam (dunk).

However, just to make sure the opponents don't take the first two tricks she checks with Gerber.

Uh Oh, missing two Aces she signs off at 4 NT. She could also happily play 5♣, but it

would be tricky to get there. Very tricky.

Deal 15
South Deals
None Vul

	♠ A Q 6		
	♥ K 7 3		
	♦ K 6		
	♣ K 10 6 5 3		
♠ 4 2		♠ J 10 9 8 3	
♥ A 5 4 2	W N E	♥ J 10 8	
♦ Q 10 7 4 2	S	♦ J 5	
♣ 9 4		♣ J 8 2	
15 6 4 15	♠ K 7 5 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ A 9 8 3 ♣ A Q 7		
West	North	East	South
Pass	4 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass			Pass
4 NT by South			

Yes, this has nothing to do with Gerber or Blackwood, but everything to do with smart bidding.

NORTH has a 16 points and SOUTH has 15, 16 or 17. NORTH wants to be in 6 NT if SOUTH has 17,

but merely a Notrump game if she has 15 or 16.

The way to find out is to bid 4 NT - not Blackwood but merely an invitation to bid 6 NT.

In this case, SOUTH has but 15 points and declines the invitation. If her



Q

were changed to the



A she would bid 6 NT and collect her twelve easy tricks.

Deal 16West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8 7 6
 ♥ Q J 7
 ♦ A J 3
 ♣ A 8 2

♠ 10 9 5 3
 ♥ A 8 5 4
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ 9 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q J 4
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ K Q J 10 5

♠ 2
 4
 16 18
 2
 ♣ 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 NT	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
6 NT by West			

When WEST opens 1 NT EAST hopes his hand includes all four Aces so she can bid 7 NT.

So she uses Gerber to find out.

But, when she discovers they are missing an Ace she settles for 6 NT.

Deal 17

♠ A K
 North Deals ♥ A Q 10 9 6
 None Vul ♦ A Q J 3
 ♣ A K
 ♠ Q J 10 8 5 ♠ 6 4 3
 ♥ 8 7 4 ♥ 2
 ♦ 6 2 ♦ 10 9 8 5 4
 ♣ 10 8 3 ♣ Q J 9 5
 ♠ 9 7 2
²⁷
 3 3 ♥ K J 5 3
 7 ♦ K 7
 ♣ 7 6 4 2



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	7 NT	ALL	Pass
7 NT by North			

Baker Bidpractice/Set 17

Deal 18

Deal 18

North Deals	♠ K 7		
None Vul	♥ K 9		
	♦ A Q J 10 4		
	♣ A Q J 7		
♠ 10 9 8 4 3	♠ Q J 5		
♥ Q 8 6	♥ J 7 5 3 2		
♦ 8 2	♦ 9 6 3		
♣ 10 9 3	♣ 5 4		
	♠ A 6 2		
20			
2 4	♥ A 10 4		
14	♦ K 7 5		
	♣ K 8 6 2		
West	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
7 NT by South			

NORTH is just shy of a 2♦ opening bid, and when SOUTH shows 13-15 points NORTH

wants to be in a slam.

NORTH cannot use Blackwood because 4 NT would be a natural invitation, but with SOUTH's latest bid

being 2 NT he can use Gerber.

Two Major Aces and two Minor Kings fill the holes in NORTH's hand so he bids 7 NT.

Deal 19West Deals
None Vul

♠ 6
♥ K 4
♦ K J 9 7 4
♣ A Q J 9 2

6
14 12
8

♠ J 10 8 3 2
♥ A J 10 9 8 5
♦ 2

♣ 5



♠ A K 5
♥ 7
♦ Q 10 6 5 3
♣ K 10 8 4

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ Q 6 3 2
♦ A 8
♣ 7 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		
5 ♦ by West			

WEST thinks slam may be possible, so she uses Blackwood.

And that's what Blackwood is really good for - keeping you out of slams when you are

missing two Aces!

Deal 20South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 6 2
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ Q J 4 2
 ♣ K J 3

16
 7 5
12
 ♣ 8 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 4
 ♥ K Q 10 9 5
 ♦ A 7 6
 ♣ A 5 4

♠ 10 5
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ K 10 9 8
 ♣ Q 10 9 6 2

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			.
6 ♥ by North			

NORTH knows SOUTH has at least five ♠s, and they might provide discards for two or three

of her minor suit losers.

She tries Blackwood and, sure enough, SOUTH comes through with two Aces.

Even with all the Aces NORTH knows there are not enough points for Grand,

so she bids 6

♥
.

Deal 21
West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 2
♥ K Q J 7
♦ 6
♣ K Q J 10 9

16 6
15 15
3

West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 4 NT Pass
5♦ Pass 5 NT Pass
7♥ Pass Pass Pass
7♥ by East

♠ 8 4
♥ 8
♦ K Q J 10 7 5 2
♣ 8 6 3

♠ K 5 3
♥ A 10 9 5 2
♦ A 9 4
♣ A 4

♠ Q J 10 9 7
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 8 3
♣ 7 5 2



When WEST answers Blackwood with one Ace EAST decides to bid 5 NT to ask for Kings.

With two Kings, WEST would bid 6

♥

.

But she knows that if she does so, EAST might stop right there.

Knowing the 5 NT bid guarantees all four Aces, WEST figures her ♣ suit will

supply five tricks so she bids 7

♥

.

Deal 22
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ J 6 2
 ♥ K 10 8 3
 ♦ J 7 3 2
 ♣ 9 2

11
 5 4
 20

♠ 8 7
 ♥ Q 9 7 4
 ♦ K Q 5
 ♣ A 10 8 3

♠ 10 9 4 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ A 10 9 8 4
 ♣ 7 6 5 4

♠ A K Q 5
 ♥ A J 6 5 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K Q J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5 ♥ by South

SOUTH thinks there might be slam if NORTH holds both minor Aces, so he tries Blackwood.

When NORTH shows just one Ace SOUTH is afraid he will have a trump loser as well, so

he stops at 5

♥

.

It turns out that SOUTH might make twelve tricks, depending on the

♥

K situation.

Deal 23

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A J 6	♠ 7 3
♥ K 5	♥ 10
♦ A Q 6 2	♦ J 10 9 8 5 4
♣ A 9 7 4	♣ Q J 8 5
18 4	♠ Q 10 9 8 5
18 16	♥ 9 6 3
2	♦ 7 3
	♣ 10 6 2



♠ K 4 2
♥ A Q J 8 7 4 2
♦ K
♣ K 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	7 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
7 NT by West			

EAST might be tempted to blast into Blackwood with his first bid, pushing toward some slam

in



s. He chooses to temporize with a 1



response and is rewarded when WEST jumps to 2 NT (18-19 points).

The Notrump bid prevents EAST from using Blackwood, but Gerber 4♣ will work just fine.

When he discovers that WEST holds three Aces and one King he can count thirteen tricks.

Deal 24South Deals
None Vul

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

10
5 1
24

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ 9 8 7 4 2
 ♥ J 8 5
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ 9 7 2

♠ A K
 ♥ K Q 4
 ♦ K Q J 3
 ♣ K Q J 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 NT by North

NORTH responds 2 NT, showing 8+ points with no 5-card suit.

SOUTH only needs to know how many Aces are in the NORTH hand. He must use Gerber since

4 NT in this situation would not be Blackwood.

When NORTH shows two Aces SOUTH bids 6 NT.