Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q 9 8 3
♥ 2
♦ A K
♣ K Q J 8

♠ T
♥ A T 8 3
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ A 9 6

♠ 6 5
♥ J 9 7 6
♦ Q J T 9
♣ T 4 2

```
        N
    W       E
        S
```

♠ J 7 4 2
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ 8 2
♣ 7 5 3

22

8   4

6

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

5 ♠ by North

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

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

when SOUTH bids 5 NORTH settles for 5

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 3
♥ A Q T 8 6
♦ T 3
♣ J T 7 4

♠ T 8 2
♥ 7 5 4 2
♦ 6 4
♣ A 6 3 2

N
W   E
S

♠ K Q 9 7 5
♥ 3
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ 9 8 5

8
4   5
23

♠ A 6 4
♥ K J 9
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ K Q

NORTH makes a positive 3

response to SOUTH's 2 opener.

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

SOUTH only needs to know one thing - how many Aces in the NORTH hand.

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

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

.

6 ♥ by South

Deal 4
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 9 7
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ K Q 8 6
♣ A 5

♠ T 6 5 4
♥ A 9 8 5
♦ T 7 5
♣ T 8

N
W E
S

♠ J 8 3 2
♥ T 7 3
♦ J 9 3 2
♣ 6 4

16
4   2
18

♠ K Q
♥ K 6
♦ A 4
♣ K Q J 9 7 3 2

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

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

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

So SOUTH settles for the small slam.

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

6 NT by South

Deal 5
South Deals
None Vul

```
              ♠ A K Q 6 4 3
              ♥ K 5
              ♦ K 7 3
              ♣ A K
  ♠ 8                       ♠ T 7
  ♥ 9 8 6      N            ♥ Q T 2
  ♦ T 9 8 4   W   E         ♦ J 6 5 2
  ♣ Q T 7 5 2   S           ♣ J 6 4 3
              ♠ J 9 5 2
     22       ♥ A J 7 4 3
  2      4    ♦ A Q
     12       ♣ 9 8
```

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

7 NT by North

NORTH has a powerhouse and knows she will reach a slam somewhere. When SOUTH

supports the ♠ it seems she has found her spot.

Blackwood tells her that SOUTH has two Aces.

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

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

She bids 7NT.

Deal 6

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 2
♥ K Q 6 5
♦ K Q J
♣ K J 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 5 4
♥ 4 3
♦ A T 9 7 6
♣ T 7 5

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ 7 2
♦ 5 4
♣ A 9 4 3 2

22

4   6

8

♠ J 7 3
♥ A J T 9 8
♦ 8 3 2
♣ Q 8

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

5 ♥ by North

NORTH is tempted to go right to 6

when she hears SOUTH's positive

response. BUT, she should use Blackwood first.

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

Deal 7

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6 3
♥ K T 7
♦ A 9 4
♣ Q 9 8 7

♠ T 9 7
♥ Q 6 5 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A 4 3

| N |
| W   E |
| S |

♠ J 8 5 2
♥ J 9 4 2
♦ 6
♣ J T 6 2

13

6   3

18

♠ K Q 4
♥ A 8
♦ K Q J T 7 3
♣ K 5

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

So when NORTH jumps to 2NT, showing 13-15 points, SOUTH uses Gerber.

NORTH shows two Aces so SOUTH decides 6NT will be just right.

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

6 NT by South

Deal 8

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 8 5
♥ J 6 3
♦ 8 7
♣ A Q J 4

♠ 4
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 4 2
♣ T 9 8 6 3 2

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

♠ T 7 2
♥ T 9 7 2
♦ K T 9 5 3
♣ 7

13

5   **3**

19

♠ A J 9 6 3
♥ A 4
♦ A Q J 6
♣ K 5

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All 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 4NT.

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 9

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6 4
♥ Q J 9 8 7 4
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ -

♠ T 9 8 7 3
♥ 5 3 2
♦ T 7
♣ A J 2

♠ 5 2
♥ 6
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ T 9 8 6 5 4

N
W E
S

8
5   4
23

♠ K Q J
♥ A K T
♦ K Q 2
♣ K Q 7 3

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

6♥ by South

SOUTH expects to bid 2NT at his second turn, but NORTH gives a positive 2

response and his thinking changes! First he supports

s, setting the

trump suit.

NORTH then bids 3 ,showing first round control. SOUTH tries 4NT (Blackwood) and

NORTH replies 6 This shows a void and one Ace, obviously the A.

SOUTH bids 6

, knowing they must lose the

A.

Deal 10

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 5
♥ A K T 7 5 3
♦ K 7
♣ J 9 6

♠ T 7 6
♥ 9 4
♦ J T 4
♣ A Q 8 7 4

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

♠ Q J 9 3
♥ 2
♦ Q 5 2
♣ K T 5 3 2

14

7   8

11

♠ A 8 4 2
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ A 9 8 6 3
♣ -

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♥	All 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 4NT, Blackwood.

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

NORTH counts thirteen tricks and bids 7

.

Deal 11

South Deals

None Vul

♠ -
♥ A 9 7 5
♦ K 9 8 6 4
♣ J 9 3 2

♠ T 7 6 2
♥ 8 4 2
♦ Q J 5 3
♣ A 4

N
W E
S

♠ A Q J 9 8 4
♥ 6
♦ T 7 2
♣ 8 7 5

8
7   7
18

♠ K 5 3
♥ K Q J T 3
♦ A
♣ K Q T 6

SOUTH figures that if NORTH holds two Aces he will bid the slam.

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

is higher-ranking than

s.

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

SOUTH manages to figure out that NORTH has a void and bids the slam anyway.

6 ♥ by North

Deal 12

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 9 8 6 4
♥ A K Q
♦ 7
♣ K J 6 3

♠ Q
♥ T 6
♦ T 9 4 3 2
♣ A Q T 9 8

♠ J T 2
♥ 9 5 4 3 2
♦ K Q J
♣ 5 2

N
W   E
S

♠ K 7 5 3
♥ J 8 7
♦ A 8 6 5
♣ 7 4

17

8   7

8

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

4 ♠ by North

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

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

Deal 13
South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 5 3
♥ T 9 4 2
♦ A 8
♣ K J 4

♠ A T 9 6
♥ A 7
♦ T 9 7 3
♣ T 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ K J 8 4 2
♥ 5
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ 9 8 7

10
8   6
16

♠ -
♥ K Q J 8 6 3
♦ K J 2
♣ A Q 6 5

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

6♥ by South

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

If he uses Blackwood and NORTH 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 NORTH holds the ♦A,

he bids 6♥

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

Deal 14

North Deals

None Vul

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

```
      21
   5      4
      10
```

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

7 NT by South

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 7NT.

Deal 15
South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8
♥ J 7 2
♦ 8 5
♣ A K Q T 9 6

♠ T 9 7
♥ A T 8 5 4
♦ J 7 6
♣ 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 9 3
♦ A T 9 4 2
♣ 3

11
5   4
20

♠ A K Q
♥ K Q 6
♦ K Q 3
♣ J 8 7 5

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

4NT by North

NORTH 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 4NT. She could also happily play 5 ♣ but it

would be tricky to get there. Very tricky.

Deal 16

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

		♠ A Q 6	
		♥ K 7 3	
		♦ K 6	
		♣ K T 6 5 3	

```
         15
     3        7
         15
```

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

4 NT by South

Q

were changed to the

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deal 17

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q J 4
♥ K 6
♦ K 4
♣ K Q J T 5

♠ 2
♥ T 9 8 3 2
♦ Q 9 7 5
♣ 9 7 3

N
W E
S

♠ T 9 5 3
♥ A 5 4
♦ T 8 6 2
♣ 6 4

18
2   4
16

♠ A 8 7 6
♥ Q J 7
♦ A J 3
♣ A 8 2

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

6 NT by North

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

So she uses Gerber to find out.

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

Deal 18

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K
♥ A Q T 9 6
♦ A Q J 3
♣ A K

♠ J 8 5
♥ 8 7 4
♦ T 8 6
♣ J T 5 3

| N |
| W   E |
| S |

♠ Q T 6 4 3
♥ 2
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ Q 9 8

27

2   4

7

♠ 9 7 2
♥ K J 5 3
♦ K 7
♣ 7 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	7NT	Pass	

7 NT by North

Deal 19
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 2
♥ A T 4
♦ K 7 5
♣ K 8 6 2

♠ Q J 8
♥ 3 2
♦ 9 8 6 3 2
♣ T 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ T 9 5 4 3
♥ Q J 8 7 6 5
♦ -
♣ 9 4

14
3   3
20

♠ K 7
♥ K 9
♦ A Q J T 4
♣ A Q J 7

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

7 NT by South

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

wants to be in a slam.

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

being 2NT he can use Gerber.

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

Deal 20

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 6
♥ K 4
♦ K J 9 7 4
♣ A Q J 9 2

♠ T 9 7
♥ Q J T 8 3
♦ A 8
♣ 7 5 3

♠ Q J 8 4 3 2
♥ A 9 6 5 2
♦ 2
♣ 6

N
W E
S

14
7   7
12

♠ A K 5
♥ 7
♦ Q T 6 5 3
♣ K T 8 4

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass			
All Pass			

5♦ by South

NORTH 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 21
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 4
♥ K Q T 9 5
♦ A 7 6
♣ A 5 4

♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ 4 2
♦ K Q J T
♣ Q 6 3

N
W E
S

♠ T 5
♥ 7 3
♦ 9 8 4 2
♣ K J T 9 2

16
8   4
12

♠ A Q J 7 3
♥ A J 8 6
♦ 5 3
♣ 8 7

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All 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 22

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6 2
♥ K Q J 7
♦ 6
♣ K Q J T 9

♠ T 7 4
♥ 8 4 3
♦ Q J 5
♣ 8 6 5 2

```
    N
  W   E
    S
```

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ 6
♦ K T 8 7 3 2
♣ 7 3

16

3   6

15

♠ K 5 3
♥ A T 9 5 2
♦ A 9 4
♣ A 4

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

7 ♥ by North

When NORTH answers Blackwood with one Ace SOUTH decides to bid 5NT to ask for Kings.

With two Kings, NORTH would bid 6

.

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

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

supply five tricks so she bids 7

.

Deal 23

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 7
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ K Q 5
♣ A T 8 3

♠ J 9 3
♥ K 3
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ 9 5 4 2

♠ T 6 4 2
♥ T 8
♦ A J T 9 2
♣ 7 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

11

4   5

20

♠ A K Q 5
♥ A J 6 5 2
♦ 6
♣ K Q J

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

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

K situation.

5 ♥ by South

Deal 24

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

18

2   4

16

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

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

7 NT by South

SOUTH 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 NORTH jumps to 2NT (18-19 points).

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

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

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 6 3
♥ A T 7
♦ 9 5 2
♣ A T 8 6

♠ 9 8 5 4
♥ 9 8
♦ A T 8
♣ 9 7 4 2

```
        N
     W     E
        S
```

♠ J T 7 2
♥ J 6 5 3 2
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 3

10

4   **2**

24

♠ A K
♥ K Q 4
♦ K Q J 3
♣ K Q J 5

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

6 NT by South

NORTH responds 2NT, 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

4NT in this situation would not be Blackwood.

When NORTH shows two Aces SOUTH bids 6NT.