

Deal 1

West Deals

None Vul

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

12	♠ 6 5
9 6	♥ A Q 9 5 3
13	♦ K Q 6 3
	♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

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

North opens 1 ♠ and South, with 14 points, responds 2 ♥. Note that South is not permitted to make this bid without a 5-card or longer ♥ suit.

North, knowing that South has 5, bids 3 ♥ to confirm the trump suit.

South has a minimum strength hand with no slam aspirations, so he uses Fast Arrival and bids 4 ♥. North is also satisfied to just play at game.

2/1 is a good bidding method, and here, 4 ♥ is a good contract. But you can see that it is not a laydown - there is no bidding system that will always reach To% contracts. In this hand a 3-3 ♦ split will provide the Tth trick, or if that fails, taking 2 ♠ finesses provides a 75% chance of success.

Deal 2	♠ 7		
South Deals	♥ A K 7 5		
None Vul	♦ K 7 6 2		
	♣ K Q 10 6		
♠ 8 3	♠ Q J 10 4		
♥ J 6	♥ Q 4 2		
♦ Q J 10 8 5	♦ A 9 3		
♣ J 4 3 2	♣ 9 7 5		
	♠ A K 9 6 5 2		
15 5 9 11	♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ 4 ♣ A 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

South has 13 points and naturally opens 1 ♠.

North, with 15 points, would bid 2 ♥ in standard bidding, but with 2/1 this promises a 5-card suit. So instead, North responds 2 ♣, forcing the partnership to game. Note that holding two 4-card minors North bids them up-the-line, just as in standard bidding.

South has a nice 6-card ♠ suit, so you might think he would rebid them. But Opener's first responsibility with his second bid is to show a 4-card Major if he has one. This isn't much of a suit, but South still bids 2 ♥.

You can see why it is important for Opener to show a 4-card Major. Since North couldn't bid ♥s in her first

response the fit would have been lost if South had not mentioned the suit. North now confirms the trump suit with a 3 ♥ bid, and South shows his minimum by just bidding the game.

Deal 3

North Deals A Q 9 8 3
None Vul 8 5
 8 6

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

♠ 8 / 5
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A Q J 10 7
 ♣ K 9 7

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



he just bids 3 NT. Notice that North never once considered the possibility of passing what might be a misfit - the initial 2/1 response unconditionally forced the partnership to reach a game somewhere.

Deal 4

South Deals J 10 7
None Vul 9 7 5
 A K J 6 2

♠ Q 3
 ♥ K Q 4
 ♦ J 10 4 2
 ♣ 10 9 4 3

♠ A 9 7 4 2
♥ A 9 8 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT
NT 1	South		

2 ♣ Pass 2 ♥
3 ♦ Pass 3 NT

Pass **Pass**

3 NT by South

South opens 1♠, his 5-card Major. North, with 14 points, responds 2♣, a 2/1 force to game.

South next bids 2♥, showing the other Major suit.

North assumes South to be 5-4 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She cannot bid 2 NT without a stopper in ♦s. So North bids the fourth suit, 3♦, telling South she knows she must make a bid, but can't find anything appropriate.

South now must find a bid. His choices include rebidding the 5-card ♠s, supporting North's ♣s with a doubleton Queen, or bidding 3 NT with the ♦ K 6 as a stopper. He chooses this last option. It appears that 3 NT is the best game for these two hands.

Deal 5
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

$\begin{matrix} & 17 \\ 3 & 7 \\ 13 & \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \spadesuit A 4 \\ \heartsuit K J 10 8 6 5 3 \\ \diamondsuit K Q \\ \clubsuit 8 7 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \spadesuit 10 9 5 2 \\ \heartsuit 9 2 \\ \diamondsuit A 10 7 5 \\ \clubsuit K 4 3 \end{matrix}$
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
ALL	Pass		
6 ♥ by South			

North opens 1 ♠, her 5-card Major and South responds 2 ♥. North knows this is a 5-card suit, and bids 3 ♥, confirming the 8+card trump fit.

Once the trump fit is known, South revalues his hand to about 19 points. He makes a slam try with a control-showing bid of 3 ♠. He knows North won't take this as ♠ support since the partnership has agreed that ♥'s are going to be trumps.

North now shows her control by bidding 4 ♣.

That was what South needed to hear; when Blackwood uncovers two Aces he bids 6 ♥.

The slam is a good one. If either the ♠ Q or ♣ K is right there are 12 tricks by way of a finesse. But the best way to play the hand would be to try to establish a ♠ in the North hand, and if that fails try the ♣ finesse.