

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

17	5 10	8
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♠ A 8	♦ 8	♣ J 7 6 4
♦ K Q 7 5 4 2	♣ J 7 6 4	

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

West	North	East	South
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1 NT	2 ♦	2 NT
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Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
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Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
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Pass

4 ♥ by South

With 9 points you don't want to sign-off with 2 ♥. But you aren't strong enough to force to game with a 3 ♥ bid either. So you start an invitational sequence by bidding 2 NT.

Partner says 3 ♣. What do you bid?

Now you bid 3 ♥. Partner will realize you have better than a sign-off, but were not good enough to bid 3 ♥ immediately. He has a maximum, and he knows you have a 5-card suit, so he bids 4 ♥.

Deal 2

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

$\begin{matrix} & 13 \\ 10 & 1 \\ & 16 \end{matrix}$		$\begin{matrix} \spadesuit \text{ K Q 5} \\ \heartsuit \text{ 10 8} \\ \diamondsuit \text{ K Q 7 3} \\ \clubsuit \text{ A Q 7 4} \end{matrix}$
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West	North	East	South
2 ♥	3 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass			Pass
5 ♣ by South			

Partner's bid asks if you have 4 ♠s, and denies a ♥ stopper. (DIRECT DENIES)

You don't have 4 ♠s, nor can you stop ♥s. You have no choice but to bid one of the 4-card Minor suits, so you go up-the-line and bid 4 ♣. Partner bids 5 ♣.

Deal 3East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8
 ♥ 7 6 4
 ♦ A J 9 7
 ♣ 10 9 6 4

3
 9 17
 11

West North East South
 Dbl Pass Pass Pass
 2♦× by South

♠ Q J 10 9 6 5 4 2

♥ 8 3

♦ 6

♣ 8 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 7 3
 ♥ A 9 5 2
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ A K J 5

♠ —
 ♥ K Q J 10
 ♦ K 10 8 4 3 2
 ♣ Q 7 3

It is possible your side can make 3 NT on this deal. You have 9 points, invitational strength, and your ♦ stopper is excellent.

However you should look for an even bigger reward by doubling. South is in serious trouble, and when the opponents make a mistake you should punish them.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

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

12	♠ K J 9 3
10 2	♦ A Q 8 7
16	♦ 9 5
	♣ A Q 7

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



Partner's 2 NT bid requests that you bid 3 ♣, so you do. He next says 3 ♦.

Partner's bid is game-forcing Stayman, but with a ♦ stopper (SLOW SHOWS). Holding 4 cards in each Major you bid up-the-line, 4 ♥. Partner now bids 3 NT. What do you say?

Partner would not have asked for a 4-card Major unless he held one himself. Since it wasn't ♥s it must be the other one. You bid 4 ♠.