

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

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

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



SOUTH's 2



raise shows 6-10 points and at least three trumps.

NORTH, with 19+ points, decides that game is almost a certainty and bids 4



.

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 7
 ♥ A 9 6
 ♦ K Q 7 3
 ♣ K 8 4

6
 12 15
 7

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

N
 W E
 S

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

♠ J 3 2
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ A 8 6 4 2
 ♣ Q 10 2

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

EAST has an ideal 1 NT opening -

15 points and balanced distribution.

With 12 points, WEST knows the partnership total is between 27 and 29, enough for game

but not enough to think about slam. Since WEST has no 4-card Major suit she bids 3 NT.

Deal 3North Deals
None Vul

♠ 9	♦ Q J 6 4
♥ Q J 4 3	♦ A 9 5
♦ K Q J 9 6 3	♦ 8 2
♣ Q 4	♣ A K 6 3
	♠ A 8 5 2
	♥ 10 8 7 2
	♦ A
	♣ J 10 9 7
	♠ K 10 7 3
14	♥ K 6
11 9	♦ 10 7 5 4
6	♣ 8 5 2



West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2♠ by South			

bid she merely raises to 2♠.

With his minimum response hand SOUTH passes.

With 6 points, SOUTH must respond to NORTH's 1♣ opening bid.

While it is often correct to respond by bidding suits "up-the-line", SOUTH should

skip over the weak



suit in favor of showing the 4-card

Major ♠ suit.

NORTH knows that SOUTH may only have four ♠s, but with four of her own she can support the

suit. Since she has a minimum opening

Deal 4

West Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 6
 ♥ A K Q 7 2
 ♦ A 5 3
 ♣ 6 4

16
9
6
9

♠ K 4 3
 ♥ 5 3
 ♦ 10 8 7 6 2
 ♣ A Q 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 5
 ♥ 10 9 8 4
 ♦ K 9 4
 ♣ K 8 5 2

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

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

With 17 points WEST is not strong enough to insist on game after EAST's raise,

but is strong enough to invite with a 3

♥

bid.

EAST, however, doesn't have anything extra, so declines to go further.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 10 8 7 4 2

¹⁷
6 8
9



♠ A 8 3 2
♥ K 10 9
♦ A J 7
♣ K Q 6

♠ K J 7 6 5
♥ 7 6 2
♦ 10 8 4
♣ A 3

♠ 10 9 4
♥ Q J 4
♦ K Q 5 2
♣ J 9 5

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

This is a classic Notrump bidding sequence.

NORTH opens 1 NT with 17 points and balanced distribution.

SOUTH, with 9 points is not strong enough to bid game, but invites with 2 NT.

NORTH has a maximum, so she accepts the invitation.

Deal 6East Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 8 4
 ♥ A K 7 2
 ♦ 6 5
 ♣ K 9 3

5
 14 14
 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ A Q 10 6
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ A 8 7 4
 ♣ A 8 2

♠ 9 5 3
 ♥ Q J 9
 ♦ Q 9 2
 ♣ Q 10 7 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
4 ♣ by East			

With two 4-card Majors WEST should respond "up-the-line", bidding

♥

s first.

Then, after EAST bids 1♦, WEST has enough points to jump all the way to 4♦.

Deal 7
South Deals
None Vul

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

SOUTH has 17 points and might open 1 NT. But with the 5-card Major suit she prefers

to open 1 ♠.

NORTH has excellent ♠ support but with 11 points is not quite strong enough to insist

on reaching game. Instead he makes an invitational jump to 3 ♠, which SOUTH is strong

enough to raise to game.

Deal 8West Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 6
♥ A J 9
♦ A J 2
♣ A 8 5 2

8
21 5
6

West North East South
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
3 NT by West

♠ Q 10 9 4 3
♥ K 3
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q J 6

♠ 8 7
♥ 10 6 4
♦ K Q 10 9 6
♣ 10 7 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 5 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 2
♦ 8 5
♣ K 9 4

WEST has a powerful hand, but 21 points is not strong enough to start with a forcing 2♣ bid.

Since he has balanced distribution he opens 2 NT (20-21 points).

EAST adds her 6 points to WEST's minimum and concludes they should be in game. She expects her

good

♦

suit to be useful to EAST in Notrump so she bids 3 NT.

Deal 9

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 8 7 4

♥ 9 7 3

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ 4

8
10
13

♠ 10 9 5

♥ J 4

♦ Q J 8 3

♣ K J 7 2



♠ K 2
♥ 10 6 5
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A Q 8 6 3

♠ J 6 3
♥ A K Q 8 2
♦ K 6
♣ 10 9 5

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

SOUTH has a solid 1

♥

opening, 14 points and five trumps.

NORTH must respond with 8 points, but cannot bid either minor suit since he needs at least

11 points to bid a new suit at the 2-level.
So he bids 1 NT (6-10 points).

SOUTH doesn't object to Notrump so she passes.

Deal 10East Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 6 2
 ♥ K Q 7 5
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ 10 7 4

¹¹
 6 13
¹⁰

West North East South
 2 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 ♠ by East

♠ 8
 ♥ J 8 3
 ♦ A K Q 10 6 2
 ♣ J 5 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 10 7 3
 ♥ A 4 2
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ A 6

♠ A 5 4
 ♥ 10 9 6
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ K Q 9 8 3

EAST has a normal 1♠ opening bid, 14 points and five trumps.

WEST has good 4-card support and 7 points, so she raises to 2♠,

passed by EAST.

WEST does not consider showing the

♥

s,

first because she knows there is a ♠ fit, and second because she doesn't have

the 11 points needed to bid a new suit at the 2-level.

Deal 11

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

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



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

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 NT by South			

With balanced distribution and 16 points SOUTH should open 1 NT rather than 1

♦

.

NORTH's response is based on simple math. He adds his 18 points to the 15 minimum that SOUTH has announced and

comes up with 33 points combined. This is enough for a small slam, and since he has balanced distribution

he bids 6 NT.

Deal 12East Deals
None Vul

♠ K 4
♥ Q 10 6
♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ Q 9 8 5

6
7 20
7

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

♠ 8 3
♥ J 8 5 4 3
♦ K J 9
♣ J 4 2

♠ Q J 10 9 6
♥ A 7
♦ A Q 6
♣ A K 7

♠ A 7 5 2
♥ K 9 2
♦ 10 7 4
♣ 10 6 3

EAST is right at the maximum for a 1♠ opening bid - one more point and he would

have opened 2♣.

WEST does not have 3-card ♠ support but with 7 points must make some response.

She cannot bid at the 2-level so she says 1 NT (6-10 points).

EAST is fine with Notrump so he bids 3 NT.

Deal 13North Deals
None Vul

♠ 5
♥ 10 3 2
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A J 10 8 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 10 8 3
♥ A J 4
♦ A 10
♣ 9 6 2

♠ 7 2
♥ 9 8 7 6
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ K Q 5

♠ A K 9 6 4
♥ K Q 5
♦ K Q J 7
♣ 3

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by North

would show one Ace, etc).

SOUTH has heard enough and bids 6 ♠.

NORTH has a minimum 1 ♠ opening bid - 13 points and five trumps. She doesn't even suspect

what's about to befall!

SOUTH hears the 1 ♠ bid and all he wants to know is whether NORTH has one, two or three Aces.

So he uses the Blackwood convention, 4 NT.

NORTH has two Aces so she bids 5

♥

(5 ♣ would show zero Aces,

5

♦

Deal 14East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 7 4
♥ Q 5
♦ K 7 6 4
♣ 7 6 5 3

8
9 15
8

West
1 NTPASS
4 ♥
4 ♥ by East

♠ K J 10 9 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ Q
♣ J 10 8 4

N
W E
S

♠ Q 8 5
♥ 9 4
♦ J 9 8 5 2
♣ K Q 2

North East South
1 ♥
3 ♥
Pass Pass Pass

EAST has an above-minimum strength hand with a good 6-card suit. He opens 1

♥

.

WEST, with 9 points, is a little too weak to bid at the 2-level so she bids a catchall 1 NT.

EAST shows his 6-card suit and extra strength by jumping to 3

♥

, which

WEST raises to 4

♥

since two trumps is now adequate support.

Deal 15
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5 2
♥ 10 9 6
♦ A K
♣ 9 8 5 4

8
11 7
14

♠ J 10 8 3
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ J 5 3
♣ 7 6

♠ 9
♥ K J 5 2
♦ Q 10 9 8 4
♣ J 10 3

♠ K Q 7 4
♥ 8 3
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A K Q 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
2 ♠ by South			

SOUTH has 14 points and opens her 4-card ♣ suit.

NORTH must respond, and with two 4-card Majors bids them "up-the-line", saying 1

♥

.

SOUTH now shows his 4-card ♠ suit, and NORTH again must bid. Since NORTH is pretty weak he just

raises to 2 ♠, which SOUTH happily passes.

Deal 16

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 7
♥ K Q J 3
♦ A 10 6
♣ Q 10 8

5
17 15
3

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
6 NT by West			

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

N
W E
S

♠ 10 5
♥ 10 8 6 5 4
♦ Q J 7 2
♣ 5 3

WEST has a maximum 17 point 1 NT bid.

EAST, with 16 points, can't tell if there are enough points for slam. If WEST has

17 points then a slam should be makeable, but if WEST has only 15 points then he

should settle for game.

The 4 NT raise solves the problem. It tells WEST to bid 6 NT with 17 points, pass

with 15 points, and use best judgment with 16. Here WEST bids the slam.

Deal 17

South Deals
None Vul

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

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 ♠ by North			

SOUTH has just 11 points, not enough to open the bidding.

But when NORTH opens **1♠** SOUTH should show her "almost opening strength"

by jumping to 3♠.

NORTH has just 13 points, and knowing SOUTH has less than 13 he passes.

Deal 18

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 3
♥ Q 8 6 4 2
♦ A 8 6
♣ K 9 5

9
9 14
8

West North East South
4 ♥ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ by East

♠ K 6 4
♥ 9
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ A J 10 7 2

W N
S E

♠ 10 8 2
♥ A K 7 5 3
♦ K Q 5
♣ Q 6

♠ A Q J 9 5
♥ J 10
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 8 4 3

After EAST opens with 1

♥

, WEST has a small "dilemma".

With 11 points she really is only strong enough to make a jump raise to 3

♥

.

But, with five trumps the hand deserves more. So she just bids 4

♥

instead.

Usually, no matter what your strength, when you have five cards in the Major suit that your partner opens

with you should just jump right to game.

Deal 19
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A 6 4
 ♥ K Q 9 3
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ 9 8 5

19
 9 5
 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

4♠ by South

♠ Q J 7 5
 ♥ A
 ♦ A K Q 3
 ♣ K 10 6 2

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

♠ K 10 8 3
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ Q J 3

N

W E

S

NORTH has 19 points, but no 5-card Major suit. With two 4-card minor suits she should start

with 1

♦

.

SOUTH has a poor hand, but with 7 points he must respond. His first priority is to show a Major suit

so he responds 1♣.

NORTH now knows that ♠s will be trumps, so she revalues her hand to 21 points, enough for game.

She bids 4♠.

Deal 20

West Deals

None Vul

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 9 6 3**♥ 7 5 4****♦ Q 7****♣ A K 6 4****♠ 8****♥ A 9 6 3****♦ K 10 8 5 3****♣ J 7 2***West**North**East**South***1 ♠**

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by West

NOTE: There is a better way to bid this hand using special conventions.

WEST has 17 points, but with a 5-card Major opens **1♠** rather than **1 NT**.

EAST isn't quite strong enough for a jump raise, so she bids **2♠**.

WEST has enough extra to make a try for game, so she invites with **3♠**.

EAST has enough extra to accept the invitation, bids **4♠**.

Deal 21

North Deals	♠ K J 3		
None Vul	♥ K Q 5		
	♦ A Q J		
	♣ K J 4 2		
♠ A 7 6 4 2	♠ 9 5		
♥ 9 2	♥ 10 8 7 4 3		
♦ 6 4 2	♦ 8 7 5		
♣ 9 8 6	♣ A 7 3		
20 4 4 12	♠ Q 10 8 ♥ A J 6 ♦ K 10 9 3 ♣ Q 10 5		
West	North	East	South
	2 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 NT by North			

NORTH has a perfect 2 NT opening hand, 20 points and 3-3-3-4 distribution.

SOUTH, with 12 points of his own, knows the partnership is borderline strong enough for slam.

Since he is happy with Notrump, he invites NORTH to bid slam by responding 4 NT.

With one more point NORTH might bid the slam, but here she just passes.

Deal 22East Deals
None Vul

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

8
 9 15
 8

West

2 NT

2 NT by East

♠ K 7 3 2
 ♥ 10 9 7 3
 ♦ J 2

♣ A 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ A 8 7
 ♣ K Q J 3

♠ A Q 8
 ♥ 8 5 4
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 4
 ♣ 9 6

North East South
 Pass 1 NT Pass
 Pass

EAST opens 1 NT with 15 points and a balanced hand.

WEST, with 9 points, cannot bid game herself, but she can invite EAST to bid game if he

has the maximum 17 point opener. So she responds 2 NT.

EAST doesn't have maximum, he has minimum, so he passes.

Deal 23

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 4 3
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ Q 3 2
♣ 9 8 3

18
5 8
9



♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ A K
♦ 7 6 4
♣ A K Q 5

♠ A K
♥ 9 8 7 3
♦ 10 9 8 5
♣ J 10 6

♠ J 9 7 5
♥ 6 4 2
♦ A K J
♣ 7 4 2

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

NORTH is 1 point too strong to open 1 NT, so opens 1♣.

SOUTH responds in his 4-card Major suit, 1♠.

NORTH now shows her 4-card support plus her extra strength by jumping to 3♠ and SOUTH bids the game.

Deal 24

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J

♥ K Q 8

♦ Q J 9 3

♣ A K 2

♠ A 10 9 8 2

♥ 10 9 4

♦ 8 4 2

♣ Q 6


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

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by West			

WEST has a classic 2 NT opening bid, 21 points and balanced distribution.

EAST knows that her 7 points will be plenty for game, but not enough to consider

slam so she just bids 3 NT.