

**Deal 1**

|                 |  |      |       |
|-----------------|--|------|-------|
| North Deals     | ♠ K Q 7                                    |      |       |
| None Vul        | ♥ K Q J 3                                  |      |       |
|                 | ♦ A 10 6                                   |      |       |
|                 | ♣ Q 10 8                                   |      |       |
| ♠ 10 5          | ♠ J 8 6 3 2                                |      |       |
| ♥ 10 8 6 5 4    | ♥ 9 2                                      |      |       |
| ♦ Q J 7 2       | ♦ 9 5 4                                    |      |       |
| ♣ 5 3           | ♣ A 7 4                                    |      |       |
| 17<br>3 5<br>15 | ♠ A 9 4<br>♥ A 7<br>♦ K 8 3<br>♣ K J 9 6 2 |      |       |
| West            | North                                      | East | South |
| Pass            | 1 NT                                       | Pass | 4 NT  |
| Pass            | 6 NT                                       | Pass | Pass  |
| 6 NT by North   |  |      |       |

NORTH has a maximum 17 point 1 NT bid.

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

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

should settle for game.

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

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

**Deal 2**West Deals  
None Vul

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

11 7  
 10 12

*West*      *North*      *East*      *South*  
 Pass      Pass      1♠      Pass  
 3♠      Pass      Pass      Pass  
 3♠ by East

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



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

But when EAST opens 1♦ WEST should show her "almost opening strength"

by jumping to 3♦.

EAST has just 13 points, and knowing WEST has less than 13 he passes.

**Deal 3**

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

|     |             |
|-----|-------------|
| 9   | ♠ 10 8 2    |
| 8 9 | ♥ A K 7 5 3 |
| 14  | ♦ K Q 5     |
|     | ♣ Q 6       |

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

After SOUTH opens with 1

â™¥

, NORTH has a small "dilemma".

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

â™¥

.

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

â™¥

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 4**

East Deals

None Vul

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

Pass

**1 ♦**

Pass

Pass

Pass

**4 ♠** by West

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

with 1

â™!

.

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

so he responds 1â™.

EAST now knows that â™'s will be trumps, so she revalues her hand to 21 points, enough for game.

She bids 4â™.

**Deal 5**

North Deals

None Vul

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

♠ K Q J 7 4

♥ K Q 2

♦ A J 6

♣ 9 3

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | N |   |
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

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

♠ 10 9 6 3

♥ 7 5 4

♦ Q 7

♣ A K 6 4

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      | 1 ♠   | Pass | 2 ♠   |
| Pass | 3 ♠   | Pass | 4 ♠   |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass |       |

4 ♠ by North

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

NORTH has 17 points, but with a 5-card Major opens 1 $\hat{a}$ <sup>TM</sup> rather than 1 NT.

SOUTH isn't quite strong enough for a jump raise, so she bids 2 $\hat{a}$ <sup>TM</sup>.

NORTH has enough extra to make a try for game, so she invites with 3 $\hat{a}$ <sup>TM</sup>.

SOUTH has enough extra to accept the invitation, bids 4 $\hat{a}$ <sup>TM</sup>.