

Deal 1

South Deals	♠ 9 4 ♥ K J 9 8 6 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ 8 6 5		
None Vul			
♠ Q J 10 8	♠ 7 6 2		
♥ 7 4	♥ A 5 2		
♦ K J 9 4 3 2	♦ A 7		
♣ Q	♣ K J 10 9 3		
	N W E S		
4 9 12 15	♠ A K 5 3 ♥ Q 10 ♦ Q 6 5 ♣ A 7 4 2		
West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♥ by South			

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

With 6 ♥s of your own you can be sure that your side has at least an 8-card ♥ fit. So playing ♥s will be better than playing notrump. You bid 2 ♦, transferring partner to ♥s. Partner says 2 ♥.

Of course you pass. You only have 6 points so there is no chance for game. You just wanted to reach the best partscore and figured 2 ♥ would be safer than 1 NT.

As you can see from partner's hand you made the right call. Played in ♥s your hand will produce five tricks. At notrump your hand will win only one trick if the defenders hold up their ♥ A just one time.

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

wants to play in ♠s rather than notrump.

You might revalue your hand up to 10 points now that an 8-card fit has been discovered, but it is a really poor 10 points. Also, remember the warning about Responder revaluing for short suits.

As you can see, a 4 ♠ contract would have no chance, losing 1 trick in each side suit and at least 1 ♠.

South's 1 NT opening shows 15-17 points. What is your bid?

With 9 points you have an invitational strength hand. With a 5-card ♠ suit you should transfer partner to ♠s by bidding 2 ♥. Partner dutifully responds 2 ♠. What do you say now?

With this next bid you must tell partner you only have invitational strength, and inform him that you have only 5 ♠s (remember, your transfer promised AT LEAST 5). The bid that says both of these facts at once is 2 NT. Partner comes back with 3 ♠. What say you?

You say pass. Partner did not accept your invitation to game so he must have a minimum hand. His correction to 3 ♠ indicates he has three of the suit and

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ A 9 8 3 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ A 10 7 5 2 ♣ 10	♠ Q J 7 6 4 ♥ 7 4 ♦ K 6 3 ♣ A 9 2
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♠ 2 ♥ K Q J 9 6 3 ♦ 9 ♣ J 8 6 5 4
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10 8 7 15	♠ K 10 5 ♥ A 5 ♦ Q J 8 4 ♣ K Q 7 3
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♠ by South			

South's 1 NT opening shows 15-17 points.
 What is your bid?

With 11 points you are strong enough to force to game. With a 5-card ♠ suit you should transfer partner to ♠s by bidding 2 ♥. Partner dutifully responds 2 ♠. What do you say now?

You must make a bid that will force partner to game, but at the same time inform him that you have only 5 ♠s (remember, your transfer promised AT LEAST 5). The bid that says both of these facts at once is 3 NT. Partner comes back with 4 ♠. What say you?

You say pass.

You might revalue your hand up to 12 points now that an 8-card fit has been discovered, but with partner's maximum of 17 you are nowhere near slam range.

A 4 ♠ contract is definitely the place to be.

Deal 4
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 8 2
 ♥ A 5 3
 ♦ Q 9 4
 ♣ J 9 8 7

7
 9 9
 15

♠ 5 3
 ♥ K 9 8 7 4 2
 ♦ A 10 6
 ♣ 6 5

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

♠ AJ 7 6
 ♥ Q 6
 ♦ K 7 5 3
 ♣ K Q 4

West North East South
 Pass 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♥
 Pass 3 ♥ Pass Pass

Pass
 3 ♥ by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

You have 9 points and 6 ♥s. You transfer partner to ♥s by bidding 2 ♦. He bids 2 ♥, as instructed.

What is your next bid?

You want to tell partner you have invitational strength. You also want to tell him that you have 6 ♥s, and that the contract must be played in ♥s. The bid that says both is 3 ♥.

Partner declines your invitation by passing.

A comment is in order about revaluing your hand. Since partner must have at least a doubleton ♥ it is tempting to claim that with the 8-card fit you should add

one point for each of your doubletons, bringing your total to 11. If you did this then you should be bidding game rather than just inviting. The problem with the revaluing is that counting doubleton points in the long-trump hand is deceiving. If you do end up ruffing one or both of those suits it will not add any tricks to your total since you would make your small trumps anyway. So when you have a 6-card suit it is more accurate to not revalue.

As you can see, making even 9 tricks is going to be a challenge.