

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5

♠ 3
♥ Q 9 5 3
♦ 10 8 7 4
♣ A Q 3 2

8
17
8
7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 8 2
♥ 10 4
♦ J 9 2
♣ K 9 7 6

♠ 10 7 5
♥ 8 2
♦ A Q 5 3
♣ J 10 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

You are the dealer.

It may be tempting to open 1 ♥, planning on Reversing in ♠ at your second turn to show your big hand.

Don't. A Reverse should always show an unbalanced hand with the first suit longer. So you open 1 ♠ and partner replies 2 ♠.

What do you bid?

If you had opened 1 ♥ partner would have replied 1 NT. Then when you Reversed with 2 ♠ he would have assumed you had a 4-card ♠ suit and would probably have put you back in ♥s, your known 5-card suit.

Things would have gotten confusing, to say the least.

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 7 4
 ♥ K J 9 8
 ♦ K 7 3
 ♣ 9 8 5

6
 7 18
 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 6 5 3
 ♥ Q 7 4
 ♦ Q 8 5
 ♣ 6 2

♠ A K
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ A 6 4 2
 ♣ A K 10 7 4

♠ J 8 2
 ♥ A 10 6 3
 ♦ J 10 9
 ♣ Q J 3

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

You would really love to pass. You have a terrible hand and you like the ♦s better than the ♣s.

But you are forced to bid. And since partner has 5 ♣s and only 4 ♦s, you should take him back to his first suit.

Mercifully he passes.

Deal 3North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 3 2
 ♥ J 10 9
 ♦ 7 3 2
 ♣ A 8 6 5

16
 5 8
11

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

N
W E
S

♠ A 9 6 4
 ♥ 7 5 4 2
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ 4 3 2

♠ K Q 10 5
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ J 9 4
 ♣ Q J 9 7

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

When partner shows 17+ points with his Reverse you are sure you belong in game. Since he did not support your ♠s you know he doesn't have four of them. You also know you have an 8-card fit in ♦s, but surely nine tricks in Notrump will be easier than eleven in ♦s.

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 3
♥ K 5
♦ K Q J 6
♣ A K 10 7 2

10
16 **6**
8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 9 8 7
♥ J 9 4
♦ A 4 2
♣ 9 5

♠ Q 5 2
♥ A 8 6 3
♦ 7 5 3
♣ 8 4 3

♠ K 10 4
♥ Q 10 7 2
♦ 10 9 8
♣ Q J 6

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

With 17 points you have a perfect hand for a Reverse. So you bid 2♦. Partner then says 3♣. What do you say?

Partner's return to your ♣ suit shows he has fewer than 9 points. Although it is possible to devise a hand for him where your side could make 3 NT, the risk is too great.

So you pass. It's a good thing, too.

Deal 5

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 9
♥ A 10 5 2
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ J 10 4

♠ 10 8 5
♥ K Q 9 8 7 4
♦ 8 3
♣ 7 6

♠ A Q 6 4 2
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 10 2
♣ Q 5 2

5
9 10
16

♠ J 7 3
♥ J
♦ A K 6 4
♣ A K 9 8 3

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

You have 7 points, and basically nothing but s♥. You must make a minimum bid, and the only reasonable one is 2 ♥. Despite his 17 points, partner passes.