

**Deal 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♦ A 10

♣ 9 6 2

♠ 5

♥ 10 3 2

♦ 9 6 2

♣ A J 10 8 7 4



**12**  
5 5  
**18**

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 ♠ by North			

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would show one Ace, etc).

SOUTH has heard enough and bids 6â™.

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

what's about to befall!

SOUTH hears the 1â™ 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

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(5â™£ would show zero Aces,

5

**Deal 2**

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

9	8	6 2
8	A K 8 7 6 2	
15	♦ A 10 3	
	♣ A 9	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NTPASS	3H	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

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

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

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

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, which

NORTH raises to 4

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since two trumps is now adequate support.

**Deal 3**

North Deals

None Vul

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

**14**  
7 11  
8

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

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

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

NORTH has 14 points and opens her 4-card  $\hat{a}^{\text{TM}}$  suit.

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

$\hat{a}^{\text{TM}}\hat{Y}$

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NORTH now shows his 4-card  $\hat{a}^{\text{TM}}$  suit, and SOUTH again must bid. Since SOUTH is pretty weak he just

raises to  $2\hat{a}^{\text{TM}}$ , which NORTH happily passes.

**Deal 4**

South Deals

None Vul

**♠ A 9 4**

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

SOUTH has a maximum 17 point 1 NT bid.

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

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

should settle for game.

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

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

**Deal 5**South Deals  
None Vul

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

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



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

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

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

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

But when NORTH opens 1 $\hat{a}$ <sup>TM</sup> SOUTH should show her "almost opening strength"

by jumping to 3 $\hat{a}$ <sup>TM</sup>.

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

**Deal 6**

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



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

9  
8 9  
14

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

After SOUTH opens with 1

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, NORTH has a small "dilemma".

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

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

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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.