

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5
♥ A Q 10 6 3
♦ A J 10 4
♣ 10 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 9 8 7 3
♥ 8 2
♦ 9 8 6
♣ J 4

♠ 10 6 4
♥ J 4
♦ 7 5 3
♣ A K 9 8 6

8
11 8
13
♣ Q 5 3

West North East South
Pass 2 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass
2 ♠ by North

NORTH has a perfect hand for an opening bid of 2♠.

SOUTH will be tempted to respond with his opening hand and good trump support, but he should

resist the temptation. To raise a Weak Two-bid to game you should have quick winners, not just points.

Deal 2

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

♠ A K 9 8 7 3
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ J 4

West	North	East	South
			2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

SOUTH has the same hand as in Deal 1 and again opens 2♠.

This is the type of hand NORTH needs to bid game. Notice that even with all those winners the

pair is nowhere close to having a slam. The will probably make just ten tricks.

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 9 8 7 3	♦ 9 8 6
♥ 8 2	♣ J 4

♠ 4	♦ K Q 10 9 4 3
♥ K Q 5	♣ K 8 2

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

West	North	East	South
	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♠ by North			

Once more, NORTH has the same hand as Deals 1 and 2.

This time SOUTH has a very poor hand without any chance of making game. However, he should bid

4♠ anyway.

It is very likely that the opponents can make 4

♥

if West gets the

opportunity to get into the bidding. Hopefully the 4♠ bid will shut him out, and 4♠ probably

won't go down more than a couple of tricks.

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 9
♥ J 9 7 3
♦ 10 7 4
♣ K 6 5

15
8 11
6

West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 3♦
3♦ by South

♠ K Q 7 6
♥ A 6 2
♦ 5 3
♣ A Q 8 3

♠ J 8 5 2
♥ K Q 10 4
♦ A
♣ J 10 4 2

♠ 4 3
♥ 8 5
♦ K Q J 9 8 6 2
♣ 9 7

N
W E
S

SOUTH has a pretty normal preemptive 3

♦

bid.

NORTH has the equivalent of an opening 1 NT bid and will be very tempted to bid 3 NT.

That might turn out to be a disaster, particularly if NORTH is unable to reach the SOUTH hand.

NORTH should assume SOUTH can win six tricks if

♦

s are trumps. Thinking this way points NORTH to her

best call - PASS.

Deal 5North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 5 2
 ♥ 8 6
 ♦ J 7 3 2
 ♣ A K 3

6
10 8
16

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

♠ 8 7
 ♥ K Q J 9 7 3 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 8 6 4

N
 W E
 S

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

♠ A J 10 6 4 3
 ♥ A
 ♦ A K 6 4
 ♣ 9 7

Here SOUTH has the kind of hand you need to raise a preempt to game.

SOUTH assumes that NORTH has a hand with six winners in it. He can provide four more, so

that is just enough for game. He bids 4

♥

.

Deal 6

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 4
♥ K J 5
♦ 9 4 2
♣ K Q J 7 2

♠ 10 8
♥ A 6 3
♦ Q J 10 6 5
♣ A 9 5

13
11 7
9

N
W E
S

♠ 3 2
♥ 9 8 7 4
♦ A K 8 3
♣ 10 8 4

♠ A Q J 9 7 6 5

♥ Q 10 2

♦ 7

♣ 6 3

West	North	East	South
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1 ♠

Pass 2 ♣

Pass 4 ♠

Pass

4 ♠ by South

SOUTH has a 7-card ♠ suit but he is too strong to open with a preemptive bid.

So he opens 1♠ instead.

NORTH should respond 2♣, and SOUTH can do nothing but rebid the ♠ suit.

NORTH thinks there should be game and bids 4♠

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

NORTH is too weak to open 1

♥

but just right for 2

♥

.

Wow! SOUTH has 21 HCP and two good

s. Could this be time for a slam try?

Nope, no slam here. Suppose NORTH has six

♥

s headed by the AK. The trump suit

would certainly be solid, but then NORTH couldn't possibly have an outside Ace as well or he would have been

too strong for a Weak-two opening. So SOUTH just bids 4

♥

.

Deal 8South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 4
♥ A 9 8 3
♦ J 6 2
♣ Q 9 6 3

¹⁵
7 11
7

West

Pass
2 ♥ by South

♠ A Q 5
♥ 4
♦ K Q 9 4
♣ K J 7 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 10 7 6 2
♥ 10 5
♦ A 10 7 3
♣ A 10

♠ J 8 3
♥ K Q J 7 6 2
♦ 8 5
♣ 8 5

North East South
Pass Pass 2 ♥

NORTH really hates that 2

♥

opening by SOUTH.

But there's no sense bidding and probably making matters worse, so she grits her

teeth and passes.

If you think 3 NT has a chance you are delusional.

Deal 9

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9
♥ J 5 3
♦ K J 10 8
♣ Q 10 8 7 2

¹⁵
7 9
9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 3 2
♥ K 9 8
♦ Q 7 6 3 2
♣ A 4

West North East South

2 ♥

Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

NORTH expects to be better off in ♠s than SOUTH would be in 2

♥

.

Whether or not you play a new suit as a one round force or not, SOUTH should make the 3♦ bid with

a hand this good. NORTH then bids the ♠ game.

Deal 10
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 8 4 2
♥ 10 2
♦ A 10 9
♣ K 9 5 2

♠ A K 7 5
♥ K 6 3
♦ K Q J 5 4
♣ A

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 9 3
♥ 9
♦ 8 7
♣ Q J 10 7 6 3

♠ 6
20
7 6
7
♦ 6 3 2
♣ 8 4

West North East South
Pass 4 NT Pass 3 ♥
Pass 6 ♥ Pass 5 ♦
Pass
6 ♥ by South

SOUTH has a pretty normal 3

♥

opening bid.

NORTH, however, has a big hand, and she launches into Blackwood.

When SOUTH shows one Ace NORTH can bid 6

♥

with confidence.

Deal 11	♠ A Q 10		
South Deals	♥ K Q J		
None Vul	♦ Q J 10 3		
	♣ A J 10		
♠ 9 8 7 6	♠ K 5 4 2		
♥ A 9 8 3	♥ 10 5 4 2		
♦ K 8 6 5	♦ A 4 2		
♣ 3	♣ 6 4		
	♠ J 3		
20 7 7 6	♥ 7 6		
	♦ 9 7		
	♣ K Q 9 8 7 5 2		
West	North	East	South
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			3 ♣
3 NT by North			

SOUTH doesn't have much of a 3♣ opening bid.

But NORTH has just the type of hand you need to bid 3 NT after partner's preempt. The other three

suits well stopped, and certain entry in Opener's long suit. Notice here that 3 NT is a good contract,

but 5♣ would go down 1.

Deal 12
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 6 3
♥ Q 8 2
♦ A K Q
♣ K Q J

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

N
W E
S

23
5 7
5
♣ 4 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

When SOUTH opens with a Weak 2

♥

bid, NORTH knows she will force to game but is thinking about slam.

But first she needs to know if SOUTH has anything extra. She bids 2 NT to get more information.

SOUTH returns to

♥

s to show bare minimum so NORTH settles for game.

Deal 13

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5
♥ Q J 9 7
♦ K J 10 8
♣ A 9 5 2

8
11 7
14

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

3 ♠ by North

♠ K Q 9 8 6 2

♥ 8 6 4

♦ 9 4

♣ K 6

W	N
S	E

♠ A 7 4
♥ 10 2
♦ 6 5
♣ Q J 10 8 7 3

♠ J 10 3
♥ A K 5 3
♦ A Q 7 3 2
♣ 4

SOUTH has one of those hands which might or might not be helpful to NORTH. He needs

more information about NORTH's hand, so he bids 2 NT.

NORTH has a better than average hand, so she bids 3♣ to show a high card in the suit.

SOUTH was hoping for a high card in

♦

s rather than ♣s, so

he signs off in 3♠

Deal 14North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 8 5 2
 ♥ A 9 8 7
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ J 3 2

♠ 7 3
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ K Q 10 8 7 2
 ♣ 9 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ A 6 4
 ♥ Q 4 2
 ♦ A J 4
 ♣ A K 6 5

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

the first five

♥

tricks

she bids 3 NT.

With four fast winners SOUTH should think about game. The best approach is usually to

use 2 NT to find out more about NORTH's hand.

SOUTH found out that NORTH has good opening strength, and, most importantly, either the

♥

A or

♥

K. Now that she doesn't

have to worry about the opponents taking

Deal 15

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

N
W E
S

♠ 9 7 5
♥ 7 6
♦ A K Q 9 6 2
♣ 8 3

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

NORTH is strong enough to be thinking about game, depending on how good SOUTH's hand is.

So he bids 2 NT to get more information.

SOUTH has the exact hand to say 3 NT - a suit headed by AKQ.

Game (and bidding) doesn't get much easier.

Deal 16South Deals
None Vul

♠ 4
♥ Q 10
♦ A K J 9 6
♣ Q 8 7 4 3

¹¹
¹² ¹⁰
7

West

Pass
Pass

4 ♠ by South

♠ 10 9 2
♥ A 8 7 4 3
♦ 3
♣ A K 9 2

♠ A 6
♥ K J 9 6 5
♦ Q 10 8 2
♣ 10 6

♠ K Q J 8 7 5 3
♥ 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ J 5

North

Pass

East

Pass

South

3 ♠

NORTH assumes her partner can win six tricks. So she will need to contribute four more to

make game.

Three of them are obvious, and she expects to get a

♦

ruff also.

Deal 17

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 3
♥ K 6 4
♦ K J 7 4
♣ 10 9 7 3

10
7 9
14

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 8 7 6 2
♥ 8 3
♦ 8 3
♣ K 6 5

♠ J 10 4
♥ A Q 10 9 2
♦ Q 10 5 2
♣ 8

♠ Q 9
♥ J 7 5
♦ A 9 6
♣ A Q J 4 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by North

NORTH's hand has the look of a Weak Two-bid, but it is one point too strong. So she opens 1♠.

SOUTH naturally bids 2♣ and NORTH rebids the ♠ suit.

SOUTH always knew there would be a game bid, so with an 8-card fit he bids 4♣

Deal 18
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 9 4	♠ Q J 8 3		
♥ K 9 2	♥ 10 6		
♦ A 10 8 2	♦ K J 4		
♣ 10 3 2	♣ K Q J 4		
	♠ K 10 7 2		
	♥ 4		
	♦ Q 6 3		
	♣ A 9 8 7 6		
	♠ 6 5		
13 11 9 7	♥ A Q J 8 7 5 3		
	♦ 9 7 5		
	♣ 5		
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
3 ♥ by South			

NORTH may have an opening hand, but it is just the wrong kind of hand to respond to

partner's preemptive bid. She doesn't have the immediate winners that SOUTH is likely

to need, but she is in good shape for defense should the opponents bid.

In other words, NORTH has the perfect hand with which to pass.

Deal 19

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

♠ 8 6 3 2
♥ Q 9 5 4
♦ 10 5
♣ J 6 3

21	♠ 5 4
3 7	♥ 8 6 3
9	♦ A K Q 9 7 4
	♣ 8 5

West	North	East	South
			2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 NT by North			

N	♠ A 10 9 7
W	♥ J 10 2
E	♦ 8 2
S	♣ Q 10 9 7

The 2 NT response to a Weak Two opening is a wonderful tool. You can learn a lot about

partner's hand and you are absolutely certain that it will not be passed out.

In this Deal NORTH has a huge hand and SOUTH opens 2

♦

.

There are a lot of approaches NORTH might try, but the simplest is to start with 2 NT.

When SOUTH shows

♦

A K Q x x x NORTH has an easy 6 NT bid.

Deal 20South Deals
None Vul

♠ 4
♥ 10 9 7
♦ A K J 7 3
♣ J 9 8 4

¹⁵
9 7
9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 6
♥ A Q J 4 2
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A 5

♠ 10 8 3
♥ 8 6 5
♦ Q 10
♣ K Q 10 6 2

♠ A Q 9 7 5 2

♥ K 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 7 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

NORTH is unsure whether to bid game or not. So she temporizes with 2 NT.

SOUTH shows an above average hand plus a high card in

♥

s.

NORTH is no longer unsure, so she bids 4 ♠.

Deal 21

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 9 8 6 4
 ♥ 5 3
 ♦ 8 7 3
 ♣ 7 2

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

6
10
15

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ K J 3
 ♥ A Q J 4 2
 ♦ 9 6 4
 ♣ A 5

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

3 ♠ by North

SOUTH is unsure whether to bid game or not, so he bids 2 NT to get more information about

NORTH's hand.

NORTH's 3♠ is discouraging, a hand below average in strength and no outside high card.

SOUTH passes and hopes for the best.

Deal 22

North Deals

None Vul

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

♠ 5
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 9 7 5 3
 ♣ K Q J 9 8 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ A 6 3
 ♥ A K Q J 7 4 2
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

SOUTH has no way to tell whether NORTH can provide one winner or not.

So she takes the bold approach and bids 4

♥

.

If the opening lead is a ♠ or a

♦

then SOUTH

will probably make the game. Otherwise she will likely go down one.

Deal 23
 South Deals
 None Vul

\spadesuit K 3 \heartsuit A J 9 6 3 \diamond A Q 7 \clubsuit 8 6 4 \spadesuit 9 8 5 \heartsuit 8 \diamond K 9 4 3 \clubsuit K J 10 7 5 14 7 11 8 \clubsuit 9	 \spadesuit A 6 \heartsuit 10 5 4 \diamond J 10 8 6 \clubsuit A Q 3 2 \spadesuit Q J 10 7 4 2 \heartsuit K Q 7 2 \diamond 5 2 \clubsuit 9
<i>West</i> Pass Pass Pass 4 \heartsuit by North	<i>North</i> 1 \heartsuit 4 \heartsuit <i>East</i> Pass Pass <i>South</i> Pass Pass Pass

Most good players have an extra restriction in their Weak Two-bid guidelines - they won't

open with a Weak Two-bid when they hold an outside 4-card Major, even if the hand qualifies

otherwise. This Deal shows why.

If SOUTH opened with 2 \spadesuit , NORTH might well pass and a



game

would be missed.

Deal 24

North Deals

None Vul

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



8
 6 10
 16

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

SOUTH responds 2 NT, asking for more information.

When NORTH shows a decent hand with a high ♣ SOUTH should bid 3 NT.