

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 7 5
♥ Q 10 2
♦ Q J 9 5
♣ 10 9 3

¹⁵
7 10
8

♠ A 4
♥ K J 9 8
♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ 8 6 5

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	Pass

Pass

1 NT by North

♠ K 10 8 2

♥ 7 4

♦ A K 6 3

♣ A J 7

W	N	E
S		

♠ J 9 6 3
♥ A 6 5 3
♦ 4
♣ K Q 4 2

North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

If partner has a 4-card ♥ suit to match yours you could revalue your hand and add a point for your doubleton ♠. That would give you the 9 points you need for an invitational response.

It is far too risky to play for that possibility. So you just pass.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ K 5 4 2
♦ 3
♣ A J 4 2

9
8 6
17

West

♠ A 4
♥ A J 9 8
♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ 8 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 7 3
♥ Q 7
♦ K J 6 5 4
♣ 9 7 3

♠ K Q J 5
♥ 10 6 3
♦ A Q 9
♣ K Q 10

North

East

South
1 NT

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

2 NT

Pass

3 NT

Pass

3 NT by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

You have 9 points and a 4-card Major. Just enough for an invitational Stayman sequence. You bid 2 ♣ and partner answers 2 ♠. What do you bid next?

Partner has the wrong Major. Now that you know there is no 8-card Major fit you must go to notrump. And since you don't have the strength to insist on game you say 2 NT which is an invitation for partner to bid 3 NT if he has a maximum.

He has a maximum and he bids 3 NT.

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 4 2
♥ Q 10
♦ Q 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 10

16
9 6
9

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

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

♠ K Q 10 6

♥ 9 6 4
♦ K J 10 8

♣ 7 3

North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Of course you bid 2 ♣. Partner now bids 2 ♠. What is your next bid?

Partner hit your suit. When you add a point for your doubleton ♣ you are up to 10 points. This is the situation where you have to use your judgement, either to invite or to bid the game yourself.

There is really no right or wrong here, between 3 ♠ and 4 ♠. Those extra T's and 9's swing you to 4 ♠. As you see it will be a close call, but even if you misguess the ♦ finesse you will still establish a ♦ winner for a discard.

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

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

N
W E
S

♠ 8
♥ 10 8 3
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ A 10 9 5 2

♠ 9 6 5
♥ A 9
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ K Q 8 6

West North East South
12
8 5 2 ♣
15 3 NT Pass 1 NT
Pass Pass 2 ♦
Pass Pass Pass

3 NT by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Both Majors! Lucky you. So you bid a Stayman 2 ♣. Unfortunately partner comes back with 2 ♦. What is your next bid?

Partner doesn't have a 4-card Major so your side doesn't have an 8-card Major fit. Therefore you will play in notrump. And with your 12 points you MUST play in game. So you bid 3 NT.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 5
♥ 10 7 4
♦ Q J 10 8 6
♣ J 10 6

♠ 10 9 8 2

♥ K Q 6

♦ A 9 4

♣ A K 5

16
8 5
11

♠ K Q J 3

♥ A J 5

♦ 7 2

♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ 7 6 4

♥ 9 8 3 2

♦ K 5 3

♣ Q 7 2

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

4 ♠ by North

North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

With 11 points and a 4-card Major suit you bid 2 ♣. Partner answers 2 ♠. What is your next bid?

Stayman bidding can be very straightforward. Partner has 4 ♠s, you have 4 ♠s. That makes 8. Partner has 15-17 points, you have 11-12 points. That makes 26-29.

You bid 4 ♠.

Deal 6
South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8 6 3 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 7 5

18
1 5
16

♠ A 10 9 4
♥ K J 10 7
♦ A J
♣ K Q 3

♠ 7
♥ A 8 2
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ J 10 9 8 4

N
W E
S

West North East South
Pass 2 ♣ Pass 1 NT
Pass 6 NT Pass Pass
Pass
6 NT by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

You have a very big hand. Enormous. But you also have two 4-card Majors, so the first step is Stayman. You bid 2♣ and partner replies 2♦. What do you bid next?

You have 18 points and partner has 15, 16 or 17. Your total is between 33 and 35. You have enough POINTS for a small slam, not enough for a grand. You have no Major suit fit, and are happy to play notrump.

There is a lot to be said for bidding 6 NT immediately. You could ask for Aces if you like but whether partner shows one or two isn't going to change your decision. Be bold.

Deal 7
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 8
♥ 5 4 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 10 4 3 2

16
5 3
16

N
W E
S

♠ Q 10 9
♥ A Q J 3
♦ A 10 8
♣ Q J 6

♠ K 7 6 5 3 2
♥ 8 6
♦ 9 6 2
♣ 9 7

West North East South
Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♣
Pass 2 ♥ Pass 4 NT
Pass 5 ♥ Pass 6 ♥
Pass Pass Pass

6 ♥ by North

North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

You have another big hand. And with a 4-card Major you start with 2 ♣. Partner answers 2 ♥ and it's your turn again.

What with your singleton ♠ you certainly have enough points for slam. But since it's possible partner has only one Ace you check with Blackwood. Partner says 5 ♥ and you say . . . What?

Missing one Ace you bid 6 ♥.

Deal 8

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 6 3
♥ —
♦ Q 9 4 2
♣ A J 7 6 5 2

10
7 6
17

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K Q 4 2
♥ J 10 7 6
♦ 7 5
♣ 9 3

♠ J 8 7
♥ A 8 4 3 2
♦ J 10 8
♣ 10 4

♠ 9 5
♥ K Q 9 5
♦ A K 6 3
♣ K Q 8

West North East South

Pass 2 ♣ Pass 1 NT
Pass 4 ♥ Pass 2 ♥
Pass

4 ♥ by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

This may go against your instincts, but if you're going to play Stayman then you should follow the rules. Granted that you have a great ♠ suit, you also have 4 ♥s. And when you have a 4-card Major you use Stayman. You bid 2 ♣ and partner says 2 ♥.

That is why you used Stayman - to uncover a 4-4 Major suit fit. Having done so you know that you will play in ♥s and you have enough points to bid game. You bid 4 ♥.

Deal 9
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

♠ 10 8 6
♥ K Q 5
♦ A 8 6 4
♣ A K 10

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♣ by North

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Yes, this is the same hand as Deal 8. Again you bid 2 ♣. This time partner says 2 ♦.

You need to describe your hand clearly to partner with this bid. You want to show a game-forcing hand (11 points or more) with 4 ♥s and 5 ♠s. You do that by now jumping to 3 ♠.

If partner had just 2 ♠s he would have bid 3 NT. Since he has 3 ♠s he bids 4 ♠.

Deal 10
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 6
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A K 5 2
♣ 10 9 6 2

9
7 9
15

♠ K 10 4 2
♥ A Q 10 9 6 3
♦ —
♣ 8 7 4

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 8 5
♦ J 10 9 8 3
♣ A K J

N
W E
S

♠ A Q J 9
♥ K J
♦ Q 7 6 4
♣ Q 5 3

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

losers on your ♥ suit.

Even when you hold a 6-card Major, if you have 4 cards in the other Major you use Stayman. Partner answers 2 ♠. What do you bid?

You've found an 8-card Major fit and you know there are enough points for game. So you bid 4 ♠.

Yes, but you already knew you had an 8-card ♥ fit since partner's 1 NT promised at least 2 ♥s. In fact, you could play game in either Major. However, it is often better to play in a 4-4 fit rather than a 5-3 or 6-2. This hand shows why. Played in ♥s you will make exactly T tricks with any opening lead. Played in ♠s you will again make T tricks when the defenders start with their 3 ♣ winners. If they start with anything else you are very likely to make 1 or 2 overtricks by discarding dummy

Deal 11
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5 3	♦ —	♣ K J 10 2	♠ K 10 4 2
♥ —	♦ A 10 8 5 3 2	♦ —	♥ A Q 10 9 6 3
♦ A 10 8 5 3 2	♦ —	♣ 8 7 4	♦ —
♣ K J 10 2	♦ —	♦ —	♣ 8 7 4
		W N E S	♦ —
			♠ 9 7 6
8 9			♥ 8 7 5 4 2
8 8			♦ K J 9
15			♣ A 9
			♠ A Q J
			♥ K J
			♦ Q 7 6 4
			♣ Q 6 5 3
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass			Pass
4 ♥ by North			

This is the follow-up to Deal T. South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Just like the previous deal with a 4-card Major you use Stayman. This time partner says 2 ♦. Your turn again.

With partner showing no 4-card Major the bidding takes a turn. With your 6 ♥s you are sure of an 8-card fit in the suit. With 11 points you must be sure of reaching game. So you bid 4 ♥.

In this case the strong hand does not become declarer, but the contract is the right one anyway.

Deal 12

South Deals
None Vul

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

9	8	15
8	8	15



♠ Q 7 6 5
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ A 10
♣ J 9 6

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

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

Partner has commanded you to bid a 4-card Major if you have one. You have one, so you bid 2 ♣. Partner now says 2 NT. What do you bid?

Partner evidently has 4 ♥s. He also evidently has about 9 points since he is INVITING you to bid 3 NT. With your minimum 15 points you decline the invitation by passing.

Deal 13 ♠ K Q 2
North Deals ♥ A 9 3
None Vul ♦ Q J 9 5
 ♣ K Q 7

♠ A 9 6 5 4
♥ 7 5 4
♦ A 8 3
♣ 5 3

17
8 6
9

♠ 7
♥ K Q 2
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ J 10 9 6 2

♠ J 10 8 3
♥ J 10 8 6
♦ K 10
♣ A 8 4

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

Pass
3 NT by North

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

With no 4-card Major you reply 2 ♦. What
do you bid after partner next says 2 NT?

Partner seems to have about 9 points and
is inviting you to say 3 NT. Since you
have a maximum 17 point hand you
accept the invitation.

Deal 14South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 4 3
 ♥ A J
 ♦ 8 7 6 5 2
 ♣ 10 9 8

9
6 10
15

♠ K 10 8 5
 ♥ 9 8 5 2
 ♦ A 9 3
 ♣ Q 5

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

♠ Q 7 6 2
 ♥ Q 6 3
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ A J 7

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

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

You bid 2 ♠. Partner next says 3 ♠. What do you say now?

Considering the bidding you have done so far you couldn't have a worse hand. With 4-3-3-3 distribution and a bare 15 points you most certainly don't want to accept any invitation from partner. So you pass. As you see, 9 tricks are not going to come easily.

Deal 15

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 7 5 4

♥ 6 4 2

♦ 9 8 2

♣ 5 3

17
7 7
9

♠ J 6 2

♥ A 10 9 5

♦ K Q J 4

♣ A Q


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

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

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

Pass

4 ♥ by North

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.

What do you bid?

You respond 2 ♥. Partner now says 3 ♥.
What do you bid?

Partner has told you he has 4 ♥s and approximately 9 points. Add that to your 4 ♥s and 17 points and the total equals a game bid in ♥s. So you say 4 ♥.

Deal 16

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 3
♥ K 8 7
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ 7 6 4

9
6 8
17

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 10 9 6
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 10 8 4
♣ K 8 3

♠ 7 5 2
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ A
♣ J 10 9 5 2

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

4 ♠ by South

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

When you have 4 cards in both Majors you respond 2 ♥. Partner bids 2 NT. What is your next bid?

Partner would never bid Stayman without a 4-card Major. Since he did not like your ♥ bid it is clear that his 4-card Major must be ♠s. His 2 NT bid was an invitation for you to bid 3 NT, which means he has about 9 points. Knowing that partner has 9 points and 4 ♠s, your call is clear : 4 ♠.

Deal 17

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



17	♠ A Q 5 2
7 5	♥ K Q 10 9 6
11	♦ 10 9
	♣ 9 7

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

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣. What do you bid?

You do not have a 4-card Major. So your correct response is 2 ♦. Partner bids 2 ♥.

Partner has described a hand with 4 ♠s and 5 ♥s. You don't know his strength but it must be at least 9 points. You know that you have just a 7-card fit in both Majors, and since you have a full 17 points you bid 3 NT.

Deal 18

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

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣. What do you bid?

Your 2 ♦ response tells partner you have no 4-card Major suit. Then he bids 2 ♥. What do you say next?

Partner knows you do not have 4 ♥s, but he bid the suit anyway. He must have 5 of them and he must also have 4 ♠s (since he used Stayman). But it's the ♥s you are interested in. Partner has 5 and you have 3. So you know of an 8-card Major suit fit. And you also know you have a maximum 1 NT opening. So you say 4 ♥.

Deal 19

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 5 4 2
♥ 6 5 4
♦ A J 6
♣ 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K
♥ Q J 9
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ A J 10 7

20
5 7
8

♠ Q J 7 6 3
♥ K 10 7 3
♦ 4 2
♣ Q 5

West North East South

Pass 2 NT Pass 3 ♣
Pass 3 ♦ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

3 NT by North

With a balanced 20 points you open 2 NT and partner responds 3 ♣. What do you bid?

Stayman applies after a 2 NT opening, just one level higher. With no 4-card Major you bid 3 ♦. Partner next bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner is showing 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s. In neither case would you have the 8-card fit you need. So you bid 3 NT.

Deal 20

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 4 2
♥ 10 7
♦ K 10 6 4 2
♣ J 10 9

4 7 8
21

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ K 5
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ 7 4 2

♠ A 7
♥ 8 6 4 3 2
♦ 3
♣ A 8 6 5 3

♠ K J 10 5
♥ A Q J 9
♦ A J 9
♣ K Q

West North East South

2 NT

Pass 3 ♣
Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass

4 ♣ by South

You open 2 NT and partner responds 3 ♣. What do you bid?

With 4 cards in each Major suit you bid 3 ♥. Partner puts you in 3 NT. What do you do? Pass or bid?

You certainly do not pass. Partner's Stayman bid tells you he has a 4-card Major suit. His 3 NT bid tells you the suit was not ♥s. Elementary, Watson, the suit must be ♠s. So you convert the 3 NT bid to 4 ♠.

If you want to make yourself happy you use Stayman, just imagine playing 3 NT after a ♣ lead!

Deal 21

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 7 6
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ A 3

20
6 3
11

♠ A J 8 5

♥ K J

♦ A K 8

♣ K J 9 6

	N		E	
W		S		

♠ 9 3
♥ 8
♦ J 7 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 10 5 2

♠ K Q 4 2
♥ A Q 10 9 4 3
♦ —

♣ 8 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♣ by North

North opens 2 NT. What do you respond?

Wow! Start thinking slam, but first things first. Find the suit by starting with Stayman. You bid 3 ♣ and partner replies 3 ♠. What do you say next?

Your hand revalues to 16 points now that you know there's a ♠ fit. So certainly you want to be in slam as long as there are not two quick ♣ losers. At this point you might try something like a 4 ♦ cue bid, hoping partner will read that as a slam try in ♠s, but denying the ♣ control. But that seems awfully easy to be misunderstood. We suggest an immediate 6 ♠.

Good thing it's being played by North, right?

Deal 22

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 9 6 5

♥ 7 5 2

♦ K 10

♣ K 4 3

10
15
12

♠ Q 7 4 2

♥ 10 9 8 3

♦ J 8 7 6 3

♣ —


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

 ♠ A 8 3
 ♥ A K 6 4
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ Q 8 7

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

2 ♥ by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Your first thought should be that with only 4 points you will pass. But on second thought, what would partner respond if you bid a Stayman 2 ♣? So you give it a shot and partner says 2 ♥. What next?

What's next is your PASS. And if he had bid 2 ♣ you also would have passed. And if he had bid 2 ♦ you also would have passed. You figured that with this hand any response partner could make would be a better place than 1 NT.

Deal 23

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 4
♥ Q 8 7
♦ K 10 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 4

¹⁷
5 6
12

♠ A K 7 3
♥ A 9 5
♦ 9 8 2
♣ A Q 2

♠ 9 6 2
♥ J 10 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ J 9 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 8 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ Q J 7
♣ K 10 8

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

North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

With 12 points and a 4-card ♠ suit this fits the model for Stayman.

But thinking a little further, with this 4-3-3-3 distribution you have no ruffing values whatsoever. So even if partner also has 4 ♠s there might not be an advantage in playing the suit contract. So for this specific distribution you ignore your 4-card Major and just bid 3 NT.

Deal 24

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 7
♥ 10 9 8 6 5
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ 6 3 2

♠ A Q 10 6

♥ Q 7

♦ 10 9 5

♣ K 9 7 4

11
o 14
15

♠ K J 5 4 3 2
♥ A 3 2
♦ K 6
♣ Q J

♠ 9 8

♥ K J 4

♦ A Q J 7

♣ A 10 8 5

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

After you open 1 NT partner bids 2 ♣, then East says 2 ♠. What do you say next?

Basically you said your say when you opened 1 NT. You don't have a 4-card Major and you have a minimum hand. The best way to convey this information to partner is to pass. At which point partner jumps to 3 NT. What do you say?

Pass, then "Thank you partner" when dummy comes down. The thing to remember is that partner is in charge. You describe your hand as well as you can and then sit back and let him make the decisions. Perhaps you would have doubled if you held his hand but he didn't.

Deal 25

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 6 5 3
♥ 8 2
♦ 10 5
♣ J 10 9 6

¹⁷
2 10
11

West North East South
Pass 1 NT 2 ♦ 3 ♦
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥
4 ♥ by North

♠ A 8
♥ K J 7 4
♦ A 7 2
♣ K Q 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ 7 4
♥ 9 6 5
♦ K Q J 9 8 4
♣ A 2

♠ K Q 10 2
♥ A Q 10 3
♦ 6 3
♣ 8 7 4

North opens 1 NT and East overcalls 2 ♦.
What do you say?

Dad-burned interfering opponents. You were going to bid a Stayman 2 ♣ and now you can't. You also don't want to bid either Major with only 4 of them. And you certainly can't bid notrump with no ♦ stopper. Fortunately the overcall has opened a window of opportunity for you. So you cue-bid 3 ♦. Even if you and partner haven't discussed this it is pretty obvious that you don't really want to play in ♦s, so the most likely action for him is to bid a suit, and a Major suit would have priority. So really, the cue-bid achieves the same purpose as Stayman would have.

Partner now bids 3 ♥. What do you say?

Partner showed a 4-card ♥ suit. With your 4 that makes a fit. You have 12 revalued points so you bid 4 ♥.