

Deal 1

East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ 6 4
♦ J 10 8 2
♣ K 6 5

13
6 9
12

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by North

♠ 6 5
♥ A Q 9 5 3
♦ K Q 6 3
♣ Q 9



♠ A J 10 7 4
♥ K 10 7
♦ A 9 5
♣ 7 2

North

2 ♥

4 ♥

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

3 ♥

Pass

South opens 1 ♠ and North, with 14 points, responds 2 ♥. Note that North is not permitted to make this bid without a 5-card or longer ♥ suit.

South, knowing that North has 5, bids 3 ♥ to confirm the trump suit.

North has a minimum strength hand with no slam aspirations, so he uses Fast Arrival and bids 4 ♥. South is also satisfied to just play at game.

2/1 is a good bidding method, and here, 4 ♥ is a good contract. But you can see that it is not a laydown - there is no bidding system that will always reach To% contracts. In this hand a 3-3 ♦ split will provide the Tth trick, or if that fails, taking 2 ♠ finesses provides a 75% chance of success.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 3
♥ J 6
♦ Q J 10 8 5
♣ J 4 3 2

15
5 9
11

♠ 7
♥ A K 7 5
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ K Q 10 6



♠ A K 9 6 5 2
♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ 4
♣ A 8

♠ Q J 10 4
♥ Q 4 2
♦ A 9 3
♣ 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

South has 13 points and naturally opens 1 ♠.

North, with 15 points, would bid 2 ♥ in standard bidding, but with 2/1 this promises a 5-card suit. So instead, North responds 2 ♣, forcing the partnership to game. Note that holding two 4-card minors North bids them up-the-line, just as in standard bidding.

South has a nice 6-card ♠ suit, so you might think he would rebid them. But Opener's first responsibility with his second bid is to show a 4-card Major if he has one. This isn't much of a suit, but South still bids 2 ♥.

You can see why it is important for Opener to show a 4-card Major. Since North couldn't bid ♥s in her first

response the fit would have been lost if South had not mentioned the suit. North now confirms the trump suit with a 3 ♥ bid, and South shows his minimum by just bidding the game.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 3
 ♥ J 10 5
 ♦ 6 4 2
 ♣ Q J 10 3 2

13
 6 8
 13

♠ 8 7 5
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A Q J 10 7
 ♣ K 9 7



♠ A K 9 2
 ♥ A Q 9 8 3
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ 8 6

♠ J 10 6 4
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ K 9 3
 ♣ A 5 4

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

South opens 1 ♥, his 5-card Major. North, with 14 points, naturally responds 2 ♦, forcing the partnership to game.

South next bids 2 ♠, showing the other Major suit. In standard bidding South would not be able to bid the ♠s since that would be a Reverse and South is far too weak to Reverse. But after a 2/1 Response the concept of a Reverse does not apply, and the priority of showing a 4-card Major certainly does apply.

North assumes South to be 4-5 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She bids 2 NT. If South actually has 6 ♥s (or 5 ♠s) he will rebid the suit. North's 2 NT bid guarantees a stopper in the fourth suit.

South does not have either 6 ♥s or 5 ♠s so he just bids 3 NT. Notice that South never once considered the possibility of passing what might be a misfit - the initial 2/1 response unconditionally forced the partnership to reach a game somewhere.

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 3
♥ K Q 4
♦ J 10 4 2
♣ 10 9 4 3

12
8 7
13

West

♠ K 8
♥ J 10 7
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A K J 6 2



♠ A 9 7 4 2
♥ A 9 8 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q 7

North

East

♠ J 10 6 5
♥ 6 5 2
♦ A Q 8 3
♣ 8 5

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

2 ♣

3 ♦

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

1 ♠

2 ♥

3 NT

South opens 1 ♠, his 5-card Major. North, with 14 points, responds 2 ♣, a 2/1 force to game.

South next bids 2 ♥, showing the other Major suit.

North assumes South to be 5-4 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She cannot bid 2 NT without a stopper in ♦s. So North bids the fourth suit, 3 ♦, telling South she knows she must make a bid, but can't find anything appropriate.

South now must find a bid. His choices include rebidding the 5-card ♠s, supporting North's ♣s with a doubleton Queen, or bidding 3 NT with the ♦ K 6 as a stopper. He chooses this last option. It appears that 3 NT is the best game for these two hands.

Deal 5

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 5 2
♥ 9 2
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ K 4 3

13
7 3
17

West

North

East

South

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

3 ♥

Pass

4 NT

Pass

4 ♣

Pass

6 ♥

ALL

5 ♥

6 ♥ by North

♠ A 4
♥ K J 10 8 6 5 3
♦ K Q
♣ 8 7



♠ K J 7 6 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ 8 4
♣ A Q J

♠ Q 8
♥ 4
♦ J 9 6 3 2
♣ 10 9 6 5 2

South opens 1 ♠, her 5-card Major and North responds 2 ♥. South knows this is a 5-card suit, and bids 3 ♥, confirming the 8+card trump fit.

Once the trump fit is known, North revalues his hand to about 19 points. He makes a slam try with a control-showing bid of 3 ♠. He knows South won't take this as ♠ support since the partnership has agreed that ♥s are going to be trumps.

South now shows her control by bidding 4 ♣.

That was what North needed to hear; when Blackwood uncovers two Aces he bids 6 ♥.

The slam is a good one. If either the ♠ Q or ♣ K is right there are 12 tricks by way

of a finesse. But the best way to play the hand would be to try to establish a ♠ in the South hand, and if that fails try the ♣ finesse.