

Deal 1
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 5 3
♥ A 9
♦ Q 5 4 2
♣ Q 4 2

10
8 4
18

♠ Q 7 4 2
♥ K J 5
♦ A 8 3
♣ 10 7 6

♠ K 6
♥ 8 6 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 7
♣ J 9 5

♠ A J 10
♥ Q 10 7
♦ K J 6
♣ A K 8 3

West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣
Pass 3 NT Pass 2 NT
Pass

3 NT by South

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

This would be an ideal hand to open 1 NT - well, it would be with one less point. But with 18 you are too strong to open 1 NT so you open 1 ♣. Partner responds 1 ♠. What do you bid next?

DO NOT fall into the trap of supporting partner's ♠s just because you have such nice help for him. He might have a 4-card suit. Instead, just describe your hand by jumping to 2 NT, showing a balanced hand with 18-19 points. Partner now bids 3 NT and you play it there.

Deal 2

North Deals	♠ Q J 6
None Vul	♥ A K 7
	♦ Q 8 6 4
	♣ A K 8

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

19 7 8 6	♠ K 10 9 7 4 2 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ 3 ♣ 7 4 3
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

4 ♠ by South

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

You open 1 ♦ and partner responds 1 ♠. What is your next bid?

Do not support what may be a 4-card suit with only 3 cards. Instead, jump to 2 NT, showing 18-19, balanced. Partner rebids the ♠s. What do you say next?

Partner shows a minimum hand, but with 6 ♠s. 3 NT is very tempting, and might work out fine, but with 9 ♠s it is probably better to play the suit game. So you bid 4 ♠ and everybody passes.

Bidding 4 ♠ was a good choice. It makes easily, yet 3 NT might have gone down.

Deal 3North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ A J 1 0
 ♦ K 6 5 3
 ♣ Q 4 2

13
10 9
8

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

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

♠ J 10 9 6
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ A K 8 3

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

You have plenty good support to raise partner's ♣ suit. But your first priority is to show a 4-card Major suit if you have one. You do, so you respond 1♠. Partner raises you to 2♠.

Are you tempted to take partner back to ♣s since you have such good support? Don't be. Partner has 4 ♣s, but he might have only 3 ♣s.

Are you tempted to bid 3♠ since partner raised you? Don't be. He showed a minimum hand with his single raise and you only have 9 points. Just pass.

Deal 4North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 2
 ♥ 10 5 2
 ♦ 9 6 5
 ♣ A K 9 6 4

14
 7 6
13

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ Q J 10 5 4 3
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ Q 7 2

♠ 7 6
 ♥ A J 9 6
 ♦ A K 8 3
 ♣ J 8 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

Some might jump to 2 NT, "to show partner my point count". Some might jump to 3 ♦, "to force partner to game and show my ♦ support". The wise ones will just bid 1 ♥, striving to find an 8-card Major fit, the first priority of bidding.

You choose the 1 ♥ route, and partner obligingly says 2 ♥. What do you bid next?

Remember "She who knows, goes"? You know of the 8-card Major fit. You know of at least 26 combined points. You know you should bid 4 ♥, so you do.