

Deal 1

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 7
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 6 3 2
♣ Q J 9 6 2

16
5 **7**
12

♠ K 5
♥ K Q 9 8 5 4 3
♦ A 4
♣ A 4

♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ J 7
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ K 5 3

♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J
♣ 10 8 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	5 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	6 ♣
Pass			
6 ♥ by North			

South opens 1 ♠. North has a powerhouse, plenty strong enough to jump-shift. But playing 2/1 it's usually simpler when you make the 2/1 response, and save your jumping for later - if at all. So North bids just 2 ♥, knowing South must keep the bidding open.

South knows North has at least 5 ♥s, so his first priority is to agree on the trump suit. He bids 3 ♥.

North now makes the slam try. She knows South has at least three trumps, and all she wants to find out is how many Aces/Kings South holds. So she bids Blackwood and South confesses to two Aces.

Still hoping for the Grand, North bids 5 NT. Oops, South doesn't have any kings so North settles for a small slam.

This is a good slam, cold if East makes any opening lead other than a ♣. With a ♣ lead, North will have to pull trumps and play to discard a loser on the ♠T.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 7 5
♥ 8 4 2
♦ J 3
♣ A 5 3 2

¹³
8 4
¹⁵
13
♦ A Q J 7 5 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K J 4

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

♠ Q J 2
♥ K 10
♦ K Q 8 6 5
♣ Q 8 7

♠ 9 8 6 4 3
♥ 9 6
♦ A 10 9
♣ 10 9 6

♠ A
♥ A Q J 7 5 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K J 4

♠ A
♥ A Q J 7 5 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K J 4

South opens 1 ♥ and North responds 2 ♦.

South has a good-looking hand, but needs to find a trump suit before she starts showing her extra strength, so she bids just 2 ♥.

Knowing that South holds 6 ♥s, North can support with the honor doubleton so he agrees the trump suit with a Fast Arrival bid of 4 ♥.

South has some extra strength, but not enough to push on after North's weak bid. Notice that if South DID try a 4 ♠ Control bid North would just bid 5 ♥ and the pair might be one trick too high.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 4 3
♥ 6
♦ Q J 10 7
♣ A 10 9 2

9
10 9
12

♠ J
♥ K Q J 7 5 3
♦ 4 3 2
♣ Q 5 4

♠ 10 9 5
♥ A 9 8 2
♦ A 9 8
♣ J 6 3

♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ 10 4
♦ K 6 5
♣ K 8 7

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

South opens 1 ♠. North has 11 points, enough to respond 2 ♥ in standard bidding, but not when using 2/1. So she bids 1 NT.

South would love to pass 1 NT but is not permitted to do so. He has no good bid, so he must bid a 3-card suit. When holding two 3-card minors, usually bid ♣s. North now shows the ♥ suit that she could not bid first round.

South was forced to reply to 1 NT, but he is not forced to bid again. With his minimum hand and a tolerance for partner's suit he just passes and the partnership ends up in a reasonable contract.

This hand demonstrates one of the benefits of Forcing 1 NT. In standard bidding North's first response would be 2 ♥, and South would have to bid again, probably 2 NT. The partnership might go even higher but in any case would probably not reach a good contract.

Deal 4North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 9 3
 ♥ Q 10 8 6
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ Q 10 6

¹⁷
 6 6
 11

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

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

W	N
S	E

North opens 1 ♠. South has 11 points, enough to respond 2 ♣, (or 2 ♦), in standard bidding, but not when using 2/1. So she bids 1 NT.

North is forced to bid again, but unlike the previous hand, here he wants to keep bidding. He bids 2 ♣. South knows North doesn't have ♥s, so she shows her above-minimum hand by bidding 2 NT.

North is happy to play Notrump. He assumes South must have something useful in ♦s and bids 3 NT.

3 NT seems to be a good contract. There are 8 top tricks and possibilities for a ninth winner in either ♠s, ♦s, or, (the best chance), ♣s.