

**Deal 1**  
North Deals  
None Vul

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

15  
7 9  
9

N  
W E  
S

♠ A 7 4  
♥ A Q 8 5  
♦ Q 7 4  
♣ Q J 6

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

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

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

You dealt so it is your bid. What do you say?

With 4-3-3-3 distribution and 15 points this hand qualifies for a 1 NT opening. You bid 1 NT and partner raises to 2 NT.

Partner's 2 NT bid invites you to bid 3 NT if you are at the top of your 15-17 point range. Since you have only 15 points you decline the invitation.

**Deal 2**East Deals  
None Vul

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

6  
 9 16  
 9

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

N  
 W E  
 S

♠ A 7 4  
 ♥ A Q  
 ♦ 10 7 4  
 ♣ A Q 10 6 5

♠ Q J 8 5  
 ♥ J 8 3 2  
 ♦ A 6 2  
 ♣ J 2

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

You dealt so it is your bid. What do you say?

This hand has 17 points and one of the balanced distributions. When you have a hand that meets the requirements you should open 1 NT. Do not worry about the lack of a ♦ stopper, you don't have to have all the suits stopped to open 1 NT. You bid 1 NT and partner raises to 2 NT. What do you bid next?

You should count on partner for 9 points for his invitation. Your 17 brings the total to 26 so you bid 3 NT.

**Deal 3**

South Deals

None Vul

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

9  
9 7  
15

West

♠ 8 6 5  
♥ K 8 4  
♦ Q J 9 5  
♣ K 8 3

N  
W E  
S

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

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

North

East

South

Pass  
Pass  
3 NT by South

1 NT

3 NT

You dealt so it is your bid. What do you say?

Of course you open 1 NT. Partner responds 2 NT. What do you say?

With 15 points you decline invitations, and with 17 points you accept. But with 16 you have to use your judgement. Some players will just automatically bid 3 NT when they have 16 points, preferring to err on the side of boldness than to possibly miss bidding a makeable game. Others prefer to base their decision on how good the hand looks.

With all the Ts and 9s this hand is stronger than 16 points, so you bid 3 NT.

**Deal 4**

West Deals  
None Vul

♠ Q J 10 5  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ A Q 4  
♣ A 9 8

5  
15 16  
4

*West*      *North*      *East*      *South*  
 1 NT      Pass      4 NT      Pass  
 Pass      Pass  
 4 NT by West

♠ 2

♥ J 6 5 4 3 2

♦ J 7 3

♣ K 4 2

N  
W E  
S

♠ A K 3

♥ A K 7

♦ 10 8 2

♣ Q 10 7 5

♠ 9 8 7 6 4

♥ 10

♦ K 9 6 5

♣ J 6 3

You dealt so it is your bid. What do you say?

You open 1 NT. Again. This time partner jumps to 4 NT. What do you bid?

Partner's bid is not Blackwood. It is called a Quantitative 4 NT and he is telling you he has a balanced 16-17 point hand. He is inviting you to bid 6 NT.

With 17 you accept invitations, with 15 you decline. You have 15 so you pass.

As you see, there are 9 easy tricks and you can probably set up another. But you have no chance to make slam.

**Deal 5**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 7 6 4

♥ 10

♦ Q 9 6 5

♣ 8 6 3

$$\begin{matrix} 17 \\ 2 \\ 16 \end{matrix}$$


♠ A K 3

♥ A K 7

♦ 10 8 2

♣ Q 10 7 5

West

North

1 NT

Pass

Pass

6 NT by North

East

Pass

Pass

South

4 NT

Pass

You dealt so it is your bid. What do you say?

You open 1 NT and partner jumps to 4 NT.

This is the sequel to Deal 4. This time you have 17 points so you accept partner's invitation to slam and bid 6 NT.

You have 11 top tricks and can easily set up one more in ♣s.

**Deal 6**East Deals  
None Vul

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

**16**    **3**  
**16**    **16**  
**5**

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
4 NT	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
6 NT by East			

♠ 9 8 7 6 4

♥ 10

♦ K 9 6 5

♣ 8 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 10 5

♥ Q 9 8

♦ A Q 4

♣ A J 9

♠ 2

♥ J 6 5 4 3 2

♦ J 7 3

♣ K 4 2

You dealt so it is your bid. What do you say?

You open 1 NT and partner jumps to 4 NT.

This is the threequel to 4 and 5. With a "good 16" points you accept the invitation and bid 6 NT.

As you might expect, this time the slam is not so certain, but there is a good chance. If either Minor suit finesse works you can make 12 tricks.

**Deal 7**

West Deals

None Vul

**♠** K Q 6  
**♥** Q 5  
**♦** A J 7 4  
**♣** K 10 9 6

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

	N		
W		E	
	S		

**♠** 5 4  
**♥** A K 8 4 2  
**♦** 10 8 2  
**♣** A 8 3

**10**    **15**  
**11**    **4**

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Surprise - you open 1 NT. Partner responds 2 ♥. What do you bid next? (no transfers in this lesson)

Pass. Partner has long ♥s (probably 6) and short points (fewer than 9). He has decided that 2 ♥ will be a better spot than 1 NT. Trust him.

**Deal 8**North Deals  
None Vul

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

6  
 17 9  
 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 8  
 ♥ Q J 10 7 3  
 ♦ J 5 3  
 ♣ A 7 3

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

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You open 1 NT and partner replies 3 ♥. What do you say next?

With this bidding method, partner's bid shows at least 10 points and exactly 5 ♥s. He expects you to choose between 3 NT and 4 ♥. Since you have just a doubleton in ♥s you choose 3 NT.

NOTE: Jacoby Transfers are very useful for this type of hand.

**Deal 9**West Deals  
None Vul

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

9  
 9 5  
 17

♠ J 10 9 7 3

♥ A 8 2  
 ♦ 6 2

♣ A 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Yes this is exactly the same hand you held in Deal 8. You still open 1 NT. This time partner responds 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner shows T+ points and exactly 5 ♠s. This time, with 3-card support, you choose game in ♠s, knowing there is an 8-card fit.

<b>Deal 10</b>	♠ J 4 2		
North Deals	♥ J 10 7 6		
None Vul	♦ 6 5		
	♣ A 5 4 3		
♠ A 10 9	♠ K Q 6		
♥ 8 3	♥ K Q 4		
♦ A K J 10 8 2	♦ Q 7 4		
♣ J 8	♣ K 10 9 6		
	♠ 8 7 5 3		
6	♥ A 9 5 2		
13 15	♦ 9 3		
6	♣ Q 7 2		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by East			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You open 1 NT and partner says 3 ♦. It's your bid.

Partner has a great hand. A jump to 3 in a Minor suit almost always shows slam interest. But that's partner with interest, not you. You couldn't have a more minimum 1 NT opening bid.

So you just return to 3 NT. Partner gives up and passes.

**Deal 11**

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

<sup>17</sup> 5    4 <sup>14</sup>	♠ 3 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ K J 3 ♣ A Q 8 7 5 4
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West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣
ALL	Pass		

6 ♣ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You open 1 NT and partner responds 3 ♣. What is your next bid?

Partner's jump to 3 ♣ shows at least 5 ♣s and slam interest. Your hand is good enough to encourage that interest so you bypass 3 NT and say 4 ♣. Partner now bids 4 NT. What do you answer?

That is Blackwood. You admit to one Ace and partner bids 6 ♣.

**Deal 12**

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1♦	1 NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

2♥ by West

W	N	E	S
♠	K 9 6	♥	K J 6 4
♦	A Q 4	♣	Q J 5

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

A 1 NT overcall is almost the same as a 1 NT opening. The range is increased to 15-18, but the main difference is that you must have the opponent's suit adequately stopped. Here you certainly have the stopper so you bid 1 NT. Partner responds 2♥. What do you bid next?

And the responses are the same also. Partner's 2♥ bid is a signoff bid, often called a "drop dead" bid. So even though you really like the ♥s you pass.

**Deal 13**

South Deals

None Vul

**♠ 9 4 3****♥ Q J 10 7 6****♦ 9 3****♣ K J 3****7 8  
20**

	N	
W		E
	S	

**♠ 6 5**  
**♥ A 4**  
**♦ K J 10 8 6 2**  
**♣ 6 5 4**

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

West      North      East      South

2 NT

Pass      **3 ♠**

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

4 ♠ by North

You dealt so it is your bid. What do you say?

With a balanced 20 point hand you open 2 NT. Partner responds 3 ♠. What do you bid next?

Partner is showing a 5-card ♠ suit and at least 5 points. This is a forcing bid; you are to choose between 3 NT and 4 ♠, depending on your ♠ holding. With three of them you bid 4 ♠.

**Deal 14**North Deals  
None Vul

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

**10**  
 8    15  
 7

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

♠ Q 5

♥ 9 7 5 3

♦ A 9 5 3

♣ A 10 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6  
 ♥ A J 6  
 ♦ K J 6 2  
 ♣ Q 8 6 4

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have 8 points. Even if partner has the maximum 17 it would only add to 25, which is probably not enough to make game. You should pass.

**Deal 15**

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



♠ A Q 2  
9  
6 8  
17  
♦ Q 8 3  
♣ K Q 10 4

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 9 points you have just enough strength for an invitation. So you bid 2 NT. Partner then says 3 NT and everybody passes.

**Deal 16**

West Deals  
None Vul

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

**16**  
**5**  
**12**  
**7**

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ J 9 8 6 4  
♥ 5 4 3  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by West			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

A balanced hand with 12 points. Even if partner has just 15 points you want to be in game. So you bid 3 NT.

**Deal 17**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 5 2

♥ K Q 9

♦ J 7

♣ A 10 9 7

♠ J 10 9 6

♥ A 6 2

♦ Q 8 2

♣ Q J 2



♠ K 8 4

♥ J 8 4 3

♦ 5 3

♣ K 5 4 3

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

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have just 9 points, only 7 of which are HCP. Still, that ♦ suit is very likely to provide 5 or 6 tricks. Take a risk and bid 3 NT.

**Deal 18**East Deals  
None Vul

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

16 4  
15 5

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

♠ 10 9 8 2

♥ 10 5 2

♦ 10 9 5

♣ A 9 2

N  
W E  
S

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

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With partner's 15, 16 or 17 points added to your 16 the total assets are 31, 32 or 33. That's only one chance in 3 of having the points you need for slam. On the other hand you have a pretty good 16. So you bid 4 NT, inviting partner to bid the slam. He will pass if he has only 15, so the worst thing that can happen is that he puts you in slam with only 32 points.

So you bid 4 NT and guess what? He passes.

**Deal 19**  
South Deals  
None Vul

♠ J 5 3  
♥ Q 9 7 6  
♦ 9 8 3  
♣ 7 6 5

13  
3 4  
20

N  
W E  
S

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

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

*West*      *North*      *East*      *South*  
Pass      6 NT      Pass      2 NT  
Pass  
6 NT by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Do the math. If partner only has 20 points you still come to 34 points, enough for the slam. If you want to use Gerber to check for Aces, go ahead. Or, just bid 6 NT.

**Deal 20**

East Deals

None Vul

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



♠ A 10 3	♦ Q 7
♦ A 10 7 5	♣ A J 6 2

♠ K	♦ 6 3
♦ A J 8 6 3 2	♣ K 9 8 5

11	15
3	11

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 ♠ by West			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have a terrible hand and partner is not going to make 1 NT. So you bid 2 ♠, the Drop-dead bid. You don't expect to make this either, but it will probably end up better than 1 NT would have.

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Since partner opened 1 NT he has at least 2 ♥s and you are assured of an 8-card fit. The only question is how high. With 10 points you are in the judgement zone.

But unless you play Jacoby Transfers there isn't a method for inviting with this kind of hand. You have to decide for yourself and bid either 2 ♥ or 4 ♥. Take the optimistic view and bid the game.

As you see, it is going to take some luck.

**Deal 22**West Deals  
None Vul

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

7  
 15 12  
 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

♠ A 6 3 2  
 ♥ Q 9 2  
 ♦ 10 3  
 ♣ 10 6 3 2

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

4 ♠ by East

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 13 points you must either bid game or make a bid that forces partner to game. If partner has 3 or more ♠s then the game should be 4 ♠. If partner has only a doubleton ♠ then the game should be 3 NT. Only partner can decide, and the bid that tells him to make the decision is 3 ♠.

Partner has 3 of them so he bids 4 ♠.

**Deal 23**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 9 7 4

♥ Q 4 2

♦ 8 4 2

♣ 4 2

♠ A J 3

♥ A J 6 5

♦ K 5

♣ Q J 6 3


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

♠ 8 5

♥ K 7

♦ A 10 9

♣ A K 10 8 7 5

 16  
 5 5  
 14

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 ♣ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 16 points you may be in slam range. You should alert partner of your big hand by jumping to 3 ♣. Partner says 4 ♣ and it is your bid again.

Don't make the mistake of bidding Blackwood when you have a doubleton-nothing in a suit. If partner has only one Ace you will be left not knowing what to do. Instead make a control-bid showing your ♦ A. Now partner bids 6 ♣ which ends the auction.

**Deal 24**West Deals  
None Vul

♠ K Q 9  
 ♥ A J 10  
 ♦ A Q 2  
 ♣ A J 10 4

9  
**21** 3  
 7

♠ A 10 7 6 3  
 ♥ K 6 5 4 3 2  
 ♦ —

♣ Q 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have 5 points, all in ♦s. That will take the partnership total to either 25 or 26, so you have a judgement call. If partner is unable to establish your ♦s then even 2 NT will probably be too high, so you might as well assume that he will be able to use them and bid 3 NT.

You hit the jackpot.

**Deal 25**  
North Deals  
None Vul

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You and partner better have a good agreement on which Ace-asking convention you use because you're going to use it now. Let's say it is Gerber.

You bid 4 ♣ and partner replies 4 ♠. What do you bid next?

Missing one Ace you settle for the small slam.