

Deal 1

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

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



14	♠ J 8 4
7 7	♥ A 2
12	♦ K 10 9 6 3
	♣ K J 4

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

After North's 1 ♥ opening South counts 12 HCP plus one length point for the fifth ♦. That is enough for a 2/1 response so South says 2 ♦.

The partnership is now forced to reach game so North bids 2 NT. This describes a balanced hand with exactly 5 ♥s and no 4-card ♠ suit.

South is happy to play in Notrump, and with no extra strength above the 13 points already promised, uses Quick Arrival and bids 3 NT. North passes and a reasonable game contract is reached.

Notice that you would bid this hand the same way whether or not you play 2/1.

Deal 2
 East Deals
 None Vul

	♠ A Q 10 7 3		
	♥ 9 7 6		
	♦ 8 2		
	♣ 10 9 8		
♠ K J 8	♠ 6 5		
♥ A 2	♥ K Q J 8 4 3		
♦ K 10 9 6 3	♦ A 5		
♣ K J 4	♣ Q 6 3		
	♠ 9 4 2		
	♥ 10 5		
	♦ Q J 7 4		
	♣ A 7 5 2		
West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4 ♥ by East			

passes.

The hand would have been bid the same with or without 2/1.

East opens 1 ♥ and West, with 16 points, responds 2 ♦, forcing the partnership to game.

East has a minimum strength hand, but with a 6-card suit he rebids 2 ♥.

Opposite East's 6-card suit, West's doubleton is adequate support. If West had a minimum for her 2/1 response she might just jump to 4 ♥ to show no interest in slam. With a little extra she bids 3 ♥ since she knows the bidding cannot stop until game is reached. From West's perspective East might have a big hand; his 2-level rebid shows suit length but does not say anything about strength. This is one of the beauties of 2/1, the bidding can be kept low while you look for the best place to play. However, this time East merely bids the game and West

Deal 3South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 7 3 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ J 10 8 4
 ♣ Q 8 5 2

¹⁵
 3 6
¹⁶
 ♠ K 5
 ♥ K Q J 7 4 3
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ A K 4

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



♠ Q 6
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ A K Q 6 3
 ♣ 7 6 3

♠ A J 10 8 4

♥ 10 9 6

♦ 9 2

♣ J 10 9

With 16+ points and 3 ♥s, North will insist on a ♥ game at a minimum. But there is no need to start making jump bids, she starts with a simple 2 ♦ bid. South also refrains from a jump, and rebids 2 ♥ to show the 6-card suit.

North now says 3 ♥ to set the trump suit. At this point South reveals some slam interest, making a control-showing bid of 4 ♣. North continues the process, and bids 4 ♦, showing the ♦ A.

South has heard enough. He bids 4 NT, and when North admits to two Aces he bids the slam.

Deal 4

West Deals	♠ 4 2		
None Vul	♥ Q J		
	♦ A K Q 10 8 3		
	♣ 9 8 5		
♠ A K J 8 6 5	♠ Q		
♥ 4 3	♥ A 9 8 6 5		
♦ 7 5	♦ 9 6 2		
♣ K 6 3	♣ A 7 4 2		
	♠ 10 9 7 3		
12	♥ K 10 7 2		
11 10	♦ J 4		
7	♣ Q J 10		
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 ♠ by West			

West has a minimum 1♠ opening bid. After North's 2♦ overcall both West and East know that the 2/1 Game Force is no longer on. East can therefore bid 2♥, showing at least 11 points. This bid is forcing on West for 1 round, but not forcing to game.

West next rebids his ♠s, promising a 6-card suit, but also indicating a minimum strength hand! Since the Game Force is not on, West would have to make a jump bid to show extra strength.

East has nothing further to say so the partnership arrives in a safe contract.

Deal 5North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 2
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ 4 3 2
 ♣ K Q 7 3 2

11
 9 7
 13

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 9 6 5
 ♥ A K 8 4 3
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ 4

♠ 8 7 3
 ♥ J 9 2
 ♦ K Q 10 9 8
 ♣ J 5

♠ Q 4
 ♥ Q 10 7
 ♦ A J 6
 ♣ A 10 9 8 6

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

North opens 1 ♠, the higher ranking of the two 5-card suits.

South, with 14 points, responds 2 ♣, forcing the partnership to game.

North now bids his ♥ suit.

At this point South figures North for 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s. South cannot support either of North's Majors, but with a good stopper in the fourth suit bids 2 NT. The game force is still on and North may not pass this bid.

North bids 3 ♥, indicating that this is also a 5-card suit. Now South can bid the ♥ game, knowing there is an 8-card fit.

Deal 6

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



⁶ ¹² ⁹	¹³ ¹² ⁹	⁶ ¹³ ¹² ⁹	¹³ ¹² ⁹
♠ A J 10 7 4	♦ A 9 5	♣ 7 2	♥ K 10 7
		♠ K 2	♥ J 8 2
		♦ 7 4	♦ 7 4
		♣ A J 10 8 4 3	♣ A J 10 8 4 3

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
 Pass Pass
 4 ♥ by East

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

West, knowing that East has 5, bids 3 ♥ to confirm the trump suit.

East has a minimum strength hand with no slam aspirations, so he uses Fast Arrival and bids 4 ♥. West 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 7	♠ 7		
South Deals	♥ A K 7 5		
None Vul	♦ K 7 6 2		
	♣ K Q 10 6		
♠ 8 3	♠ Q J 10 4		
♥ J 6	♥ Q 4 2		
♦ Q J 10 8 5	♦ A 9 3		
♣ J 4 3 2	♣ 9 7 5		
	♠ A K 9 6 5 2		
15 5 9 11	♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ 4 ♣ A 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			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 8

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 7 5
♥ K 4
♦ A Q J 10 7
♣ K 9 7

8
13 13
6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ A 5 4

♠ A K 9 2
♥ A Q 9 8 3
♦ 8 5
♣ 8 6

♠ Q 3
♥ J 10 5
♦ 6 4 2
♣ Q J 10 3 2

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

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

East next bids 2 ♠, showing the other Major suit. In standard bidding East would not be able to bid the ♠s since that would be a Reverse and East 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.

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

East does not have either 6 ♥s or 5 ♠s so he just bids 3 NT. Notice that East 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 9
 North Deals
 None Vul

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



♠ Q 3 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ J 10 4 2 ♣ 10 9 4 3
--

♠ K 8 ♥ J 10 7 ♦ 9 7 5 ♣ A K J 6 2

13
 7 8
12

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

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

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

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

North now must find a bid. His choices include rebidding the 5-card ♠s, supporting South'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 10

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

7	♠ Q 8
17 13	♥ 4
3	♦ J 9 6 3 2
	♣ 10 9 6 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	ALL
Pass			
6 ♥ by East			



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

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

West now shows her control by bidding 4 ♣.

That was what East 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 West hand, and if that fails try the ♣ finesse.

Deal 11

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7 4
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ 10 7 5
♣ 9 8 6

¹⁴
3 6
₁₇

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

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 7 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ A K J 10 4



♠ K Q 5 2
♥ 6 2
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ 5 3 2

♠ A J 10
♥ A K 9 8 5
♦ K 9 6
♣ Q 7

South opens 1 ♥ and North responds 2 ♣. Using standard bidding South would now jump to 3 NT to show his 19 points, but in 2/1 this is not necessary since the partnership must not stop bidding until game is reached. So South just bids 2 NT. North shows her minimum by bidding 3 NT.

South will now disclose his extra strength. He bids 4 NT. This is not Blackwood, but rather a quantitative raise in Notrump, and an invitation to slam.

North has 15 points, and they are good ones. She accepts the invitation and bids 6 NT.

There are 11 top tricks. A 3-3 ♥ split would provide the 12th winner, but this is against the odds. Better to try two ♠

finesses, a 75% chance.

Deal 12

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A J 8 7 5 2

♥ A K

♦ Q 6

♣ J 8 7

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

N

W E S

♠ K 10

♥ J 9 5 2

♦ 10 7 2

♣ A 5 3 2

West

North

East

South

1 ♠

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by West

West opens 1 ♠ and East responds 2 ♦. West has a pretty good hand, 17 points, but no stopping power in the minor suits. Also, West's ♠ suit is pretty ragged. Taking these points into consideration, West should just rebid his 6-card suit.

East should now jump to 4 ♠. This is Fast Arrival, indicating a minimum hand with no particular interest in slam.

West is happy to rest in the game contract.

Even with a combined 30 points, T tricks are certainly not a sure thing. West must hope that South holds the trump King.

Deal 13

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 7
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 6 3 2
♣ Q J 9 6 2

16
5 7
12

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

♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J
♣ 10 8 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
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 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

	♠ 9 8 6 4 3		
	♥ 9 6		
	♦ A 10 9		
	♣ 10 9 6		
♠ Q J 2	♠ A		
♥ K 10	♥ A Q J 7 5 3		
♦ K Q 8 6 5	♦ 7 4 2		
♣ Q 8 7	♣ K J 4		
	♠ K 10 7 5		
4	♥ 8 4 2		
13 15	♦ J 3		
8	♣ A 5 3 2		
West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
4 ♥ by East			

East opens 1 ♥ and West responds 2 ♦.

East 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 East holds 6 ♥s, West can support with the honor doubleton so he agrees the trump suit with a Fast Arrival bid of 4 ♥.

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

Deal 15North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 5
 ♥ A 9 8 2
 ♦ A 9 8
 ♣ J 6 3

¹²
 9 10
 9

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

♠ A Q 8 6 2
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ K 6 5
 ♣ K 8 7

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

♠ J
 ♥ K Q J 7 5 3
 ♦ 4 3 2
 ♣ Q 5 4

N
 W E
 S

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

North 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. South now shows the ♥ suit that she could not bid first round.

North 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 South's first response would be 2 ♥, and North 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 16East Deals
None Vul

♠ K
♥ K 7 5 3
♦ A 10 3 2
♣ J 9 5 4

6
11 17
6

West
1 NT
2 NT
Pass
3 NT by West

♠ J 10 9 3
♥ Q 10 8 6
♦ J 4
♣ Q 10 6

N
W E
S

♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ A 4
♦ 9 5
♣ A K 8 7

♠ 7 5 4
♥ J 9 2
♦ K Q 8 7 6
♣ 3 2

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

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

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

East is happy to play Notrump. He assumes West 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.

Deal 17

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10
♥ K 8 2
♦ Q J 6
♣ K Q 8 6 3

11
12 10
7



♠ 8 6 2
♥ A Q J 7 5 3
♦ 9 5
♣ A 2

♠ A Q 7 4 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ 9 7

♠ K 9 5
♥ 10 6
♦ K 10 3 2
♣ J 10 5 4

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

North opens 1 ♥. South responds 1 NT, just as in standard bidding. The difference is that in this case the 1 NT response is forcing on North.

North has an easy second bid, he rebids his 6-card suit. South has nothing to say over 2 ♥ except pass.

Notice that this is the same bidding and same final contract that would have been reached with standard bidding. Using 2/1 is often like that.

Deal 18East Deals
None Vul

	♠ 8 4		
	♥ Q 3		
	♦ J 3		
	♣ K J 9 8 7 6 3		
♠ K J 2		♠ A Q 10 9 5	
♥ 8 7 4		♥ 10 9 6	
♦ A Q 9 7 5		♦ K 10 8 6	
♣ Q 2		♣ A	
	♠ 7 6 3		
12 7	♥ A K J 5 2		
13 8	♦ 4 2		
	♣ 10 5 4		
West	North	East	South
2 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♠ by East		Pass	Pass

East opens 1♠. West responds 2♦, a 2/1 force to game.

East cannot rebid her ♠s, but has decent support for partner's ♦s. So she bids 3♦.

West always intended to play a ♠ contract. He now bids 4♠, using Fast Arrival to indicate he has no slam aspirations.

4♠ is cold, and if the defenders don't take their ♥ tricks immediately East will make an overtrick.

Deal 19

North Deals	♠ K 9 2		
None Vul	♥ A K 8 7 4		
	♦ K 10 7		
	♣ 10 8		
♠ Q 7 3	♠ A 8 5 4		
♥ J 10 6 5 3 2	♥ Q		
♦ A Q 4	♦ J 9 6 2		
♣ 4	♣ A 7 6 3		
	♠ J 10 6		
9 13	♥ 9		
7 11	♦ 8 5 3		
	♣ K Q J 9 5 2		
West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Dbl	2 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♣ by South			

North opens 1 ♥ and East Doubles.

After the intervening Takeout Double 2/1 is OFF. If South had T or more points she would Redouble. So even with only 9 points South can bid 2 ♣ without fear that North will think she has a strong hand.

North also knows everything mentioned above so he passes.

Deal 20

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

4
 15 15
 6 ♠ 10
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ Q 10 8 7 6 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♡	Pass	3 ♢	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♣	ALL

Pass
 4 ♣ by West

West opens 1 ♠. East responds 2 ♦, a 2/1 force to game.

West has a big hand, perhaps in the slam range, but first priority is to set a trump suit. So she contents herself with a rebid of 2 ♡. East agrees on trumps by bidding 3 ♡ (not Fast Arrival).

West now makes her slam try by using a Control-showing cue-bid. She bids 4 ♣, showing first round control of the suit (Ace or Void).

East's next bid would be a control-showing bid of her own - IF SHE HAD ONE. Since she cannot win the first round of either red suit she just returns to 4 ♠. West realizes that they are off two red Aces and passes.

Notice that West did not fall into the Blackwood trap. If she HAD asked for Aces, East would have shown one Ace and West wouldn't know what to do next. She might have figured the odds favored that one Ace being a red one and tried the slam. Moral: Don't use Blackwood when you have a void.

Deal 21South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 6
♥ 10 5
♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ Q 8 7 6 2

14
5 7
14

	N		E	
W				S

♠ Q 9 5 3
♥ J 9 6 4
♦ 9 6
♣ A 4 3

♠ A J 10 8 2
♥ A K 8 2
♦ Q 2
♣ 10 5

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 ♠. North responds 2 ♦, a 2/1 force to game.

South's priority is to now show the 4-card ♥ suit. Remember that North might also have 4 ♥s.

North doesn't have 4 ♥s, nor does she have 3 ♠s. She does, however, have stoppers in ♣s so she bids 2 NT. South happily says 3 NT.

Deal 22
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

East opens 1♠. West responds 2♦, a 2/1 force to game.

East's priority is to now show the 4-card ♥ suit. Remember that West might also have 4 ♥s.

West doesn't have 4 ♥s, nor does she have 3 ♠s. Furthermore, she does not have stoppers in ♣s so she cannot bid NT. Since she has to keep bidding, but has no reasonable bid she can make, she bids the fourth suit, 3♣. Compare this Deal with Deal 21.

East understands that West's ♣ bid is Fourth-Suit-Forcing, and does not actually show ♣s. However since East does have a ♣ stopper he bids 3 NT. In this case this turns out to be the best game contract.

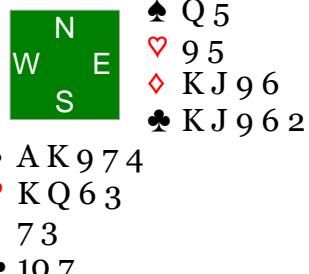
Deal 23

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 6 3
♥ J 10 8 7 4
♦ Q 10
♣ A 4 3

10
8 **10**
12



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

North passes and South opens **1 ♠**.

North now bids **2 ♦**. Since North originally passed this is NOT 2/1 Game Force. Instead, it is forcing for one round and shows 11 or more points.

South next shows her 4-card ♥ suit. North gives a preference to **2 ♠**.

Knowing that North does not have opening strength South passes **2 ♠**.

Deal 24West Deals
None Vul**♠ K Q 10 6 2****♥ A 7 4****♦ 8 4****♣ A 8 5****♠ A 8****♥ Q 5****♦ K J 9 5****♣ J 10 9 7 2****♠ 7 4****♥ 9 8 6 3****♦ A 7 6 2****♣ K Q 3****♠ J 9 5 3****♥ K J 10 2****♦ Q 10 3****♣ 6 4****11
13 9
7**

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

West opens 1♠. With 9 points and a doubleton ♠ East must respond 1 NT.

In standard bidding West would happily pass a 1 NT response. But in 2/1 the 1 NT response is forcing for 1 round. West is forced to bid a 3-card minor so he says 2♣.

East prefers ♣ over ♠ but must allow for the possibility that West has bid a 3-card suit. So East gives a preference to 2♠. This is called a "false preference", but it assures the team of being in at least a 7-card fit.

West happily passes and the pair lands in a reasonable contract, probably better than 1 NT.

Deal 25
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

¹⁷
 3 7
₁₃

♠ Q 6
 ♥ A K Q 9 7 2
 ♦ 9 8 4
 ♣ A Q

♠ J 5
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K 10 5 2
 ♣ K 10 8 7 6 2

♠ A K 8 7 4
 ♥ J 8 6
 ♦ A J 6
 ♣ 9 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	6 ♥	ALL	Pass
6 ♥ by North			

South opens 1 ♠. North has a mountain, but there is seldom a need to jump-shift when using 2/1. He bids 2 ♥.

South's priority on her first rebid is to agree trumps if possible. Knowing North has at least a 5-card suit, she bids 3 ♥.

North naturally feels slammish, and shows it with a control-showing cue-bid, 4 ♣. Do not even THINK this might be Gerber.

South doesn't have any extra strength, but that doesn't matter. With South making a slam try she should cooperate by showing her ♦ control. It is important to realize that South isn't showing any extra strength, she is merely going along with North.

North asks for Aces and gets two. He decides to find out about Kings, if South happens to have three he will bid 7 NT. When South shows just one North settles for 6 ♥. This should be a good slam, needing only a decent ♠ break.

Deal 26East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 4
♥ Q J 6
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ A 9 6 3

10
11 **13**
6

West
1 NT
3 ♠
Pass
4 ♠ by East

♠ K 10 9
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ A 10
♣ Q J 10 8

N
W E
S

♠ 5 2
♥ 10 5 3
♦ K Q J 9 5 3
♣ 4 2

North *East* *South*
Pass 1 ♠ Pass
Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass 4 ♠ Pass

East opens 1 ♠. With 11 points West cannot respond 2 ♣. So she bids 1 NT, which is forcing for 1 round.

East's first priority is to show a 4-card ♥ suit. Since he doesn't have one his next priority is to rebid the 6-card ♠s.

West is strong enough to invite, and with the known 8-card fit she says 3 ♠.

East has a little extra so he bids 4 ♠, which is a pretty good contract.

Deal 27South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 5
 ♥ K 7 6 4
 ♦ K 9 5 4
 ♣ 10 9 8

13
 6 10
 11

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



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

♠ Q J 9 8 4 2
 ♥ A J 9 5
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ K

♠ A K 3

♥ 8 2
 ♦ Q 10 7 2
 ♣ J 7 5 3

South opens 1 ♠. Perhaps a little marginal, but you don't pass 13 point hands. North has a good 2/1 response of 2 ♣.

South's first priority is to show a 4-card ♥ suit, so he does. North wouldn't dare support ♥s with only three cards, but has a good 2 NT bid.

South is not happy in notrump so rebids the 6-card major, 3 ♠. North's two ♠s are enough support so she bids the ♠ game.

Deal 28

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 7 5 3
♥ 8 7
♦ K Q 6
♣ Q 9 5

8
12 11
9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 8
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ A 7 4

♠ 10 4
♥ J 4
♦ A 10 5 4
♣ K J 10 8 2

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

West opens 1 ♠. East cannot say 2 ♥ because he only has 11 points, and also because he only has 4 ♥s. So he bids 1 NT (forcing for 1 round).

West rebids 2 ♣, a 3-card suit. East now jumps to 3 ♠, showing limit-raise strength. This sequence is the way to show a limit-raise with only 3 trumps; an immediate jump-raise to the 3-level shows a limit-raise with 4 trumps.

In any case West has a bare minimum and passes the invitation.