

**Deal 1**

West Deals	♠ A J 10 6 2
None Vul	♥ A 6 2
	♦ Q J
	♣ 10 8 7

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

<b>12</b>	♠ A J 10 6 2
7 5	♥ A 6 2
<b>16</b>	♦ Q J 9 6 2

<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 South			



North opens 1 ♠. South 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 South bids just 2 ♥, knowing North must keep the bidding open.

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

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

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

This is a good slam, cold if West makes any opening lead other than a ♣. With a ♣ lead, South 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

<sup>13</sup>  
8 4  
<sup>15</sup>  
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

N

W E

S

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**North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 10 9 5  
 ♥ A 9 8 2  
 ♦ A 9 8  
 ♣ J 6 3

<sup>12</sup>  
 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

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

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 4**North Deals  
None Vul

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

<sup>17</sup>  
 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	
	♠ K	♠ 7 5 4
	♥ K 7 5 3	♥ J 9 2
	♦ A 10 3 2	♦ K Q 8 7 6
	♣ J 9 5 4	♣ 3 2

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.