

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 7 6
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ A 3

20
6 3
11

♠ A J 8 5

♥ K J

♦ A K 8

♣ K J 9 6

♠ 9 3

♥ 8

♦ J 7 5 4 3 2

♣ Q 10 5 2

♠ K Q 4 2

♥ A Q 10 9 4 3

♦ —

♣ 8 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♣ by North



North opens 2 NT. What do you respond?

Wow! Start thinking slam, but first things first. Find the suit by starting with Stayman. You bid 3 ♣ and partner replies 3 ♠. What do you say next?

Your hand revalues to 16 points now that you know there's a ♠ fit. So certainly you want to be in slam as long as there are not two quick ♣ losers. At this point you might try something like a 4 ♦ cue bid, hoping partner will read that as a slam try in ♠s, but denying the ♣ control. But that seems awfully easy to be misunderstood. We suggest an immediate 6 ♠.

Good thing it's being played by North, right?

Deal 2
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 9 6 5
♥ 7 5 2
♦ K 10
♣ K 4 3

3
10 12
15



♠ Q 7 4 2
♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ J 8 7 6 3
♣ —

♠ A 8 3
♥ A K 6 4
♦ Q 5 2
♣ Q 8 7

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

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Your first thought should be that with only 4 points you will pass. But on second thought, what would partner respond if you bid a Stayman 2 ♣? So you give it a shot and partner says 2 ♥. What next?

What's next is your PASS. And if he had bid 2 ♪ you also would have passed. And if he had bid 2 ♦ you also would have passed. You figured that with this hand any response partner could make would be a better place than 1 NT.

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 4
♥ Q 8 7
♦ K 10 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 4

¹⁷
5 6
₁₂

♠ A K 7 3

♥ A 9 5

♦ 9 8 2

♣ A Q 2

♠ Q J 8 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ Q J 7
♣ K 10 8

♠ 9 6 2
♥ J 10 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ J 9 5 3

N
W E
S

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

North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

With 12 points and a 4-card ♠ suit this fits the model for Stayman.

But thinking a little further, with this 4-3-3-3 distribution you have no ruffing values whatsoever. So even if partner also has 4 ♠s there might not be an advantage in playing the suit contract. So for this specific distribution you ignore your 4-card Major and just bid 3 NT.

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 7
♥ 10 9 8 6 5
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ 6 3 2

♠ A Q 10 6

♥ Q 7

♦ 10 9 5

♣ K 9 7 4

N
W E
S

♠ K J 5 4 3 2
♥ A 3 2
♦ K 6
♣ Q J

♠ 9 8
♥ K J 4
♦ A Q J 7
♣ A 10 8 5

¹¹
O ¹⁴
¹⁵

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

After you open 1 NT partner bids 2 ♣, then East says 2 ♠. What do you say next?

Basically you said your say when you opened 1 NT. You don't have a 4-card Major and you have a minimum hand. The best way to convey this information to partner is to pass. At which point partner jumps to 3 NT. What do you say?

Pass, then "Thank you partner" when dummy comes down. The thing to remember is that partner is in charge. You describe your hand as well as you can and then sit back and let him make the decisions. Perhaps you would have doubled if you held his hand but he didn't.