

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



♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J
♣ 10 8 7

♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ J 7
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ K 5 3

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

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 2

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 8 6 5

♣ Q 8 7

4
13 15
8

West

2 ♦

4 ♥

4 ♥ by East

♠ 9 8 6 4 3

♥ 9 6

♦ A 10 9

♣ 10 9 6

N
W E
S

♠ K 10 7 5

♥ 8 4 2

♦ J 3

♣ A 5 3 2

North

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♥

2 ♥

Pass

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

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 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 9 5

♥ A 9 8 2

♦ A 9 8

♣ J 6 3

12
9 10
9

♠ A Q 8 6 2

♥ 10 4

♦ K 6 5

♣ K 8 7



♠ J

♥ K Q J 7 5 3

♦ 4 3 2

♣ Q 5 4

♠ K 7 4 3

♥ 6

♦ Q J 10 7

♣ A 10 9 2

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

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

East 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



♠ 7 5 4
♥ J 9 2
♦ K Q 8 7 6
♣ 3 2

North

Pass

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♠

2 ♣

3 NT

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ A 4
♦ 9 5
♣ A K 8 7

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.