

Deal 1

North Deals	♠ A 10		
None Vul	♥ A K 7 6		
	♦ A 8 5		
	♣ A K J 5		
♠ 9 7 2	♠ 5		
♥ Q 9 5	♥ J 10 8 4 2		
♦ 10 9 7 3	♦ 6 2		
♣ 9 6 3	♣ Q 10 8 4 2		
23 2 3 12	♠ K Q J 8 6 4 3 ♥ 3 ♦ K Q J 4 ♣ 7		
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	7 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
7 NT by North			

Interesting hand. Too bad these only come up in lessons and never at the table! You could jump right into Ace-asking but there is no rush so you say 2 ♠. Partner now rebids 2 NT. What do you say?

Now you know all about partner's hand. 22-24 points, balanced. Now ask for Aces. If you agree that 4 ♣ is Gerber here then that's what you should bid. If not, then you would have to use Blackwood. Partner answers 4 ♦. What do you say?

The 4 ♦ reply says either zero or all four. Put your money on all four and bid 7 NT.

Deal 2

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q J 2
♥ K Q J
♦ J 6
♣ K Q J 8

2
20 14
4

N
W E
S

♠ 6 5 4
♥ A 9 8 6
♦ 7 2
♣ 9 6 4 2

♠ K 10 9 8 3
♥ 2
♦ A K 10 4
♣ A 7 3

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

With 15 points and a nice 5-card suit you respond 1 ♠. Partner jumps to 4 ♠. What do you say?

Do NOT say "Partner bid a close-out bid so I'll pass." Partner's bid means he thinks you can make 4 ♠ even though he is only counting you for 6 points. Since you have 15+ now you want to go for more. You bid 4 NT and partner answers 5 ♦. What do you say next?

Partner has 1 Ace so you can go no higher than 6. Although you can't tell for sure that slam will make, remember you used Blackwood just to be sure you weren't missing two Aces. You are not and you have enough points so you bid it. Although you can see that 6 NT would have been a great contract you had to take the safer 6 ♠.

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ 6 5 4 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ K J 10 6 ♣ 4 3 2	♠ Q 10 9 2 ♥ A J 4 3 ♦ Q 7 ♣ Q 10 6
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	♠ 7 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A 5 4 3 2 ♣ J 9 8 7 5
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11 4 5 20	♠ A K J 8 3 ♥ K Q 7 6 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A K
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♠ by South			

You dealt this hand.

You aren't strong enough to open 2 ♣ so you bid 1 ♠. Partner responds 3 ♠. What do you say?

Partner's limit-raise shows 11-12 points and you revalue your hand up to 22. So you are definitely in slam territory. You hope partner has 2 Aces but you cannot use Blackwood with that worthless doubleton in ♦s. Instead you make a control-showing bid of 4 ♣. Partner then bids 4 ♥. What do you bid next?

The good news is that partner's control-showing bid says he has the ♥ A. The bad news is that he bypassed ♦s so he does not have the ♦ A. Since you may have 2 quick losers in ♦s you sign off at 4 ♠.

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 4 3
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ A 9
♣ Q J 6

17 3
16 4

♠ J 10 2
♥ 10 9 5 3 2
♦ Q 4
♣ 9 8 7

N
W E
S

♠ Q 8 5
♥ A K 4
♦ K J 10
♣ K 10 4 3

♠ 9 7 6
♥ 7
♦ 8 7 6 5 3 2
♣ A 5 2

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

Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You have a textbook 1 NT opener, so you open 1 NT. Partner says 4 NT. What do you bid?

THIS IS NOT BLACKWOOD. Partner's bid is the Quantitative 4 NT. He has 16 points and is inviting you to bid slam if you have a maximum opener, but to pass with a minimum. Since your 17 point hand is at the top of the 1 NT range you accept the invitation and bid 6 NT.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10
♥ Q 10 2
♦ 10 9 8 6
♣ J 6 5 4

12
7 5
16

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♥ by North

♠ 9 6 4
♥ AJ 9 5 3
♦ A Q J 3
♣ 7

♠ 7 5 2
♥ —
♦ K 5 4 2
♣ Q 10 9 8 3 2

♠ K Q J 8 3
♥ K 8 7 6 4
♦ 7
♣ A K

You COULD make a Splinter Bid with this hand. You have a singleton ♦ and great trump support. However it is usually not worthwhile Splintering when you have the strong hand that will be taking control. Since what you really want to know is how many Aces partner has you just ask him with a 4 NT bid. Partner answers 5 ♥. What do you bid?

Missing one Ace you bid 6 ♥.