

Deal 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 7

♥ 6

♦ A Q 10 8 7 5

♣ A 10 6

♠ 10 9 8 5 3

♥ K J 8

♦ 9 2

♣ 8 5 4



♠ A Q

♥ 10 7 4

♦ K J 6 3

♣ K Q J 7

West

North

East

South

1 NT

Pass

3 ♦

Pass

4 ♦

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

6 ♦

ALL

Pass

6 ♦ by North

Partner's 3 ♦ bid shows a very good hand with probable slam interest. It is very tempting to say 3 NT now but you don't have ♥s stopped and don't know if partner does. So with good ♦ support you bid 4 ♦. Partner bids 4 NT. What is your response?

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠A and ♦K. But you don't have the ♦Q so you answer 5 ♥. Partner bids 6 ♦.

Deal 2
East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5 2
♥ Q J 5 2
♦ K J 3
♣ 8 2

11 7
3 19

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

♠ J 3
♥ 3
♦ A Q 10 7 5 4
♣ 10 5 4 3

♠ K 10 8
♥ A K 9 8 6 4
♦ —
♣ A K Q 7

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ 10 7
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ J 9 6

N
W E
S

Your partner's 3 ♥ is a limit-raise, 11-12 points with ♥ support. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you want to know is whether partner holds the ♠ A. If you bid 4 NT and he shows two Key-Cards all will be well, you will know they are the two missing Aces. But if he shows just 1 Key-Card you will be in the soup since you can't tell if that Key-Card is the useful ♠ A or the practically useless ♦ A. So you don't use RKCB, you use control-showing and bid 4 ♣. Partner says 4 ♥. What do you bid next?

Partner would have control-bid ♦s if he had the Ace. You may not think that helps but it does since now you can bid RKCB. You bid 4 NT and he answers 5 ♣. What is your next bid?

It was a lot of work but you have figured out that partner holds 11-12 points including one Key-Card which must be the ♠ A. It looks like the slam is a good idea so you say 6 ♥.

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

11	♦ —	♣ A Q 9 7 4
6 7	♦ —	♦ 8
16	♦ —	♦ A 6 3 2
	♦ —	♣ K Q J

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

6 ♠ by South

	N	
	W	
	E	
	S	

Your 4 ♦ bid is a Splinter Bid, showing opening hand strength, at least 4 ♠s, and a singleton or void in ♦s. Partner bids 4 NT.

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠K and the ♣A. So do you bid 5 ♥?

No. You have two Key-Cards AND a void. So you bid 5 NT. Partner bids 6 ♠.

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q J
 ♥ A 10 7 6
 ♦ A Q J
 ♣ Q J 9

3
20 13
 4

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

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

Your partner's 2 NT opener is 20-21 points and the 3 ♣ bid is Stayman. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

You know of 33 points and you know of an 8-card ♥ fit. The math tells you that 6 ♥ should be a good slam but you might as well check Key-Cards, that's why the convention was invented. So you bid 4 NT and partner answers 5 ♥. What do you say?

You say "Darn!" You are missing just one Key-Card, but you are also missing the trump Queen. And with partner holding only a 4-card suit that Queen might well win a trick. Knowing that at best the slam will depend on a trump finesse you pass 5 ♥.