

Deal 1

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ J 7
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ K 5 3

12
7 5
16

♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J
♣ 10 8 7



♠ K 5
♥ K Q 9 8 5 4 3
♦ A 4
♣ A 4

♠ Q 7
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 6 3 2
♣ Q J 9 6 2

West	North	East	South
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

13
8 4
15

♠ Q J 2

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 8 6 5

♣ Q 8 7



♠ A

♥ A Q J 7 5 3

♦ 7 4 2

♣ K J 4

♠ 9 8 6 4 3

♥ 9 6

♦ A 10 9

♣ 10 9 6

West	North	East	South
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			1 ♥
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Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
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Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
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Pass

4 ♥ by South

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

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

North Deals

None Vul

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

17
 6 6
 11

♠ A Q 8 6 2

♥ A 4

♦ 9 5

♣ A K 8 7



♠ K

♥ K 7 5 3

♦ A 10 3 2

♣ J 9 5 4

♠ 7 5 4

♥ J 9 2

♦ K Q 8 7 6

♣ 3 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			

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.