

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

W	N	E	S
		9 4	
		Q 10 9 6 3	

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

West North East South

1 NT

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by North

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♦.

What do you bid?

You obey partner and bid 2 ♥ but he then bids 2 ♠.

What do you bid?

Partner has told you that he has an inviting, 9-point hand with 5 of each Major. He wants you to choose a Major and also decide whether to play game or partscore.

Despite your ♠s being so beautiful there are only two of them so you pick ♥s. And since you have a maximum 17 points you bid the game, 4 ♥.

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 8 7 3

♥ K 10 9 6 5

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 10 5
♥ A Q 4
♦ K J 4
♣ K J 6 5

8
10 16
6

♠ J 9 6 2
♥ J 3
♦ A 10 3 2
♣ 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4 ♠ by East			

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♥.
What do you bid?

You say 2 ♠. Partner then bids 3 ♥. What do you bid?

Partner has a game forcing hand and is 5-5 in the Majors. He has asked you to choose one of them to bid game in.

With 3 of each you might be inclined to choose your stronger one, ♥s, but in fact that doesn't really matter since partner is probably stronger in ♠s.

What does matter is those minor suits. If the opening lead is a ♣ or ♦, which is very likely, you want the lead to be coming into your hand, not partner's. And in general you would prefer to have the stronger hand remain concealed. So you

bid 4 ♠ where you will be declarer, rather than 4 ♥ where partner would be declarer.

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ A J 8 6 3
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ 10 7 2

14
 6 3
 17

♠ K Q 9 4
 ♥ A J 9 7 3
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ A 6

♠ 7 2
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 2
 ♣ J 5 4 3

♠ 10 5

♥ K Q 10 4

♦ A K 7

♣ K Q 9 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	6 ♥	ALL	Pass

6 ♥ by South

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♦.
 What do you bid?

Just hold it a minute and DO NOT say 2 ♥. True, when partner transfers, you almost always just obey and complete the transfer. This is the one time when you don't. You had a 17 point 1 NT opener with 4 ♥s and a doubleton. As soon as partner told you to bid ♥s your hand became worth 18 points because of the good trump support and the doubleton. So you inform partner of this by making the "super-accept" bid of 3 ♥. In other words, you complete the transfer with a jump.

Partner's eyes get big (but you aren't allowed to notice that) and he bids 4 ♣.

What do you bid?

Partner's ♣ bid was not a suit, you already have an agreed suit, ♥s. The ♣ bid was showing you first round control in ♣s, and is a slam try by partner.

You continue the search for slam by showing your first round ♦ control, you bid 4 ♦.

That was all partner needed to hear, he jumps straight to 6 ♥.

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 4
 ♥ A K
 ♦ A K 9 7
 ♣ K Q 9 8

9	♠ 6	♦ 8 6 4 2
20 6	♥ Q J 10 9 6 5 3	♣ A 3
5	♦ J 10	
	♣ J 7 2	

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

♠

A K 7 2

♥ 8 4

♦ Q 5 3

♣ 10 6 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 8 5 3
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ 8 6 4 2
 ♣ A 3

You open 2 NT and partner responds 3 ♥.
 What do you bid?

You bid 3 ♠, just as partner asked. He puts you in game at 3 NT. What do you say? Bid or pass?

Bid of course. You have an 8-card ♠ fit so you prefer ♠s to notrump.

As you can see, 3 NT would surely go down with a ♥ lead, while 4 ♠ is cold.

One hand doesn't mean it will always be like this, but usually if you have an 8-card fit the Major suit game will be better than 3 NT.