

Deal 1
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ 2 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ K 10 9 6 4 ♣ Q 9 6 3 10 5 8 17	♠ A 10 8 4 3 ♥ Q 10 8 4 ♦ — ♣ K J 10 2 ♠ 7 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ A Q J 3 2 ♣ 8 7 4 ♠ K Q J 9 6 5 ♥ AK ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ A 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass 4 ♦ Pass Pass	Pass 1 ♠ 4 NT 7 ♠

7 ♠ by South

Partner's 4 ♦ bid is a Splinter Bid. It shows opening hand strength, at least 4-card ♠ support, and a singleton or void in ♦s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Normally you would not ask for Key-Cards with this ♦ holding. But since you know partner has at most a singleton, and that it is not the singleton ♦A, you are safe to do so. You say 4 NT, partner replies 6 ♦. What next?

WOW! Partner has one Key-Card and a ♦ void. So the Key-Card is the ♠A. You don't know what the rest of partner's hand is, but he can surely take care of that small ♣. You bid 7 ♠.

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 6 3
♥ Q J 5 3 2
♦ J 5
♣ 6 5 3

22
5 3
10

♠ A Q 5

♥ 4

♦ A K 10 8 6 3

♣ A K Q

W	N
E	S

♠ 10 9 4 2
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ 2
♣ 9 7 4 2

♠ K 8 7
♥ A 10 6
♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ J 10 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	7 NT	ALL	Pass

7 NT by South

Your 2 NT response shows 8+ points, with no 5-card biddable suit. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

You support the ♦s and partner bids 4 NT. What is your next bid?

With ♦s as trump you have 1 Key-Card, the ♥A. You answer 5 ♣ and partner bids 5 ♥. What is your bid?

This is the Queen Ask, wanting to know if you hold the ♦Q. Since you do have it you should bid a suit in which you hold a King. So you bid 5 ♠. That spurred partner on - he was fishing for 7 ♦ but when you told him you had the ♦Q, ♥A and ♠K he was able to bid 7 NT.

Deal 3

West Deals	♠ Q 8
None Vul	♥ AJ 9 7
	♦ K Q J
	♣ A K Q 6

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

N
W E
S

♠ —
22
5 7 ♠ K Q 10 8 6 3 2
6 ♦ 5 3
♣ J 10 8 2

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

6 ♥ by South

Partner's 2 ♥ is a positive response, 8+ points with a 5+ card suit. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Even though it is tempting, bidding RCKB now would be a mistake because of your doubleton ♠ loser. Instead just support the ♥s. Partner cannot pass, you both know you are forced to game. In fact, partner bids 3 ♠. What do you bid next?

Partner promises first round ♠ control so NOW you can bid RCKB. When you bid 4 NT partner answers 6 ♥. This shows 1 Key-Card and a void in a suit higher than ♥s. Knowing you are missing either the ♦ A or ♥ K you pass.

Deal 4South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9
♥ Q 4 2
♦ Q J 10 2
♣ J 7 5 3 2

10
6 3
21

♠ K 10 7 2
♥ A K 8 6 5
♦ 8 3
♣ 6 4

♠ 6
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ Q 10 9 8

♠ A Q J 8 5 4 3
♥ 7
♦ A K 4
♣ A K

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	7 NT
ALL	Pass		
7 NT by South			

Your 2 ♥ response shows 8+ points, with at least 5 ♥s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Your hand is looking better and better. You already gave a positive response so you know you are forced to game. It is better to keep the bidding low to allow more investigating room so you bid 3 ♠. Partner bids 4 NT. What is your response?

With ♠s agreed as trumps you have two Key-Cards, the ♠ K and the ♥ A. With no trump Queen you respond 5 ♥. Partner now says 5 NT. What do you reply?

Partner is asking for Kings and you have just 1, the ♥ K. Remember, the ♠ K is not a King, it is a Key-Card which you have already counted. So you bid 6 ♦. Partner counts 13 tricks and bids 7 NT.

Deal 5East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10
♥ J 9 4 3
♦ 7 5 3
♣ A Q 7 6 3

¹¹
7 4
18

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ A 8
♦ 10 8 6 4
♣ K J 5



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 ♠ by South			

Partner's 3 ♠ is a limit raise, 11-12 points and good ♠ support. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you DO NOT say next is 4 NT. If partner answered 1 Key-Card you would not know what to do. If he has a red Ace you can make slam, but if his one Key-Card were the ♣A you couldn't. Instead you make a control-showing bid of 4 ♣, promising first round control. Partner obliges you by bidding 4 ♥. What is your next bid?

</table>

Partner's bidding is like the Sherlock Holmes tale Silver Blaze, about the dog that didn't bark. Partner's ♥ bid shows that he DOES have the ♥A, but equally important it shows that he DOES NOT

have the ♦A. So you know you don't have a ♥ loser but do have a ♦ loser. You bid 6 ♠.