

Deal 1

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 7
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 6 3 2
♣ Q J 9 6 2

16
5 7
12

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-------|-----------|
| W | N | E | S |
| ♠ K 5 | ♦ A 4 | ♣ A 4 | ♠ 9 8 4 3 |
| ♥ K Q 9 8 5 4 3 | ♦ A 4 | ♣ A 4 | ♥ J 7 |
| ♦ K 9 7 5 | ♣ K 5 3 | | |

♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J
♣ 10 8 7

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♥ |
| Pass | 5 NT | Pass | 6 ♣ |
| Pass | 6 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| 6 ♥ by North | | | |

South opens 1 ♠. North 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 North bids just 2 ♥, knowing South must keep the bidding open.

South knows North has at least 5 ♥s, so his first priority is to agree on the trump suit. He bids 3 ♥.

North now makes the slam try. She knows South has at least three trumps, and all she wants to find out is how many Aces/Kings South holds. So she bids Blackwood and South confesses to two Aces.

Still hoping for the Grand, North bids 5 NT. Oops, South doesn't have any kings so North settles for a small slam.

This is a good slam, cold if East makes any opening lead other than a ♣. With a ♣ lead, North 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
13
♦ A Q J 7 5 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K J 4

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | 1 ♥ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| 4 ♥ by South | | | |

♠ Q J 2
♥ K 10
♦ K Q 8 6 5
♣ Q 8 7

♠ 9 8 6 4 3
♥ 9 6
♦ A 10 9
♣ 10 9 6

♠ A

♥ A Q J 7 5 3

♦ 7 4 2

♣ K J 4

N

W E

S

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

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 4 3
♥ 6
♦ Q J 10 7
♣ A 10 9 2

9
10 9
12

♠ J
♥ K Q J 7 5 3
♦ 4 3 2
♣ Q 5 4

♠ 10 9 5
♥ A 9 8 2
♦ A 9 8
♣ J 6 3

♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ 10 4
♦ K 6 5
♣ K 8 7

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 ♥ | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | | | Pass |
| 2 ♥ by North | | | |

South opens 1 ♠. North has 11 points, enough to respond 2 ♥ in standard bidding, but not when using 2/1. So she bids 1 NT.

South 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. North now shows the ♥ suit that she could not bid first round.

South 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 North's first response would be 2 ♥, and South 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 4North Deals
None Vul

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

¹⁷
 6 6
 11

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 NT |
| Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| 3 NT by South | | | |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| W | N |
| S | E |

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.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ Q J 6
 ♣ K Q 8 6 3

11
 12 10
 7

♠ 8 6 2
 ♥ A Q J 7 5 3
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ A 2

N
 W E
 S

♠ A Q 7 4 3
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ A 8 7 4
 ♣ 9 7

♠ K 9 5
 ♥ 10 6
 ♦ K 10 3 2
 ♣ J 10 5 4

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 NT |
| Pass | 2 ♥ | Pass | Pass |

2 ♥ by North

North opens 1 ♥. South responds 1 NT, just as in standard bidding. The difference is that in this case the 1 NT response is forcing on North.

North has an easy second bid, he rebids his 6-card suit. South has nothing to say over 2 ♥ except pass.

Notice that this is the same bidding and same final contract that would have been reached with standard bidding. Using 2/1 is often like that.

Deal 6
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 6 3
♥ A K J 5 2
♦ 4 2
♣ 10 5 4

12
8 7
13

♠ K J 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A Q 9 7 5
♣ Q 2

N
W E
S
♠ 8 4
♥ Q 3
♦ J 3
♣ K J 9 8 7 6 3

♠ A Q 10 9 5
♥ 10 9 6
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ A

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♦ |
| Pass | | | Pass |

4 ♠ by South

South opens 1 ♠. North responds 2 ♦, a 2/1 force to game.

South cannot rebid her ♠s, but has decent support for partner's ♦s. So she bids 3 ♦.

North always intended to play a ♠ contract. He now bids 4 ♠, using Fast Arrival to indicate he has no slam aspirations.

4 ♠ is cold, and if the defenders don't take their ♥ tricks immediately South will make an overtrick.