

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 4
♥ K J 9 8
♦ 9 8 7 2
♣ K Q 5

♠ Q J 10 9 8 6 5

♥ —

♦ A K 6 4

♣ 9 3

**10 10
 7**



♠ 2
♥ A 7 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 3
♣ A 10 6 2

♠ K 7 3
♥ Q 10 6 2
♦ J 5
♣ J 8 7 4

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

You dealt this hand. Decide what you would say, then BID above.

With 13 points you will open. You cannot bid 1♥ with only 4 of them, so you say 1♦. Partner responds 1♥ and it is your bid again.

Partner's response is forcing. He might have anywhere from 6 points to about 17. With a minimum opener and 4-card support for his Major suit you bid 2♥. Partner passes.

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 4
♥ A 8 7 2
♦ 8 7 6
♣ 10 8 3

14
7 10
9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 8 3
♥ 10 5 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ K J 5 4

♠ 7 6 2
♥ Q 9 6
♦ J 9 2
♣ A Q 9 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1 NT by South

partner's 1 NT bid DENIES a 4-card Major suit. And third, partner probably has something in ♣s since he has no 4-card Major and also didn't feel like supporting your ♦s.

So you pass and hope for the best.

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

You are not strong enough to open 1 NT, but too strong to pass. You bid 1♦. Partner responds 1 NT. What do you say next?

You are not strong enough to open 1 NT, but too strong to pass. You bid 1♦. Partner responds 1 NT. What do you say next?

With that small doubleton in ♣s it is very tempting to rescue partner from 1 NT by bidding 2♠. There are three good reasons why you don't. First, bidding 1♦ followed by 2♠ is a REVERSE, which shows a strong hand, perhaps 16-17 points or more. Second, and even more important,

Deal 3
North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 4
♥ 10 6 4
♦ K 10 9 6
♣ 10 9 2

18
5 9
8

♠ A K 9 7
♥ A Q J 5
♦ 5
♣ A 8 6 4

♠ J 8 2
♥ 9 3
♦ A Q J 4 2
♣ J 7 3

♠ 6 5 3
♥ K 8 7 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ K Q 5

West North East South
Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥
Pass 4 ♥ Pass Pass
4 ♥ by South

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

The ♥ and ♠ suits look really good, but neither of them are 5 cards, so you open 1 ♣. Partner responds 1 ♥. What is your next bid?

Partner's bid shows 6-10 points and at least 4 ♥s. Since you now know there is an 8-card Major suit fit you revalue your hand, adding 2 more points for the singleton ♦.

That gives you 20 points; add partner's 6-T and you have enough for game. She who knows, goes, so you bid 4 ♥.

Deal 4

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 2
♥ 9 4 3 2
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ Q J 7

¹⁵
7 11
7

♠ A 10 9 7

♥ 7 5
♦ A K

♣ A 10 8 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 3
♥ K Q J 10
♦ J 6 5 3
♣ K 6 4

♠ K 8 6 5 4
♥ A 8 6
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 9 5

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
ALL	Pass		
4 ♠ by South			

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

You have the right strength but the wrong distribution to open 1 NT. So you bid 1 ♣. Partner responds 1 ♠. What do you say next?

With partner's ♠ bid giving you a fit, your hand revalues to 18 points. If partner has only 6 or 7 points there is not enough for game, but if he has more than that then you should bid game.

When you are in-between like this you just invite. So you jump to 3 ♠. This tells partner to bid game if he has more than the minimum for his bid. He has 9 revalued points, so he bids 4 ♠.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 5
♥ 7 5 4 2
♦ Q 9 8 7
♣ 7 6 5

14
6 6
14

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 10 8
♥ Q J 9 6
♦ A 6 5
♣ K 9

♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ A 8
♦ J 3 2
♣ J 8 4 3

♠ Q 7 3
♥ K 10 3
♦ K 10 4
♣ A Q 10 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

This is the one situation when you open a 3-card ♦ suit; two 4-card Majors, three ♦s and two ♣s, but not enough strength to open 1 NT.

Partner responds 2 NT. What do you bid?

Partner's bid shows 13-16 points, balanced. And most importantly, it denies holding a 4-card Major suit. So you do not consider bidding either your ♦s or ♠s, but just bid 3 NT.

Deal 6

South Deals

None Vul

Deal 7	♠ J 4		
South Deals	♥ Q J 4		
None Vul	♦ A Q 5		
	♣ K 10 8 7 3		
♠ 8 2	♠ A 10 9 7 3		
♥ 8 3 2	♥ 10 6 5		
♦ K 10 7 4 3	♦ J 9 6 2		
♣ 9 6 5	♣ 4		
13 3 5 19	♠ K Q 6 5 ♥ A K 9 7 ♦ 8 ♣ A Q J 2		
West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 ♣ by South			

terrible to just bid 6 ♣ right now, but Blackwood was invented just for these situations, to make sure you are not missing 2 Aces when you bid a slam. So you bid 4 NT. Partner answers with 5 ♦. What say you?

Blackwood did its job. You are missing one Ace so all thoughts of a Grand are put aside. Bid 6 ♣.

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

Nice hand! But not strong enough to open with anything other than 1♣. Partner jumps to 3 ♣! What do you bid?

You might be tempted to mention one of your Majors at this point, but resist the temptation. Trust that your partner also knows the bidding priorities and that he would have bid a 4-card Major if he had held one. The problem with you now saying 3 ♥ for example, is that partner would probably think you had a 5-card ♥ suit and support you with only 3 of them. You know that ♣s is your suit so stick to it.

With partner showing 13-16 points, and your hand revaluing to 21 you are definitely thinking slam. It would not be

Deal 8South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 2
♥ K 8 5 2
♦ 9 5 4
♣ K 8 6 4

12
6 8
14

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by South			

♠ A J
♥ Q 7 3
♦ K Q 10 6 2
♣ 10 9 2

N
W E
S

♠ K 9 8 6 4 3
♥ 10 6 4
♦ A
♣ J 7 3

♠ Q 10 5
♥ A J 9
♦ J 8 7 3
♣ A Q 5

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

This would be a perfect hand to open 1 NT - well, it would be if it held one more point. But with only 14 you open your 4-card Minor, 1♦. Partner responds 3♦.

What do you say now?

Partner suggests that ♦s is your suit, and he may be right. But you would much rather play the less demanding Notrump game if he is willing. So you bid 3 NT, knowing that if partner is really distributional he will take you back to ♦s. He doesn't, so you play 3 NT.

Deal 9

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 5 3
♥ A 9
♦ Q 5 4 2
♣ Q 4 2

10
8 4
18

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 6
♥ 8 6 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 7
♣ J 9 5

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

3 NT by South

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

This would be an ideal hand to open 1 NT - well, it would be with one less point. But with 18 you are too strong to open 1 NT so you open 1 ♣. Partner responds 1 ♠. What do you bid next?

DO NOT fall into the trap of supporting partner's ♠s just because you have such nice help for him. He might have a 4-card suit. Instead, just describe your hand by jumping to 2 NT, showing a balanced hand with 18-19 points. Partner now bids 3 NT and you play it there.

Deal 10

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 5
♥ 10 8 4 3
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ 10 9 2

19
7 8
6

♠ Q J 6
♥ A K 7
♦ Q 8 6 4
♣ A K 8

♠ 8 3
♥ 9 6 2
♦ A J 10 2
♣ Q J 6 5

♠ K 10 9 7 4 2

♥ Q J 5

♦ 3

♣ 7 4 3

N
W E S

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
4 ♠ by South			

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

You open 1 ♦ and partner responds 1 ♠. What is your next bid?

Do not support what may be a 4-card suit with only 3 cards. Instead, jump to 2 NT, showing 18-19, balanced. Partner rebids the ♠s. What do you say next?

Partner shows a minimum hand, but with 6 ♠s. 3 NT is very tempting, and might work out fine, but with 9 ♠s it is probably better to play the suit game. So you bid 4 ♠ and everybody passes.

Bidding 4 ♠ was a good choice. It makes easily, yet 3 NT might have gone down.

Deal 11North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ A J 1 0
 ♦ K 6 5 3
 ♣ Q 4 2

13
10 9
8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 7 4
 ♥ K Q 9 6
 ♦ J 8
 ♣ 9 7 6

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

♠ J 10 9 6
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ A K 8 3

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass

2♠ by South

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

You have plenty good support to raise partner's ♣ suit. But your first priority is to show a 4-card Major suit if you have one. You do, so you respond 1♠. Partner raises you to 2♠.

Are you tempted to take partner back to ♣s since you have such good support? Don't be. Partner has 4 ♣s, but he might have only 3 ♣s.

Are you tempted to bid 3♠ since partner raised you? Don't be. He showed a minimum hand with his single raise and you only have 9 points. Just pass.

Deal 12North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 2
 ♥ 10 5 2
 ♦ 9 6 5
 ♣ A K 9 6 4

14
 7 6
13

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 9
 ♥ K Q 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 4 2
 ♣ 10 3

♠ Q J 10 5 4 3
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ Q 7 2

♠ 7 6
 ♥ A J 9 6
 ♦ A K 8 3
 ♣ J 8 5

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

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

Some might jump to 2 NT, "to show partner my point count". Some might jump to 3 ♦, "to force partner to game and show my ♦ support". The wise ones will just bid 1 ♥, striving to find an 8-card Major fit, the first priority of bidding.

You choose the 1 ♥ route, and partner obligingly says 2 ♥. What do you bid next?

Remember "She who knows, goes"? You know of the 8-card Major fit. You know of at least 26 combined points. You know you should bid 4 ♥, so you do.

Deal 13
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8 5 2
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ K 8
♣ 8 5 2

13
8 6
13

West North East South
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♣
Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass
Pass
4 ♠ by South

♠ Q J 10 7
♥ K Q 9 8
♦ 7 6 2
♣ K Q

♠ 4
♥ 6 5 3
♦ A Q 5 4 3
♣ 9 6 4 3

♠ K 9 6 3
♥ A 7
♦ J 10 9
♣ A J 10 7

N
W E
S

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

When you have two 4-card suits to show you bid them "up-the-line". In this case it means you say 1 ♥. Partner replies 1 ♠. What do you bid?

There are enough points for game and a known 8-card Major fit. So you bid 4 ♠.

Perfect bidding isn't always rewarded. They can win three ♦ tricks and the Ace of trumps. If the opening lead is a ♥ or a ♣ you might make it, so it just depends on luck.

Deal 14

North Deals

None Vul

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

14	♠ A J 5
8 4	♥ K 10 6
14	♦ Q 9 8 6
	♣ A 9 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			



♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ Q 8 5 3 2
♦ 10 4
♣ 4 2

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

You have two very good choices, neither of which is really wrong. You could bid 2 NT, showing 13-16 points, balanced, or you could bid 3♦, showing 13-16 points, good trump support.

What should decide you is the bidding priorities. You'd much rather try to play a 9-trick game than an 11-trick game. And at the same time you must trust your partner not to leave you hung out in Notrump with an unsuitable hand. (Can you believe I wrote Notrump and unsuitable in the same sentence?)

Anyway, you bid 2 NT and partner raises to 3 NT.

Deal 15

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 6 5
♥ 9 3
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ A 10 9 7

14
5 7
14

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 9 2
♥ J 5
♦ K 7 2
♣ K 8 3 2

♠ Q 7 4
♥ A 8 7 4 2
♦ J 9 5
♣ 6 4

♠ 10 8 3
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ A Q 6
♣ Q J 5

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

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

With 14 points and a 4-3-3-3 distribution this could be the perfect hand for a jump to 2 NT. But not when the 4-card suit is a Major - you should not skip bidding a Major when you have the opportunity.

So you respond 1 ♥. Partner says 1 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner doesn't have 4 ♥s so you go back to thinking this is an ideal notrump hand. So ideal that you apply the "She who knows, goes" principle and bid 3 NT. Partner smiles and passes.

Deal 16

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 5 4

♥ Q 6 3

♦ 8

♣ K 7 3 2

12
6
9
13

♠ A 7
♥ K 9
♦ K J 9 7 4
♣ J 10 8 5

W	N
S	E

♠ Q 2
♥ J 7 5 2
♦ A 6 5 2
♣ Q 6 4

♠ K 10 9 3
♥ A 10 8 4
♦ Q 10 3
♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by South			

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

You have great ♦ support and perhaps 15 points. The "perhaps" is because partner may have only 3 ♦s, and if you are the long-trump hand any ruffs you take will probably not increase the number of trump tricks your side makes. But still, you have a great hand.

So you bid 3♦. Partner now says 3 NT. What do you bid?

You described your hand very well with your first bid. Partner heard the description and chose 3 NT. Since you trust your partner you pass.

Deal 17

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 6 3

♥ K 9

♦ A 8 3

♣ Q 9 7 5

♠ 10 7 2

♥ A J 10

♦ K 7 6 4 2

♣ 4 3

W	N
S	E

♠ Q 4

♥ 8 6 5 3 2

♦ Q J 9

♣ A J 10

16

8 10

6

♠ J 9 8 5

♥ Q 7 4

♦ 10 5

♣ K 8 6 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass

Pass

3 ♠ by South

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

You must make a weak response, and in theory there are 3 weak responses you could make with this hand. You could bid 2 ♣, 1 ♠ or 1 NT. And while none of them would be actually incorrect the best choice is to show your 4-card Major.

You bid 1 ♠. Partner jumps to 3 ♠. What do you say now?

You started with just 6 points, and after discovering the ♠ fit you revalue all the way up to 7 points. Partner has shown 16-18 and that's still not enough for game. You pass.

Deal 18North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 2
♥ J 5 2
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ A 9 5 4

¹⁷
5 9
9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 3
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ K Q J 6
♣ Q J

♠ K Q J 7 6 5
♥ 6 4
♦ 9 7
♣ K 7 3

♠ 8 4
♥ K Q 9 7
♦ A 10 5
♣ 10 8 6 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

Your top priority as responder is to show a Major suit if you have one, so you say 1 ♥. Partner jumps to 3 ♥. What do you say?

Partner knows you may have only 6 points and went to the 3-level anyway. He is inviting you to bid game if you have a bit more than the 6 you promised. You revalue up to T so you have quite a bit more. You accept his invitation and bid 4 ♥.

Deal 19

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 2
♥ 10 8 3 2
♦ A 7 5 3 2
♣ 5 4 3

14
4 7
15

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 10 8 6
♥ —
♦ K Q J 10
♣ K Q J 10 8

♠ A 7 4
♥ Q J 9 7 5
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 6 2

♠ K J 9 5 3
♥ A K 6 4
♦ 9
♣ A 9 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5 ♠ by South

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

You have a very big hand. But there is no need to start jumping before you know whether you have a fit. So just bid 1 ♠, partner cannot pass this bid.

Partner now surprises you with a jump to 3 ♠!. What do you bid next?

Wow! Partner has 16 and you have more than that. Slam appears certain, by why not check for Aces? So you bid 4 NT and partner answers 5 ♣. What do you say next?

You probably say "Oh Darn!" or perhaps something less printable. But then you just sign off at 5 ♠.

Deal 20
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 5 4 2
♥ Q J 9 6 3
♦ 8
♣ 5 3

♠ K 10 6
♥ 7 5
♦ K Q 9 5 3
♣ 9 7 4

♠ Q 8 7 3
♥ 10 4 2
♦ 7 2
♣ A 10 8 6

N
W E
S

♠ 9
♥ A K 8
♦ A J 10 6 4
♣ K Q J 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			
5 ♦ by South			

The bidding is shown. Decide what you would say, then BID.

That is great support, but always remember when supporting a Minor that partner might have only 3 of them. So you bid 2 ♦. Partner jumps to 4 ♦. What do you bid?

You were cautious with your first bid, but that is over now. Partner didn't open with a 3-card suit, he really has ♦s. He bypassed 3 NT in a flash, so he has no interest in playing anywhere but a ♦ contract. He invites you to bid game if you have something extra above the 6 points you already promised. You have a lot more than that, so you bid 5 ♦.