

Deal 1

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------|-------|
| North Deals | ♠ A K | | |
| None Vul | ♥ K 10 | | |
| | ♦ K Q J 9 4 | | |
| | ♣ K 10 8 3 | | |
| ♠ J 4 2 | ♠ 9 8 7 5 3 | | |
| ♥ 9 8 7 6 3 2 | W N E | | |
| ♦ A 2 | ♦ J 4 | | |
| ♣ 9 7 | ♦ 6 5 3 | | |
| | ♣ J 6 4 | | |
| | ♠ Q 10 6 | | |
| 19 5 2 | ♥ A Q 5 | | |
| 14 | ♦ 10 8 7 | | |
| | ♣ A Q 5 2 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1 ♦ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | 6 NT | | |
| 6 NT by South | | | |

You dealt this hand.

You have 20 points and it would not be terrible to open 2 NT. However, strictly speaking you shouldn't open 2 NT with two doubletons. So you open 1 ♦. Partner responds with a jump to 2 NT. What do you bid?

With partner's 13-15 added onto your 20, bidding 6 NT would be a reasonable bid. However, it costs nothing to check for Aces first, so you bid 4 ♠. (Everybody agrees this is Gerber, right?) Partner answers 4 ♠. What do you bid?

Easy, missing one Ace you bid 6 NT.

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ Q 5 3 2
♣ 10 8 5 2

♠ A Q J 8 7 3
♥ 6
♦ 10 8 6
♣ A 6 3

11
2 5
22

♠ 10 9 2
♥ A K Q 10 5
♦ A K
♣ K Q J

♠ K 6 4
♥ J 7 3
♦ J 9 7 4
♣ 9 7 4

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

You dealt this hand.

With 13 points and a good Major suit you naturally open 1 ♠. Partner responds 3 ♥. What do you bid next?

We are playing strong jump-shifts by Responder so partner is showing 17+ points. However, you are still stuck with your minimum opening so you just rebid 3 ♠. Partner bids 4 NT. What is your reply?

He asks for Aces so you bid 5 ♥ showing 2. He now bids 5 NT. What do you say?

You have no King. So you reply 6 ♣ and partner bids 6 NT (safer than 6 ♠).

Deal 3

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|------|-------|
| South Deals | ♠ A K | | |
| None Vul | ♥ K 8 5 3 | | |
| | ♦ K Q J 4 | | |
| | ♣ A 9 3 | | |
| ♠ Q 10 9 8 7 | ♠ J 5 3 | | |
| ♥ 6 | ♥ J 10 | | |
| ♦ A 9 6 5 2 | ♦ 10 8 7 3 | | |
| ♣ Q 10 | ♣ K J 7 6 | | |
| | ♠ 6 4 2 | | |
| 20 8 6 6 | ♥ A Q 9 7 4 2 ♦ — | | |
| | ♣ 8 5 4 2 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 6 ♥ | Pass | 6 ♦ |
| Pass | | | Pass |
| 6 ♥ by South | | | |

You need to find out about Aces so you bid 4 NT. Partner says 6 ♦. What do you bid?

Partner has shown one Ace and a ♦ void. As to what you bid, that's easy. You have no choice now but to say 6 ♥. This is a pretty good slam, but it is not cold. Maybe West will not lead a ♣. Or maybe East will have the ♦ A.

Deal 4

North Deals
None Vul

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

| | |
|-----|------------|
| 24 | ♠ A 10 7 |
| 5 1 | ♥ 9 5 2 |
| 10 | ♦ A 10 8 6 |
| | ♣ Q 6 3 |

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



| |
|--------------|
| ♠ 8 3 2 |
| ♥ 10 7 6 |
| ♦ 4 2 |
| ♣ J 10 8 5 2 |

Not everybody responds to 2 ♣ openers the same way. But with 9 balanced points 2 NT is reasonable. Partner jumps to 4 ♣. What do you bid?

With 2 Aces your response is 4 ♠. Partner bids 6 NT and you pass.

Deal 5

South Deals

None Vul

♣ 7

♠ 5

♥ J 10 8 4 2

♦ 6 2

♣ Q 10 8 4 2

| | | | | |
|---|------------|--|---------|---|
| | N | | E | |
| W | | | | S |
| | ♦ 10 9 7 3 | | ♣ 9 6 3 | |

12
3 2
23

♠ A 10
♥ A K 7 6
♦ A 8 5
♣ A K J 5

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|------|-------|------|-------|

| | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ |
| Pass | 7 NT | Pass | Pass |

Pass
7 NT by South

Interesting hand. Too bad these only come up in lessons and never at the table! You could jump right into Ace-asking but there is no rush so you say 2 ♠. Partner now rebids 2 NT. What do you say?

Now you know all about partner's hand. 22-24 points, balanced. Now ask for Aces. If you agree that 4 ♣ is Gerber here then that's what you should bid. If not, then you would have to use Blackwood. Partner answers 4 ♦. What do you say?

The 4 ♦ reply says either zero or all four. Put your money on all four and bid 7 NT.

Deal 6
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 6 5 4
 ♥ A 9 8 6
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ 9 6 4 2

20
4 2
14

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | 4 NT |
| Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass | 6 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| 6 ♠ by South | | | |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|--------|
| W | N | E | S |
| ♠ 7 | ♥ 10 7 5 4 3 | ♦ Q 9 8 5 3 | ♣ 10 5 |

♠ K 10 9 8 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K 10 4
 ♣ A 7 3

With 15 points and a nice 5-card suit you respond 1 ♠. Partner jumps to 4 ♠. What do you say?

Do NOT say "Partner bid a close-out bid so I'll pass." Partner's bid means he thinks you can make 4 ♠ even though he is only counting you for 6 points. Since you have 15+ now you want to go for more. You bid 4 NT and partner answers 5 ♦. What do you say next?

Partner has 1 Ace so you can go no higher than 6. Although you can't tell for sure that slam will make, remember you used Blackwood just to be sure you weren't missing two Aces. You are not and you have enough points so you bid it. Although you can see that 6 NT would have been a great contract you had to take the safer 6 ♠.