

**Deal 1**  
South Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 6 4 2  
♥ A 8  
♦ J 3 2  
♣ J 8 4 3

14  
6 6  
14

♠ Q 7 3  
♥ K 10 3  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ A Q 10 2

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

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

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

N  
W    E  
S

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 2**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7 4  
♥ A 9 3  
♦ K J 8 7  
♣ 7 6 3

9  
8 10  
13

♠ A J 3

♥ J 6 4

♦ 9 3

♣ K 10 9 8 5

W	N
S	E

♠ K Q 10 5 2  
♥ K Q 8 7 5  
♦ 4 2  
♣ 4

♠ 8 6  
♥ 10 2  
♦ A Q 10 6 5  
♣ A Q J 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	2 ♣
Pass			Pass

3 ♣ by South

You dealt this hand. What do you bid?

With a 5-card and a 4-card Minor you open the 5-card. Partner responds 1 NT. What do you say now?

With only 14 points a pass might be the best bid. But with doubletons in both Majors, knowing partner does not have 4 of either, you elect to bid 2 ♣. Partner now surprises you and bids 3 ♣. It's your bid.

Partner evidently found some hidden treasure when he revalued! But you still have only 16 points at the most so you pass.

**Deal 3**

North Deals

None Vul

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

♠ K Q 6 5

♥ A K 9 7

♦ 8

♣ A Q J 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

19  
5 3  
13

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

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

6♣ by North

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 4**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 2  
♥ K 8 5 2  
♦ 9 5 4  
♣ K 8 6 4

**12**  
**6 8**  
**14**

West	North	East	South
			<b>1♦</b>
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.