

Deal 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 6 3
♥ A 6 5 3
♦ 4
♣ K Q 4 2

8
10 7
15

♠ A 4
♥ K J 9 8
♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ 8 6 5

W N
S E

♠ Q 7 5
♥ Q 10 2
♦ Q J 9 5
♣ 10 9 3

♠ K 10 8 2
♥ 7 4
♦ A K 6 3
♣ A J 7

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

1 NT by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

If partner has a 4-card ♥ suit to match yours you could revalue your hand and add a point for your doubleton ♠. That would give you the 9 points you need for an invitational response.

It is far too risky to play for that possibility. So you just pass.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ K 5 4 2
♦ 3
♣ A J 4 2

9
8 6
17

West

♠ A 4
♥ A J 9 8
♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ 8 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 7 3
♥ Q 7
♦ K J 6 5 4
♣ 9 7 3

♠ K Q J 5
♥ 10 6 3
♦ A Q 9
♣ K Q 10

North East South
Pass 2 ♣ Pass 1 NT

Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass

3 NT by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

You have 9 points and a 4-card Major. Just enough for an invitational Stayman sequence. You bid 2 ♣ and partner answers 2 ♠. What do you bid next?

Partner has the wrong Major. Now that you know there is no 8-card Major fit you must go to notrump. And since you don't have the strength to insist on game you say 2 NT which is an invitation for partner to bid 3 NT if he has a maximum.

He has a maximum and he bids 3 NT.

Deal 3
South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 5
♥ J 8 7 3 2
♦ 3
♣ A 8 6 5 2

9
6 9
16

♠ K Q 10 6
♥ 9 6 4
♦ K J 10 8
♣ 7 3

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

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

N
W E
S

♠ 8
♥ 10 8 3
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ A 10 9 5 2

♠ 9 6 5
♥ A 9
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ K Q 8 6

West North East South
12
8 5 2 ♣
15 3 NT Pass 1 NT
Pass Pass 2 ♦
Pass Pass Pass

3 NT by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Both Majors! Lucky you. So you bid a Stayman 2 ♣. Unfortunately partner comes back with 2 ♦. What is your next bid?

Partner doesn't have a 4-card Major so your side doesn't have an 8-card Major fit. Therefore you will play in notrump. And with your 12 points you MUST play in game. So you bid 3 NT.

Deal 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 6 4
♥ 9 8 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ Q 7 2

11
5 8
16

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 5
♥ 10 7 4
♦ Q J 10 8 6
♣ J 10 6

♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ K Q 6
♦ A 9 4
♣ A K 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

4 ♠ by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

With 11 points and a 4-card Major suit you bid 2 ♣. Partner answers 2 ♠. What is your next bid?

Stayman bidding can be very straightforward. Partner has 4 ♠s, you have 4 ♠s. That makes 8. Partner has 15-17 points, you have 11-12 points. That makes 26-29.

You bid 4 ♠.

Deal 6
South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8 6 3 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 7 5

18
1 5
16

♠ A 10 9 4
♥ K J 10 7
♦ A J
♣ K Q 3

♠ 7
♥ A 8 2
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ J 10 9 8 4

N
W E
S

West North East South
Pass 2 ♣ Pass 1 NT
Pass 6 NT Pass Pass
Pass
6 NT by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

You have a very big hand. Enormous. But you also have two 4-card Majors, so the first step is Stayman. You bid 2♣ and partner replies 2♦. What do you bid next?

You have 18 points and partner has 15, 16 or 17. Your total is between 33 and 35. You have enough POINTS for a small slam, not enough for a grand. You have no Major suit fit, and are happy to play notrump.

There is a lot to be said for bidding 6 NT immediately. You could ask for Aces if you like but whether partner shows one or two isn't going to change your decision. Be bold.

Deal 7
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

16 3 5 16	♠ Q 10 9 ♥ A Q J 3 ♦ A 10 8 ♣ Q J 6
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT

Pass Pass Pass Pass	2 ♣ 4 NT 6 ♥ Pass	Pass Pass Pass Pass	2 ♥ 5 ♥ Pass Pass
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6 ♥ by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

You have another big hand. And with a 4-card Major you start with 2 ♣. Partner answers 2 ♥ and it's your turn again.

What with your singleton ♠ you certainly have enough points for slam. But since it's possible partner has only one Ace you check with Blackwood. Partner says 5 ♥ and you say . . . What?

Missing one Ace you bid 6 ♥.

Deal 8

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 6 3
♥ —
♦ Q 9 4 2
♣ A J 7 6 5 2

♠ A K Q 4 2

♥ J 10 7 6

♦ 7 5

♣ 9 3

N

W S E

♠ J 8 7

♥ A 8 4 3 2

♦ J 10 8

♣ 10 4

10
7 6
17

♠ 9 5
♥ K Q 9 5
♦ A K 6 3
♣ K Q 8

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

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

This may go against your instincts, but if you're going to play Stayman then you should follow the rules. Granted that you have a great ♠ suit, you also have 4 ♥s. And when you have a 4-card Major you use Stayman. You bid 2 ♣ and partner says 2 ♥.

That is why you used Stayman - to uncover a 4-4 Major suit fit. Having done so you know that you will play in ♥s and you have enough points to bid game. You bid 4 ♥.

Deal 9

North Deals	♠ 10 8 6
None Vul	♥ K Q 5
	♦ A 8 6 4
	♣ A K 10

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



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

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Yes, this is the same hand as Deal 8. Again you bid 2 ♣. This time partner says 2 ♦.

You need to describe your hand clearly to partner with this bid. You want to show a game-forcing hand (11 points or more) with 4 ♥s and 5 ♠s. You do that by now jumping to 3 ♠.

If partner had just 2 ♠s he would have bid 3 NT. Since he has 3 ♠s he bids 4 ♠.

Deal 10
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 6
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A K 5 2
♣ 10 9 6 2

9
7 9
15

♠ K 10 4 2
♥ A Q 10 9 6 3
♦ —
♣ 8 7 4

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 8 5
♦ J 10 9 8 3
♣ A K J

W N E S

♠ A Q J 9
♥ K J
♦ Q 7 6 4
♣ Q 5 3

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

losers on your ♥ suit.

Even when you hold a 6-card Major, if you have 4 cards in the other Major you use Stayman. Partner answers 2 ♠. What do you bid?

You've found an 8-card Major fit and you know there are enough points for game. So you bid 4 ♠.

Yes, but you already knew you had an 8-card ♥ fit since partner's 1 NT promised at least 2 ♥s. In fact, you could play game in either Major. However, it is often better to play in a 4-4 fit rather than a 5-3 or 6-2. This hand shows why. Played in ♥s you will make exactly T tricks with any opening lead. Played in ♠s you will again make T tricks when the defenders start with their 3 ♣ winners. If they start with anything else you are very likely to make 1 or 2 overtricks by discarding dummy

Deal 11

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7 6
♥ 8 7 5 4 2
♦ K J 9
♣ A 9

8 8
9

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

♠ A Q J

♥ K J

♦ Q 7 6 4

♣ Q 6 5 3

W N
S E

♠ 8 5 3
♥ —
♦ A 10 8 5 3 2
♣ K J 10 2

♠ K 10 4 2
♥ A Q 10 9 6 3
♦ —
♣ 8 7 4

This is the follow-up to Deal T. North opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Just like the previous deal with a 4-card Major you use Stayman. This time partner says 2 ♦. Your turn again.

With partner showing no 4-card Major the bidding takes a turn. With your 6 ♥s you are sure of an 8-card fit in the suit. With 11 points you must be sure of reaching game. So you bid 4 ♥.

In this case the strong hand does not become declarer, but the contract is the right one anyway.

Deal 12

South Deals
None Vul

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

9	8	15
8	8	15



♠ Q 7 6 5
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ A 10
♣ J 9 6

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

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

Partner has commanded you to bid a 4-card Major if you have one. You have one, so you bid 2 ♣. Partner now says 2 NT. What do you bid?

Partner evidently has 4 ♥s. He also evidently has about 9 points since he is INVITING you to bid 3 NT. With your minimum 15 points you decline the invitation by passing.

Deal 13
South Deals
None Vul

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

♠ 9 ♠ A 9 6 5 4
6 8 ♥ 7 5 4
17 ♦ A 8 3
 ♣ 5 3

♠ K Q 2
♥ A 9 3
♦ Q J 9 5
♣ K Q 7



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

3 NT by South

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

With no 4-card Major you reply 2 ♦. What
do you bid after partner next says 2 NT?

Partner seems to have about 9 points and
is inviting you to say 3 NT. Since you
have a maximum 17 point hand you
accept the invitation.

Deal 14

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 4 3
♥ A J
♦ 8 7 6 5 2
♣ 10 9 8

9
6 10
15



♠ K 10 8 5
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ A 9 3
♣ Q 5

♠ A 9
♥ K 10 7 4
♦ 10 4
♣ K 6 4 3 2

♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ Q 6 3
♦ K Q J
♣ A J 7

West North East South

1 NT

Pass 2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣
Pass 3 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass

3 ♠ by South

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

You bid 2 ♠. Partner next says 3 ♠. What do you say now?

Considering the bidding you have done so far you couldn't have a worse hand. With 4-3-3-3 distribution and a bare 15 points you most certainly don't want to accept any invitation from partner. So you pass. As you see, 9 tricks are not going to come easily.

Deal 15

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8
♥ Q J
♦ 10 7 6 3
♣ K J 10 9 8 2



♠ J 6 2
♥ A 10 9 5
♦ K Q J 4
♣ A Q

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

You respond 2 ♥. Partner now says 3 ♥.
What do you bid?

Partner has told you he has 4 ♥s and approximately 9 points. Add that to your 4 ♥s and 17 points and the total equals a game bid in ♥s. So you say 4 ♥.

Deal 16

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 3
♥ K 8 7
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ 7 6 4

9
6 8
17

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 10 9 6
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 10 8 4
♣ K 8 3

♠ 7 5 2
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ A
♣ J 10 9 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by South

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

When you have 4 cards in both Majors you respond 2 ♥. Partner bids 2 NT. What is your next bid?

Partner would never bid Stayman without a 4-card Major. Since he did not like your ♥ bid it is clear that his 4-card Major must be ♠s. His 2 NT bid was an invitation for you to bid 3 NT, which means he has about 9 points. Knowing that partner has 9 points and 4 ♠s, your call is clear : 4 ♠.

Deal 17South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8
♥ J 7 2
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ K J 6 5 2

¹¹
5 7
₁₇



♠ A Q 5 2
♥ K Q 10 9 6
♦ 10 9
♣ 9 7

♠ 10 9 7 6 3
♥ 5 4 3
♦ A K 4
♣ 4 3

♠ K J 4
♥ A 8
♦ Q J 7 3
♣ A Q 10 8

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣.
What do you bid?

You do not have a 4-card Major. So your correct response is 2 ♦. Partner bids 2 ♥.

Partner has described a hand with 4 ♠s and 5 ♥s. You don't know his strength but it must be at least 9 points. You know that you have just a 7-card fit in both Majors, and since you have a full 17 points you bid 3 NT.

Deal 18

North Deals	♠ K 7		
None Vul	♥ Q J 10		
	♦ A K 9 5		
	♣ K J 9 4		
♠ J 8 6 5 4 3	♠ A 10 9		
♥ A 8	♥ 6 4 2		
♦ J 8 2	♦ 10 6 4		
♣ 8 7	♣ A 5 3 2		
	♠ Q 2		
6 8 ¹⁷	♥ K 9 7 5 3		
9	♦ Q 7 3		
	♣ Q 10 6		
West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

You open 1 NT and partner responds 2 ♣. What do you bid?

Your 2 ♦ response tells partner you have no 4-card Major suit. Then he bids 2 ♥. What do you say next?

Partner knows you do not have 4 ♥s, but he bid the suit anyway. He must have 5 of them and he must also have 4 ♠s (since he used Stayman). But it's the ♥s you are interested in. Partner has 5 and you have 3. So you know of an 8-card Major suit fit. And you also know you have a maximum 1 NT opening. So you say 4 ♥.

Deal 19South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8
♥ A 8 2
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ K 9 8 6 2

8
7 5
20



♠ Q J 7 6 3
♥ K 10 7 3
♦ 4 2
♣ Q 5

♠ 10 9 5 4 2
♥ 6 5 4
♦ A J 6
♣ 4 3

♠ A K
♥ Q J 9
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ A J 10 7

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

3 NT by South

With a balanced 20 points you open 2 NT and partner responds 3 ♣. What do you bid?

Stayman applies after a 2 NT opening, just one level higher. With no 4-card Major you bid 3 ♦. Partner next bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner is showing 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s. In neither case would you have the 8-card fit you need. So you bid 3 NT.

Deal 20

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 4 2
♥ 10 7
♦ K 10 6 4 2
♣ J 10 9

4 7 8
21

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ K 5
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ 7 4 2

♠ A 7
♥ 8 6 4 3 2
♦ 3
♣ A 8 6 5 3

♠ K J 10 5
♥ A Q J 9
♦ A J 9
♣ K Q

West	North	East	South
			2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♣ by South

You open 2 NT and partner responds 3 ♣. What do you bid?

With 4 cards in each Major suit you bid 3 ♥. Partner puts you in 3 NT. What do you do? Pass or bid?

You certainly do not pass. Partner's Stayman bid tells you he has a 4-card Major suit. His 3 NT bid tells you the suit was not ♥s. Elementary, Watson, the suit must be ♠s. So you convert the 3 NT bid to 4 ♠.

If you want to make yourself happy you use Stayman, just imagine playing 3 NT after a ♣ lead!

Deal 21
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 3
♥ 8
♦ J 7 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 10 5 2

11
3 6
20

♠ K Q 4 2
♥ A Q 10 9 4 3
♦ —
♣ 8 7 4

♠ 10 7 6
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ A 3

♠ AJ 8 5
♥ KJ
♦ AK 8
♣ KJ 9 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 ♣ by South			

South opens 2 NT. What do you respond?

Wow! Start thinking slam, but first things first. Find the suit by starting with Stayman. You bid 3 ♣ and partner replies 3 ♠. What do you say next?

Your hand revalues to 16 points now that you know there's a ♠ fit. So certainly you want to be in slam as long as there are not two quick ♣ losers. At this point you might try something like a 4 ♦ cue bid, hoping partner will read that as a slam try in ♠s, but denying the ♣ control. But that seems awfully easy to be misunderstood. We suggest an immediate 6 ♠.

Good thing it's being played by South, right?

Deal 22

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 9 6 5

♥ 7 5 2

♦ K 10

♣ K 4 3

10
15
12

♠ Q 7 4 2

♥ 10 9 8 3

♦ J 8 7 6 3

♣ —


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

 ♠ A 8 3
 ♥ A K 6 4
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ Q 8 7

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

2 ♥ by South

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

Your first thought should be that with only 4 points you will pass. But on second thought, what would partner respond if you bid a Stayman 2 ♣? So you give it a shot and partner says 2 ♥. What next?

What's next is your PASS. And if he had bid 2 ♣ you also would have passed. And if he had bid 2 ♦ you also would have passed. You figured that with this hand any response partner could make would be a better place than 1 NT.

Deal 23
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 6 2
♥ J 10 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ J 9 5 3

12
6 5
17

N
W E
S

♠ 10 4
♥ Q 8 7
♦ K 10 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 4

♠ A K 7 3
♥ A 9 5
♦ 9 8 2
♣ A Q 2

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

South opens 1 NT. What do you respond?

With 12 points and a 4-card ♠ suit this fits the model for Stayman.

But thinking a little further, with this 4-3-3-3 distribution you have no ruffing values whatsoever. So even if partner also has 4 ♠s there might not be an advantage in playing the suit contract. So for this specific distribution you ignore your 4-card Major and just bid 3 NT.

Deal 24East Deals
None Vul

♠ 7
 ♥ 10 9 8 6 5
 ♦ 8 4 3 2
 ♣ 6 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 8
 ♥ K J 4
 ♦ A Q J 7
 ♣ A 10 8 5

♠ A Q 10 6
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ 10 9 5
 ♣ K 9 7 4

Deal 25
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ K Q 10 2 ♥ A Q 10 3 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 8 7 4		♠ J 9 6 5 3 ♥ 8 2 ♦ 10 5 ♣ J 10 9 6
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♠ 7 4 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ K Q J 9 8 4 ♣ A 2	11 10 2 17	♠ A 8 ♥ K J 7 4 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ K Q 5 3
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
2 ♦	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

South opens 1 NT and West overcalls 2 ♦.
 What do you say?

Dad-burned interfering opponents. You were going to bid a Stayman 2 ♣ and now you can't. You also don't want to bid either Major with only 4 of them. And you certainly can't bid notrump with no ♦ stopper. Fortunately the overcall has opened a window of opportunity for you. So you cue-bid 3 ♦. Even if you and partner haven't discussed this it is pretty obvious that you don't really want to play in ♦s, so the most likely action for him is to bid a suit, and a Major suit would have priority. So really, the cue-bid achieves the same purpose as Stayman would have.

Partner now bids 3 ♥. What do you say?

Partner showed a 4-card ♥ suit. With your 4 that makes a fit. You have 12 revalued points so you bid 4 ♥.