

Deal 1

West Deals	♠ A K J 7 4
None Vul	♥ 8 7
	♦ A 7 6
	♣ Q 5 4

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



14	♠ Q 9 6 2
15 6	♥ 9 5 2
5	♦ K 9
	♣ 9 8 6 2

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

NORTH has an opening hand, 15 points, and a 5-card ♠ suit. Unfortunately WEST beat her to

the punch by opening 1

♥

.

But NORTH should get into the bidding anyway, by Overcalling 1♠. This shows a good ♠ suit

and somewhere between 9 and 16 points.

SOUTH has 6 points. If NORTH had actually OPENED 1♠, SOUTH would be obligated to bid. But knowing that

the Overcall will not be made with more than 16 points, SOUTH just passes.

Deal 2

North Deals **♥ A K Q J 6 3**
None Vul **♦ J 8 3**
 ♣ 10 8 3

♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ K J 6

11	14	4	♦ 10 5 3	♥ 9 4	◆ A 9 7 2
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4 ♠ by East			

A bridge hand diagram. The top row shows the suits: Spades (♠), Hearts (♥), Diamonds (♦), and Clubs (♣). The bottom row shows the ranks: A, K, J, 7, 4. The left side shows the positions: N (North), W (West), S (South), and E (East). The North, West, and South positions are enclosed in a green box, while the East position is in a white box.

♠ A K J 7 4
♥ 8 7
♦ A 7 6
♣ Q 5 4

EAST has an opening hand, 15 points and five ♠s. But NORTH beat him to the punch,

so he overcalls 1♦.

WEST has 11 points, and if EAST had opened she would make a Limit Raise to 3♠.

But when replying to an Overcall, the strength needs to be a little higher. In Deal 1 it was OK to

pass a 1♦ Overcall with 6 points, here it is correct to just raise to 2♦ with 11 points.

EAST actually has a strong Overcall so he bids 4♠.

Deal 3East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 5 3
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ Q J 8 3 2
 ♣ Q 9 7

12
5 14
9

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

♠ Q 9 6 2
 ♥ 10 5 2
 ♦ A K
 ♣ K 8 6 2

♠ 8
 W N E
 S
 ♥ A K Q J 4 3
 ♦ 10 5 4
 ♣ A 10 3

♠ A K J 7 4
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ 9 7 6
 ♣ J 5 4

This time SOUTH has just 10 points, nowhere near an opening hand. Still, when EAST opens

1

♥

SOUTH should Overcall 1♦. This shows a good ♠ suit

and somewhere between 9 and 16 points.

NORTH has 13 points. If SOUTH had actually OPENED 1♦, NORTH would insist on game. But SOUTH didn't

Open, she just Overcalled. So NORTH must be more cautious. He jumps to 3♦ and SOUTH shows her

minimum type hand by passing.

Deal 4North Deals
None Vul**♦ 4****♠ A 10 5 3**
♥ 10 7 5
♦ Q 8
♣ A 8 6 2**11**
10 15
4N
W E
S**♠ K 9 8 6**
♥ 4
♦ A K 7 3
♣ K Q 7 5**♠ 4**
♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ J 6 5 4
♣ J 10 9 3

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

EAST has 15 points, a singleton in the opponent's suit and 4-card support for any suit

partner might name. In other words, a perfect Takeout Double.

WEST needs to make a medium-strong bid to apprise EAST of her 10 points. She jumps to **2 ♠**.

EAST's hand is now worth 17 points because of the singleton. Since he is quite happy with

♠s he bids **4 ♠**.

Deal 5
East Deals
None Vul

♠ A
♥ Q 10 9
♦ A 10 9 7 3
♣ Q 10 5 3

1
12 13
14

N
W E
S

♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 8 6 4
♣ J 9 8

♠ K Q J 10 9 8
♥ K 8 5
♦ 5 2
♣ A 6

West North East South
Pass 2 ♣ Pass Dbl
Pass
2 ♣ by North

SOUTH has 14 points, a doubleton in the opponent's ♠ suit and at least three cards in

each of the other suits. This is a normal Takeout Double.

NORTH has a really awful hand. He has just one point and his only 4-card suit is the one the

opponents have already bid. He wants nothing more than to pass.

But he cannot pass. Partner's Double said "Bid your best suit.", so he bids 2♣.

Mercifully SOUTH also passes.

Deal 6
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 9 8 5
 ♥ K Q 10 5
 ♦ A K 3
 ♣ 4 2

2
 14 13
 11

N
W E
S

♠ A J 10 7
 ♥ J 7
 ♦ Q J 9 5
 ♣ A 8 3

♠ K 6 3 2
 ♥ A 8 4
 ♦ 10 8
 ♣ K J 7 6

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

With 14 points, ♣ shortage, and support for the other suits WEST makes a Takeout Double.

EAST has 13 points so she bids 2♣. This is an artificial bid, apprising WEST of EAST's opening

hand strength, and forcing the partnership to reach the game level.

WEST suggests

♥

s as trumps.

EAST doesn't like

♥

s so she suggests ♠s.

WEST agrees with ♠s and bids game, 4♣.

Deal 7

West Deals	♠ Q 7 4
None Vul	♥ 9 6 5 2
	♦ Q 5
	♣ A 8 6 3

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

8	♠ A K J 9 8 3
12 4	♥ 7
16	♦ A K J 3
	♣ 7 5

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



WEST's 1



opening is passed around to SOUTH. He is

tempted to overcall 1♠, but with 18 points is a little strong for a mere overcall.

Instead, he doubles.

With 8 points NORTH is not strong enough to jump. She bids 2♣.

SOUTH now bids 2♠. By doubling first, then bidding his own suit,

he shows a good suit and 17+ points.

NORTH raises to 4♠.

Deal 8
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 9
♥ K Q 8
♦ Q 7 4
♣ A Q 8 5

^o
18 11
11

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

♠ 10 3
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 10 7 4 2

♠ 8 7
♥ A 9 7 6
♦ A 6 2
♣ K 9 6 3

♠ K Q 6 5 4 2
♥ J 2
♦ K J 10 5
♣ J

1 ♠

WEST has 18 points, a balanced hand, and a good stopper in their suit. He should overcall 1 NT.

For 1 NT overcalls, the range is increased to 15-18 points.

EAST bids 2♣ (Stayman), just as she would with a 1 NT opening. When WEST denies holding

a 4-card Major EAST has enough points to bid 3 NT. She doesn't worry about a ♠ stopper

since WEST promised he had the suit controlled.

Deal 9West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 3
♥ A 9
♦ K 10 5 4
♣ A 9 7 5

20
13 5
2

♠ A 8 6
♥ K Q J
♦ A J 9 7
♣ K Q 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9 4
♥ 10 8 5 3
♦ Q 3 2
♣ 10 3 2

♠ J 10 5 2
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ 8 6
♣ J 8 6

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

Pass
1 NT by North

NORTH has 20 points, excellent

♦

stoppers and a balanced hand.

She is two points too strong to overcall 1 NT. Instead, she doubles.

SOUTH has an awful hand - but since he is forced to bid he says 1♠, assuming NORTH wants

to hear his best suit.

NORTH now bids 1 NT, showing the balanced 19-21 point hand. SOUTH passes, of course.

Deal 10
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

W	N	E
S		

♠ Q 7 4

♥ A Q 10

♦ K J 7 5

♣ A K 6

♠ 10 8

♥ 9 3 2

♦ 10 9 6 4 2

♣ 10 5 3

11
10 19
o

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

EAST has a 19 point balanced hand, including a stop in

♥

s.

He plans to double, then bid NT. (see Deal 9)

WEST has 10 points though, so he jumps to 2 ♠.

In theory EAST could now bid 2 NT to continue the description of his hand, but he might as well

go ahead and bid 3 NT instead.

Deal 11

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 6
♥ J 10 7
♦ 7 6 5
♣ K 10 6 5 3

13
4 11
12

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♠ by South			

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

W	N
S	E

♠ A Q 10 5 3

♥ 6 4
♦ Q 10

♣ A 9 7 4

1 ♥

1 ♠

With a 5-card ♠ suit and 13 points SOUTH should overcall 1 ♠.

NORTH has 13 points and four ♠s. If SOUTH had opened, NORTH's hand would be good enough

to insist on game. But since SOUTH overcalled, NORTH merely invites with a jump to 3 ♠.

SOUTH has better than a minimum overcall so she accepts the invitation and bids 4 ♠.

Deal 12

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 9 7	♦ K Q 10 4 3
♥ A 2	♦ 10 4 2
♦ 10 4 2	

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

13	13
11	13
3	

West	North	East	South
4 ♥	1 ♦	Dbl	Pass
4 ♥ by West	Pass	Pass	Pass



♠ K J 6 4	♦ 6
♥ J 10 7 5	♣ A K J 3

EAST has a very minimum Takeout Double of 1

♦

. But what it lacks

in strength, it makes up for with perfect distribution.

WEST has 13 points and only wants to play in one contract, 4

♥

.

EAST passes happily.

Deal 13East Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5 3 2
 ♥ 8 6 3
 ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ 9 8 7

9
 o 13
 18

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

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

W	N
S	E

♠ A 10 9 4
 ♥ K Q J 7
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ A Q 4

SOUTH has 18 points, a doubleton in the opponent's suit, and at least three cards in the unbid suits.

This is an ideal hand for a Takeout Double.

NORTH has good strength in EAST's

♦

suit, probably two stoppers.

He has 9 points and no 4-card suit of his own. This is the type of hand to respond 1 NT.

SOUTH is happy to play Notrump now that she knows the

♦

s are covered,

so she bids 3 NT.

Deal 14
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ A K 9 6 4
 ♥ Q 5
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ J 10 7

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

N
W E
S

♠ Q 8
 ♥ A J 9 2
 ♦ A J 6
 ♣ Q 9 8 3

1
 13 14
 12

♠ 5
 ♥ K 10 8 4 3
 ♦ Q 2
 ♣ A K 6 5 2

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

to rebid,

he happily bids 3 NT.

WEST has an opening hand, 14 points and five ♠s. But SOUTH beat him to the punch,

so he overcalls 1♦.

EAST also has 14 points, she doesn't care too much for ♠s, but she has an

excellent stopper in

♥

s.

She jumps to 2 NT, inviting WEST to bid game.

Since WEST has several points more than he might have had, and no 6-card ♠ suit

Deal 15East Deals
None Vul

♠ 5 4 2
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ 9 7 6 2
 ♣ 7 5 3 2

14
 o **11**
15

West
 Pass
 Pass
 Pass
 4 ♥ by South

♠ A 9 3
 ♥ J 10 5 3
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ A K 8 6



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

♠ 8 7
 ♥ K Q 9 7
 ♦ A K 8 3
 ♣ Q J 4

North East South
 2 ♠ 1 ♠ Dbl
 4 ♥ Pass Pass

SOUTH has 15 points and all the requirements for a Takeout Double of 1♠.

With 14 points of his own, NORTH knows his side needs to be in a game somewhere. He passes this information to SOUTH with a cue-bid of 2♠.

SOUTH gets the message and starts the hunt for a trump fit by bidding 3

♥

. That

makes it easy for NORTH - he bids 4

♥

.

Deal 16

South Deals	♠ 10 8 3		
None Vul	♥ 9 4		
	♦ 10 9 6 4		
	♣ K J 5 3		
♠ A Q J 6 4 2	♠ K 7 5		
♥ A 7	♥ 8 5 2		
♦ J 7 2	♦ K Q 3		
♣ A 8	♣ 9 7 6 2		
	♠ 9		
	♥ K Q J 10 6 3		
	♦ A 8 5		
	♣ Q 10 4		
16 4 16 8 12			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Dbl	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4 ♠ by West			1 ♥

There is only one reason that WEST should not overcall with 1♠. He is too strong.

The maximum strength of an overcall is 16 points. Above that you should double.

So WEST doubles, and after EAST bids 2♣, WEST bids 2♠. This shows an overcall

type hand, but with 17 or more points.

EAST has fine trump support and 8 points so she bids a confident 4♠.

Deal 17
 West Deals
 None Vul

♠ A 10
 ♥ Q J 8 2
 ♦ A J 8 3
 ♣ 5 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 2
 ♥ A K 4 3
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ K Q 8 2

13
12 o
15

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

♠ K 9 8 3
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ K Q 5
 ♣ A J 7 6

♠ 7 6 5 4
 ♥ 10 9 5
 ♦ 10 9 6 2
 ♣ 10 9

NORTH has 13 points but has no bid over 1

♦

.

SOUTH can make a Takeout Double, so he does.

NORTH now cue-bids

♦

to show opening hand strength.

SOUTH shows his

♥

suit, NORTH doesn't like it.

NORTH shows her ♠ suit, SOUTH doesn't like it.

SOUTH shows his ♣ suit, NORTH likes it fine, but decides 3 NT will be easier than 5♣.

Deal 18East Deals
None Vul

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

6
 10 11
 13

West

Pass
 1 ♠ by East

♠ 9 6
 ♥ Q 6 5
 ♦ J 7 5 4
 ♣ K 10 6 2

♠ K Q 5 3 2
 ♥ J 9 2
 ♦ K 2
 ♣ Q 7 4

♠ A J 10 7 4
 ♥ A 7 3
 ♦ A 8 6
 ♣ 9 5

North East South

1 ♠



SOUTH would have had a great opening 1 ♠ bid. But when EAST opened 1 ♠

in front of him he was hornswaggled. He couldn't bid any other suit, he couldn't bid 1 NT

and he sure couldn't bid ♠s. So he must pass.

And so does everybody else pass.

Deal 19

East Deals

None Vul

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

8
 12 12
 8

West

Pass
3 ♠ by South

♠ A 8 2
 ♥ J 5 2
 ♦ K 9 8 6
 ♣ 7 5 3

W	N
S	E

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

♠ K Q J 9 7 5 3
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ 6 2

North

Pass
1 ♣

East

Pass

South

3 ♠

If East had passed, SOUTH would have opened with a preemptive 3♠.

She should make the same bid with the same hand AFTER the opponents open. And she makes it

for the same reason, to describe her hand and to take away bidding space from the opponents.

NORTH treats it just like a Preemptive 3-bid, even though it is now called a Weak Jump Overcall.

In this case, NORTH passes.

Deal 20

South Deals	♠ 9		
None Vul	♥ K 10 9 7 2		
	♦ Q 7 2		
	♣ K Q 7 2		
♠ A J 10 8 5	♠ K 7 2		
♥ 6 3	♥ Q J 5 4		
♦ A J 10 8 5	♦ 6 3		
♣ 3	♣ 9 8 6 4		
	♠ Q 6 4 3		
10	♥ A 8		
10 6	♦ K 9 4		
14	♣ A J 10 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♠ by West			Pass

WEST has 12 points, but with two 5-card suits worthy of an overcall. There isn't really a

right and wrong here, but it usually works out best to overcall in the higher-ranking suit. That

leaves open the possibility of bidding the second suit later.

In this Deal, after WEST overcalls **1♠**, that later possibility never happens because

everybody should pass.

Deal 21 ♠ K J 10 9 7
North Deals ♥ K 10 9 5
None Vul ♦ Q 6
 ♣ A K

♠ Q 8 6
♥ Q 8 6 3
♦ 9 8 4 3
♣ 8 5

16
4 12
8

West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass
1 ♠ by North

N
W E
S

♠ A 5 3
♥ 4 2
♦ A K 2
♣ J 7 6 4 2

♠ 4 2
♥ A J 7
♦ J 10 7 5
♣ Q 10 9 3

EAST has 13 points but she has to pass.

She cannot Double without support for

♥

s.

She cannot bid 1 NT without 2 more points.

She cannot overcall 2♣ with a terrible suit like that.

And WEST of course must also pass.

Deal 22

East Deals

None Vul

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

14	
3	13
10	

West	North	East	South
Pass	Dbl	1♠	Pass
Pass		Pass	Pass
1♠ by East			

N	
W	E
S	

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

♠ K Q J 8 4 2

♥ Q 2

♦ Q 8 7

♣ 8 3

SOUTH obviously has to pass when EAST opens 1♠.

NORTH has a reasonable Takeout Double. She hopes SOUTH will name a suit and they can just

play a partscore.

You should almost always bid when partner makes a Takeout Double. Almost always. This is the one time

when you don't. SOUTH's ♠ are so good that he passes, converting the Takeout Double into a

Penalty Double.

Deal 23

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 6 4 3
 ♥ 10 6 3
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 9 8

16
 2 11
 11

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

4♠ by South

♠ Q J 5
 ♥ A K Q 2
 ♦ A 9 8 5
 ♣ 4 2



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

♠ A K 8 7 2
 ♥ J 9 8
 ♦ K 7 6
 ♣ 6 5

SOUTH has a normal overcall of 1♠.

NORTH has a really good hand, but he doesn't have to worry about missing a slam since SOUTH will

not have more than 16 points. So he just bids what he thinks SOUTH can make, 4♠.

Deal 24

North Deals

None Vul

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



♠ K Q 3
 ♥ K Q J 5 3
 ♦ 9 6 5
 ♣ 10 6

♠ J 8 4 2
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ Q 8 7
 ♣ K 9 7 5

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

EAST has 12 points and a good enough suit to overcall 1

♥

.

WEST has 9 points with a good

♦

stopper. She bids 1 NT.

EAST has nothing more to say, and lets WEST play 1 NT.