

**Deal 1**

South Deals	♠ 10 7 5
None Vul	♥ 8 2
	♦ A Q 5 3
	♣ J 10 8 4

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

N  
W E S

8 7 8  
17

West      North      East      South

Pass      2 ♠      Pass      1 ♠

Pass      Pass      Pass      4 ♠

4 ♠ by South

You are the dealer.

It may be tempting to open 1 ♥, planning on Reversing in ♠ at your second turn to show your big hand.

Don't. A Reverse should always show an unbalanced hand with the first suit longer. So you open 1 ♠ and partner replies 2 ♠.

What do you bid?

If you had opened 1 ♥ partner would have replied 1 NT. Then when you Reversed with 2 ♠ he would have assumed you had a 4-card ♠ suit and would probably have put you back in ♥s, your known 5-card suit.

Things would have gotten confusing, to say the least.

**Deal 2**

South Deals	♠ 10 7 4
None Vul	♥ K J 9 8
	♦ K 7 3
	♣ 9 8 5
♠ J 8 2	♠ Q 9 6 5 3
♥ A 10 6 3	♥ Q 7 4
♦ J 10 9	♦ Q 8 5
♣ Q J 3	♣ 6 2

9	7	♠ A K
9	6	♥ 5 2
18		♦ A 6 4 2

♣ A K 10 7 4

W	N	E
S		

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

You would really love to pass. You have a terrible hand and you like the ♦s better than the ♣s.

But you are forced to bid. And since partner has 5 ♣s and only 4 ♦s, you should take him back to his first suit.

Mercifully he passes.

**Deal 3**North Deals  
None Vul

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

**16**  
 5 8  
**11**

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

N  
W E  
S

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

♠ K Q 10 5  
 ♥ Q 8  
 ♦ J 9 4  
 ♣ Q J 9 7

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

When partner shows 17+ points with his Reverse you are sure you belong in game. Since he did not support your ♠s you know he doesn't have four of them. You also know you have an 8-card fit in ♦s, but surely nine tricks in Notrump will be easier than eleven in ♦s.

**Deal 4**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

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

6	♠ 6 3
10	♦ K 5
16	♦ K Q J 6

♠ K 10 4
♦ Q 10 7 2
♦ 10 9 8
♣ Q J 6

**Deal 5**

North Deals

None Vul

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

♠ A Q 6 4 2  
 ♥ 6 3  
 ♦ Q 10 2  
 ♣ Q 5 2

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

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

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

You have 7 points, and basically nothing but s♥. You must make a minimum bid, and the only reasonable one is 2 ♥. Despite his 17 points, partner passes.