

**Deal 1**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

12  
5 8  
15

*West*

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♥ by North

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



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

*North*

2 ♥

5 ♠

Pass

*East*

Pass

Pass

Pass

*South*

1 ♠

4 NT

6 ♥

Since there has not been a clear agreement on the trump suit you can assume it is ♥s, the last bid suit.

So you have two Key-Cards (♠ A and ♥ K, along with the ♥ Q). You therefore bid 5 ♠ and partner bids 6 ♥.

**Deal 2**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

21  
5 3  
11

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5 ♠ by South

♠ K Q J 5  
♥ A Q J 3  
♦ Q 6  
♣ K Q J



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

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

Partner's jump to 4 ♠ indicates he is prepared to play at game even if you have as few as 6 points. So he must have 20 points or so. With your 14 that puts you in slam range. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Despite your conviction that this hand is going to slam you should NOT ask for Key-Cards holding a worthless doubleton. Instead, you make a slam try by bidding your cheapest control, 5 ♣. Partner says 5 ♥. What is your next bid?

You can only say 5 ♠. Partner would have control-bid ♦s if he held the Ace since controls are bid up-the-line. His failure to show it means he doesn't have it. Since you might be off the first two ♦ tricks you stop at 5 ♠.

Yes, partner should probably have opened 2 NT. Sometimes partners don't make the bids you think they oughta.

**Deal 3**

South Deals

None Vul

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

13  
7 4  
16

♠ K Q 9 6 2

♥ K 8 6 5

♦ 5

♣ K Q 3



♠ J 10 8 7

♥ A 7

♦ A K 6 3

♣ A 8 2

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

*West**North**East**South*

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

1 ♦

Pass

4 NT

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

6 ♠

Pass

5 ♦

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by North

You have 3 Key-Cards so you bid 5 ♦.  
Partner bids 6 ♠.

**Deal 4**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ 10 5  
♥ 10 9 8 3  
♦ A 10 8 2  
♣ 10 5 2

14  
4 2  
20

♠ K Q 8 4  
♥ A J 6  
♦ J 3  
♣ Q J 8 3



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

♠ 6 3  
♥ 7 4 2  
♦ Q 9 7 6 4  
♣ 9 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 ♠ by South			

Your partnership plays Jacoby 2 NT convention, so partner's 2 NT shows a game-forcing raise in ♠s. Your 3 NT bid indicates a 5-card suit and "extra values". Partner's 4 ♥ is a control-bid showing the ♥ A. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you need to know now about partner's hand is Key-Cards so you bid 4 NT. He answers 5 ♠. What is your bid?

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Partner's response says 2 Key-Cards and the ♠ Q. So you are missing either the trump King or the ♦ A. So you shouldn't bid 7, but you will almost surely make 6. You bid 6 ♠.

**Deal 5**

South Deals

None Vul

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

14  
 4 6  
 16

♠ K J 7

♥ 6

♦ A Q 10 8 7 5

♣ A 10 6



♠ 6 4 2

♥ A Q 9 5 3 2

♦ 4

♣ 9 3 2

♠ A Q

♥ 10 7 4

♦ K J 6 3

♣ K Q J 7

*West**North**East**South*

Pass

3 ♦

Pass

1 NT

Pass

4 NT

Pass

4 ♦

Pass

6 ♦

ALL

5 ♥

6 ♦ by North

Pass

Partner's 3 ♦ bid shows a very good hand with probable slam interest. It is very tempting to say 3 NT now but you don't have ♥s stopped and don't know if partner does. So with good ♦ support you bid 4 ♦. Partner bids 4 NT. What is your response?

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠ A and ♦ K. But you don't have the ♦ Q so you answer 5 ♥. Partner bids 6 ♦.

**Deal 6**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

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



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

11  
3 7  
19

♠ K 10 8  
♥ A K 9 8 6 4  
♦ —  
♣ A K Q 7

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

Your partner's 3 ♥ is a limit-raise, 11-12 points with ♥ support. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you want to know is whether partner holds the ♠ A. If you bid 4 NT and he shows two Key-Cards all will be well, you will know they are the two missing Aces. But if he shows just 1 Key-Card you will be in the soup since you can't tell if that Key-Card is the useful ♠ A or the practically useless ♦ A. So you don't use RKCB, you use control-showing and bid 4 ♣. Partner says 4 ♥. What do you bid next?

Partner would have control-bid ♦s if he had the Ace. You may not think that helps but it does since now you can bid RKCB. You bid 4 NT and he answers 5 ♣. What is your next bid?

It was a lot of work but you have figured out that partner holds 11-12 points including one Key-Card which must be the ♠ A. It looks like the slam is a good idea so you say 6 ♥.

**Deal 7**

North Deals

None Vul

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

16  
 7 6  
 11

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by North

♠ A Q 9 7 4

♥ 8

♦ A 6 3 2

♣ K Q J



♠ K 8 6 5 2

♥ K J 10 7

♦ —

♣ A 9 8 3

North

1 ♠

4 NT

6 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

4 ♦

5 NT

Pass

Your 4 ♦ bid is a Splinter Bid, showing opening hand strength, at least 4 ♠s, and a singleton or void in ♦s. Partner bids 4 NT.

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠ K and the ♣ A. So do you bid 5 ♥?

No. You have two Key-Cards AND a void. So you bid 5 NT. Partner bids 6 ♠.

**Deal 8**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 10 8  
♥ K 9 8 4  
♦ K 9  
♣ K 10 6 5

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



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

13  
3 4  
20

♠ K Q J  
♥ A 10 7 6  
♦ A Q J  
♣ Q J 9

West	North	East	South
			2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
5 ♥ by South			

Your partner's 2 NT opener is 20-21 points and the 3 ♣ bid is Stayman. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

You know of 33 points and you know of an 8-card ♥ fit. The math tells you that 6 ♥ should be a good slam but you might as well check Key-Cards, that's why the convention was invented. So you bid 4 NT and partner answers 5 ♥. What do you say?

You say "Darn!" You are missing just one Key-Card, but you are also missing the trump Queen. And with partner holding only a 4-card suit that Queen might well win a trick. Knowing that at best the slam will depend on a trump finesse you pass 5 ♥.



**Deal 9**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 5 3

♥ 3

♦ 10 9 8 6 3

♣ J 7 6 2

10

1 5

24

♠ 7

♥ K Q 9 8 5

♦ K Q 7 4

♣ 9 8 3



♠ A K Q J

♥ A J 10 7

♦ A 5

♣ K Q 10

♠ 10 9 8 4 2

♥ 6 4 2

♦ J 2

♣ A 5 4

*West**North**East**South*

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♥ by North

2 ♥

5 ♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

2 ♣

4 NT

6 ♥

With 11 points and a good suit you should make a positive response. So you bid 2 ♥. Partner then says 4 NT. What is your bid?

The 4 NT bid agrees ♥s as trump. You have one Key-Card, the ♥ K, so you bid 5 ♣. Partner bids the ♥ slam.

**Deal 10**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ K 10  
♥ A K 9 8 4  
♦ K Q 8  
♣ K Q 6

♠ 8 4  
♥ 10 7 2  
♦ 10 7 5 2  
♣ A 9 7 4



♠ 9 6 2  
♥ Q J 3  
♦ J 9 6  
♣ J 10 5 3

20  
4 5  
11

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 ♠ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Your partner has shown a minimum opening hand, but with 6 ♠s. You are happy with the 8-card trump fit but need to know about Key-Cards. So you bid 4 NT. Partner answers 5 ♠ and it is your bid again.

Partner has two Aces and the ♠ Q. That should be all he needs to make slam so you bid 6 ♠.

**Deal 11**

South Deals

None Vul

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

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



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

9  
 7 3  
 21

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

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	7 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

7 ♥ by North

With 11 points and a good suit you should make a positive response. So you bid 2 ♥. Partner then says 4 NT. What is your bid?

The 4 NT bid agrees ♥s as trump. You have one Key-Card, the ♥ K, but you also have a void in ♣s. You therefore answer 6 ♣. Partner goes all the way to 7 ♥.

**Deal 12**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

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



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

18  
5 2  
15

♠ A 10 9 7  
♥ K J 10  
♦ Q J 10 3  
♣ K J

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
5 ♠ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Partner has 15-17 points and 4 ♠s. You have 18 points and 4 ♠s. You plan to bid the slam, but first you check Key-Cards. So you bid 4 NT. Partner says 5 ♣. What do you bid?

You are missing 1 Key-Card. Slam has become less certain. You decide to see if partner has the trump Queen so you bid 5 ♦. Partner bids 5 ♠. What do you say next?

Partner denies having the ♠ Q. Knowing that the best you could hope for would be a finesse to make the slam you give up your quest and pass.

**Deal 13**

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 5 4 2  
 ♥ 4 3 2  
 ♦ 10 8 2  
 ♣ 4 3

17  
 0 4  
 19

♠ 9 7

♥ A K 9 6

♦ A Q 9 7 4

♣ A 5



♠ A K Q J 3

♥ 10 8 7 5

♦ K

♣ K Q J

♠ 6

♥ Q J

♦ J 6 5 3

♣ 10 9 8 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6♥ by North			

Your 2♥ bid is a Reverse, showing 17+ points.

There has been no agreement on trumps, so you assume that South has implicitly agreed to ♥s. So you respond 5♣, showing 4 Key-Cards, three Aces and the ♥K. Partner next bids 5♦. What do you say?

5♦ is the Queen Ask. Partner obviously is thinking about a Grand Slam and wants to know whether you hold the trump Queen (♥Q). Since you do not have the card you return to the agreed trump suit at the lowest level - which is 5♥. Partner now bids 6♥.

**Deal 14**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

18  
4 2  
16

♠ A 6 3  
♥ A K 9 8 6 5  
♦ K  
♣ A 3 2



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

♠ J 10 8 4 2  
♥ 4 2  
♦ 9  
♣ J 10 9 6 4

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	7 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
7 NT by South			

The bidding has been as shown. Yes, you could have jump-shifted on your first bid. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Slam in ♥s is almost certain, but you should check for Key-Cards. You bid 4 NT and partner says 5 ♣. What do you bid next?

Partner shows 1 or 4 Key-cards. Since he jumped on the second round you figure it must be 4. So you have all the Key-Cards. Time to find out about the other Kings, so you bid 5 NT. Partner replies 6 ♦. What do you bid?

Partner has 1 King, the only one left, the ♦ K. You can count about 17 high-card tricks available so you bid 7 NT.

**Deal 15**

North Deals

None Vul

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

15  
 7 7  
 11

West

Pass

Pass

6 ♥ by North

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



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

North

1 ♥

4 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

3 ♠

6 ♥

Your 3 ♠ bid is a Splinter, agreeing ♥s as trump, and showing opening hand strength with a singleton or void in ♠s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

&lt;/table&gt;

You have one Key-Card, the ♥ A. You also have a ♠ void, but since bidding 6 ♠ would take you above the 6 ♥ level you just respond 6 ♥. Partner will deduce that your void is in ♠s, particularly because you Splintered in that suit. Partner passes your 6 ♥ bid.

**Deal 16**

East Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 10 8 4 3  
♥ Q 10 8 4  
♦ —  
♣ K J 10 2

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



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

10  
5 8  
17

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	7 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
7 ♠ by South			

Partner's 4 ♦ bid is a Splinter Bid. It shows opening hand strength, at least 4-card ♠ support, and a singleton or void in ♦s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Normally you would not ask for Key-Cards with this ♦ holding. But since you know partner has at most a singleton, and that it is not the singleton ♦ A, you are safe to do so. You say 4 NT, partner replies 6 ♦. What next?

WOW! Partner has one Key-Card and a ♦ void. So the Key-Card is the ♠ A. You don't know what the rest of partner's hand is, but he can surely take care of that small ♣. You bid 7 ♠.



**Deal 17**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

10  
3 5  
22

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



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

♠ J 6 3  
♥ Q J 5 3 2  
♦ J 5  
♣ 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	7 NT
ALL	Pass		
7 NT by North			

Your 2 NT response shows 8+ points, with no 5-card biddable suit. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

You support the ♦s and partner bids 4 NT. What is your next bid?

With ♦s as trump you have 1 Key-Card, the ♥ A. You answer 5 ♣ and partner bids 5 ♥. What is your bid?

This is the Queen Ask, wanting to know if you hold the ♦ Q. Since you do have it you should bid a suit in which you hold a King. So you bid 5 ♠. That spurred partner on - he was fishing for 7 ♦ but when you told him you had the ♦ Q, ♥ A and ♠ K he was able to bid 7 NT.

**Deal 18**

West Deals    ♠ Q 8  
 None Vul    ♥ A J 9 7  
               ♦ K Q J

♣ A K Q 6

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

♠ —  
 ♥ K Q 10 8 6 3 2  
 ♦ 5 3  
 ♣ J 10 8 2

22  
 5 7  
 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	6 ♥
ALL	Pass		

6 ♥ by South

Partner's 2 ♥ is a positive response, 8+ points with a 5+ card suit. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Even though it is tempting, bidding RKCB now would be a mistake because of your doubleton ♠ loser. Instead just support the ♥s. Partner cannot pass, you both know you are forced to game. In fact, partner bids 3 ♠. What do you bid next?

Partner promises first round ♠ control so NOW you can bid RCKB. When you bid 4 NT partner answers 6 ♥. This shows 1 Key-Card and a void in a suit higher than ♥s. Knowing you are missing either the ♦ A or ♥ K you pass.

**Deal 19**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

21  
3 6  
10

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	7 NT	ALL	Pass
7 NT by North			

♠ A Q J 8 5 4 3

♥ 7

♦ A K 4

♣ A K



♠ K 10 7 2

♥ A K 8 6 5

♦ 8 3

♣ 6 4

♠ 9

♥ Q 4 2

♦ Q J 10 2

♣ J 7 5 3 2

Your 2 ♥ response shows 8+ points, with at least 5 ♥s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Your hand is looking better and better. You already gave a positive response so you know you are forced to game. It is better to keep the bidding low to allow more investigating room so you bid 3 ♠. Partner bids 4 NT. What is your response?

With ♠s agreed as trumps you have two Key-Cards, the ♠ K and the ♥ A. With no trump Queen you respond 5 ♥. Partner now says 5 NT. What do you reply?

Partner is asking for Kings and you have just 1, the ♥ K. Remember, the ♠ K is not a King, it is a Key-Card which you have already counted. So you bid 6 ♦. Partner counts 13 tricks and bids 7 NT.

**Deal 20**

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 10

♥ J 9 4 3

♦ 7 5 3

♣ A Q 7 6 3

11  
7 4  
18

♠ Q J 7 3

♥ A 8

♦ 10 8 6 4

♣ K J 5



♠ A K 9 6 5 4

♥ K Q 6

♦ K Q J 2

♣ —

♠ 8 2

♥ 10 7 5 2

♦ A 9

♣ 10 9 8 4 2

West

North

East

South

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

4 ♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠

6 ♠ by South

Partner's 3 ♠ is a limit raise, 11-12 points and good ♠ support. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you DO NOT say next is 4 NT. If partner answered 1 Key-Card you would not know what to do. If he has a red Ace you can make slam, but if his one Key-Card were the ♣ A you couldn't. Instead you make a control-showing bid of 4 ♣, promising first round control. Partner obliges you by bidding 4 ♥. What is your next bid?

&lt;/table&gt;

Partner's bidding is like the Sherlock Holmes tale Silver Blaze, about the dog that didn't bark. Partner's ♥ bid shows that he DOES have the ♥ A, but equally important it shows that he DOES NOT

have the ♦ A. So you know you don't have a ♥ loser but do have a ♦ loser. You bid 6 ♠.