

Deal 1North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 6 4
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ A 8 4 3

¹⁵
 7 14
 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 10 5 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A Q J 10
 ♣ K Q 7 2

♠ A 9
 ♥ A Q 9 3
 ♦ K 8 7 5
 ♣ J 6 5

♠ J 8 3
 ♥ K 8 6 5 4
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ 10 9

West North East South
 Pass 1♦ Pass Pass

Pass
 1♦ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your turn. Decide what you would say, then on "" above.

You have 14 points but so what. You have no 5-card suit to Overcall. You cannot make a Takeout Double with 4 of their suit. So you pass. It is important to realize that there are hands you would open but cannot overcall with.

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 6
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ 5 3 2
 ♣ A 10 9 3 2

♠ A 7 5 3
 ♥ K 10 9 3
 ♦ K 9 6 4
 ♣ 5



♠ Q 8 4
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ A 10 8
 ♣ K Q J 7 4

10
 8 12
 10
 ♣ 8 6

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With four trumps and 12 points you have a text-book raise to 3 ♥. Partner had a minimum overcall though, so he passed.

Deal 3West Deals
None Vul

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

11
 12 10
 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2♥ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

With 12 points and a good suit you have a very solid overcall so you bid 1♥. Partner responds 2♥. What do you say?

Partner is showing 6-10 points and three trumps. Your hand revalues to 14 at most so you pass.

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 8 5 2**♥ Q 7 6 2****♦ J 10 3****♣ K****10 7
10 13**

♠ 6
♥ K J 9 4 3
♦ K 9 4
♣ 8 7 6 5

	N		E
W		S	

♠ 4 3
♥ A 10 5
♦ A 8 7 5
♣ A J 10 2

♠ K Q J 9 7
♥ 8
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1 ♣ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You really don't like partner's ♠s, and you do have 8 points. But 8 points is not enough to be considering game, and you would have to bid your ♥s at the 2-level. All things considered it is better to pass while you still aren't doubled.

Deal 5

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q 8 4
♥ 9 4
♦ 9 5 4 3
♣ K Q

14 9
8
9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 9
♥ K Q J 7 5 2
♦ Q J 7
♣ 6 5

♠ 6 3
♥ 10
♦ K 8 6
♣ A J 9 8 7 4 2

♠ J 7 5 2
♥ A 8 6 3
♦ A 10 2
♣ 10 3

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 ♥ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

You overcall 2 ♥ and hear partner raise you to 3 ♥. What do you say now?

No matter how many times you check this hand you cannot revalue it any more than 13 points. Since partner has T at the most you reluctantly pass.

Deal 6East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 6 2
♥ 8 6
♦ Q J 8 6
♣ Q J 5 4

6
8 13
13

West

Pass

2 ♣ by South

♠ J 8 3
♥ A J 9 2
♦ 10 7
♣ 9 8 3 2

W	N
S	E

♠ 10 4
♥ Q 7 5 4
♦ A K 4 2
♣ A 10 6

♠ A K 9 7 5
♥ K 10 3
♦ 9 5 3
♣ K 7

North East South
2 ♦ 1 ♦ 1 ♠
2 ♠ Pass Pass

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With only 7 points you might not think you have enough to make a "free bid". But in competitive bidding situations like these, where both sides have a fit, bidding is usually better than passing. So you bid 2 ♠.

You might look at the Law of Total Tricks lesson for more on this subject.