

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 7
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ 7 6 5 2
 ♣ J 10 9 8 4

16
 5 1
 18

West

Pass

Pass

6 NT by North

♠ K Q 5

♥ Q 9 5

♦ K Q 9 4

♣ A 6 2



♠ A 10 9 4

♥ K J 10 7

♦ A J

♣ K Q 3

North

1 NT

2 ♦

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

6 NT

North 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 2

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



♠ 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

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

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8 7
♥ A 8 4 3 2
♦ J 10 8
♣ 10 4

17
6 7
10

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by North			

♠ 9 5
♥ K Q 9 5
♦ A K 6 3
♣ K Q 8



♠ A K Q 4 2
♥ J 10 7 6
♦ 7 5
♣ 9 3

♠ 10 6 3
♥ —
♦ Q 9 4 2
♣ A J 7 6 5 2

North 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 4

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 5 3

♥ A 8

♦ Q J 10 9 2

♣ J 8 7

16

8 6

10

♠ 10 8 6

♥ K Q 5

♦ A 8 6 4

♣ A K 10



♠ A K Q 4 2

♥ J 10 7 6

♦ 7 5

♣ 9 3

♠ J 7

♥ 9 4 3 2

♦ K 3

♣ Q 6 5 4 2

*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 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 5 3

♥ 8 5

♦ J 10 9 8 3

♣ A K J

15
9 7
9

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ A Q J 9

♥ K J

♦ Q 7 6 4

♣ Q 5 3



♠ K 10 4 2

♥ A Q 10 9 6 3

♦ —

♣ 8 7 4

North

1 NT

2 ♠

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

4 ♠

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 losers on your ♥ suit.