

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

17
 7 10
 6

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by North

♠ J 6

♥ K Q 10 8 3 2

♦ A 7

♣ A K 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ K Q 3

♥ J 9 6 4

♦ 8 6 2

♣ 9 6 5

North

1 ♥

4 ♥

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♥

Pass

SOUTH's 2

♥

raise shows 6-10 points and a least three trumps.

NORTH, with 19+ points, decides that game is almost a certainty and bids 4

♥

.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 3 2

♥ 5 4

♦ A 8 6 4 2

♣ Q 10 2

12
7 6
15

♠ 10 9 7

♥ A 9 6

♦ K Q 7 3

♣ K 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 4

♥ K 10 8

♦ J 10 9 5

♣ A J 6

♠ K 8 6 5

♥ Q J 7 3 2

♦ —

♣ 9 7 5 3

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

Pass

3 NT

Pass

1 NT

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

SOUTH has an ideal 1 NT opening -

15 points and balanced distribution.

With 12 points, NORTH knows the partnership total is between 27 and 29, enough for game

but not enough to think about slam. Since NORTH has no 4-card Major suit she bids 3 NT.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

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

6
 9 11
 14

West

Pass

Pass

2 ♠ by North

North

1 ♠

Pass

♠ K 10 7 3

♥ K 6

♦ 10 7 5 4

♣ 8 5 2



♠ Q J 6 4

♥ A 9 5

♦ 8 2

♣ A K 6 3

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♣

2 ♠

With 6 points, NORTH must respond to SOUTH's 1♣ opening bid.

While it is often correct to respond by bidding suits "up-the-line", NORTH should

skip over the weak

♦

suit in favor of showing the 4-card

Major ♠ suit.

SOUTH knows that NORTH may only have four ♠s, but with four of her own she can support the

suit. Since she has a minimum opening

bid she merely raises to 2♠.

With his minimum response hand NORTH passes.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 4 3

♥ 5 3

♦ 10 8 7 6 2

♣ A Q 3

6

9 9

16

West

Pass

Pass

3 ♥ by South

♠ 7 5

♥ 10 9 8 4

♦ K 9 4

♣ K 8 5 2



♠ Q J 6

♥ A K Q 7 2

♦ A 5 3

♣ 6 4

North

2 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

3 ♥

With 17 points SOUTH is not strong enough to insist on game after NORTH's raise,

but is strong enough to invite with a 3

♥

bid.

NORTH, however, doesn't have anything extra, so declines to go further.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q
 ♥ A 8 5 3
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ 10 8 7 4 2

17
 6 8
 9

♠ A 8 3 2
 ♥ K 10 9
 ♦ A J 7
 ♣ K Q 6



♠ 10 9 4
 ♥ Q J 4
 ♦ K Q 5 2
 ♣ J 9 5

♠ K J 7 6 5
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ 10 8 4
 ♣ A 3

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

This is a classic Notrump bidding sequence.

NORTH opens 1 NT with 17 points and balanced distribution.

SOUTH, with 9 points is not strong enough to bid game, but invites with 2 NT.

NORTH has a maximum, so she accepts the invitation.

Deal 6

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 5 3
♥ Q J 9
♦ Q 9 2
♣ Q 10 7 5

14
7 5
14

♠ K J 8 4
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 6 5
♣ K 9 3



♠ A Q 10 6
♥ 5 4
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ A 8 2

♠ 7 2
♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ K J 10 3
♣ J 6 4

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

With two 4-card Majors NORTH should respond "up-the-line", bidding

♥

s first.

Then, after SOUTH bids 1♠, NORTH has enough points to jump all the way to 4♠.

Deal 7

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 7
 ♥ J 10 3 2
 ♦ 8 7 4 3
 ♣ A K 9 2

16
 8 5
 11

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



♠ A 9 6 3
 ♥ Q 6 4
 ♦ A 9 6 2
 ♣ J 7

♠ J 5 2
 ♥ K 9 8 5
 ♦ J 10
 ♣ 8 5 4 3

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

NORTH has 17 points and might open 1 NT. But with the 5-card Major suit she prefers

to open 1 ♠.

SOUTH has excellent ♠ support but with 11 points is not quite strong enough to insist

on reaching game. Instead he makes an invitational jump to 3 ♠, which NORTH is strong

enough to raise to game.

Deal 8

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 10 9 4 3

♥ K 3

♦ 7 4 3

♣ Q J 6

5
8 6
21

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

♠ 8 7

♥ 10 6 4

♦ K Q 10 9 6

♣ 10 7 3



♠ A K 6

♥ A J 9

♦ A J 2

♣ A 8 5 2

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

SOUTH has a powerful hand, but 21 points is not strong enough to start with a forcing 2♣ bid.

Since he has balanced distribution he opens 2 NT (20-21 points).

NORTH adds her 6 points to SOUTH's minimum and concludes they should be in game. She expects her

good

♦

suit to be useful to NORTH in Notrump so she bids 3 NT.

Deal 9

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 8 7 4

♥ 9 7 3

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ 4

8
10 9
13

West

Pass

Pass

1 NT by North

♠ 10 9 5

♥ J 4

♦ Q J 8 3

♣ K J 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 6 3

♥ A K Q 8 2

♦ K 6

♣ 10 9 5

North

1 NT

East

Pass

South

1 ♥

Pass

SOUTH has a solid 1

♥

opening, 14 points and five trumps.

NORTH must respond with 8 points, but cannot bid either minor suit since he needs at least

11 points to bid a new suit at the 2-level. So he bids 1 NT (6-10 points).

SOUTH doesn't object to Notrump so she passes.

Deal 10

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 5 4
♥ 10 9 6
♦ J 4
♣ K Q 9 8 3

6
10 11
13

West

Pass
Pass

2 ♠ by South

♠ J 9 6 2
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ 8 3
♣ 10 7 4



♠ K Q 10 7 3
♥ A 4 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A 6

North

2 ♠

East

Pass

South

1 ♠
Pass

SOUTH has a normal 1♠ opening bid, 14 points and five trumps.

NORTH has good 4-card support and 7 points, so she raises to 2♠,

passed by SOUTH.

NORTH does not consider showing the



s,

first because she knows there is a ♠ fit, and second because she doesn't have

the 11 points needed to bid a new suit at the 2-level.

Deal 11

North Deals

None Vul

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

15
 4 3
 18

West

Pass

6 NT by North

♠ A 8 3
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ K J 9 6 4
 ♣ Q J 5

N
 W E
 S

♠ K J 4
 ♥ K Q 9 2
 ♦ A Q 5
 ♣ K 10 8

North

1 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

6 NT

With balanced distribution and 16 points
 NORTH should open 1 NT rather than 1

♦

.

SOUTH's response is based on simple
 math. He adds his 18 points to the 15
 minimum that NORTH has announced
 and

comes up with 33 points combined. This
 is enough for a small slam, and since he
 has balanced distribution

he bids 6 NT.

Deal 12

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 3
♥ J 8 5 4 3
♦ K J 9
♣ J 4 2

20
6 7
7

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

♠ Q J 10 9 6

♥ A 7

♦ A Q 6

♣ A K 7



♠ K 4

♥ Q 10 6

♦ 8 5 3 2

♣ Q 9 8 5

North

1 ♠

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

NORTH is right at the maximum for a 1♠ opening bid - one more point and he would

have opened 2♣.

SOUTH does not have 3-card ♠ support but with 7 points must make some response.

She cannot bid at the 2-level so she says 1 NT (6-10 points).

NORTH is fine with Notrump so he bids 3 NT.

Deal 13

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 10 8 3

♥ A J 4

♦ A 10

♣ 9 6 2

♠ 5

♥ 10 3 2

♦ 9 6 2

♣ A J 10 8 7 4



♠ 7 2

♥ 9 8 7 6

♦ 8 5 4 3

♣ K Q 5

♠ A K 9 6 4

♥ K Q 5

♦ K Q J 7

♣ 3

12
5 5
18

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

1 ♠

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

6 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by North

NORTH has a minimum 1♠ opening bid - 13 points and five trumps. She doesn't even suspect

what's about to befall!

SOUTH hears the 1♠ bid and all he wants to know is whether NORTH has one, two or three Aces.

So he uses the Blackwood convention, 4 NT.

NORTH has two Aces so she bids 5

♥

(5♣ would show zero Aces,

5

♦

would show one Ace, etc).

SOUTH has heard enough and bids 6♠.

Deal 14

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 8 5
♥ 9 4
♦ J 9 8 5 2
♣ K Q 2

9
8 8
15

♠ A 7 4
♥ Q 5
♦ K 7 6 4
♣ 7 6 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ K J 10 9 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ Q
♣ J 10 8 4

♠ 6 2
♥ A K 8 7 6 2
♦ A 10 3
♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	1 NTPASS3H	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

SOUTH has an above-minimum strength hand with a good 6-card suit. He opens 1

♥

.

NORTH, with 9 points, is a little too weak to bid at the 2-level so she bids a catchall 1 NT.

SOUTH shows his 6-card suit and extra strength by jumping to 3

♥

, which

NORTH raises to 4

♥

since two trumps is now adequate support.

Deal 15

North Deals

None Vul

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

14
 7 11
 8

West

Pass

Pass

2 ♠ by North

♠ K Q 7 4

♥ 8 3

♦ 7 6 2

♣ A K Q 2



♠ J 10 8 3

♥ A Q 7 4

♦ J 5 3

♣ 7 6

North

1 ♣

1 ♠

Pass

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

2 ♠

NORTH has 14 points and opens her 4-card ♣ suit.

SOUTH must respond, and with two 4-card Majors bids them "up-the-line", saying 1

♥

.

NORTH now shows his 4-card ♠ suit, and SOUTH again must bid. Since SOUTH is pretty weak he just

raises to 2♠, which NORTH happily passes.

Deal 16

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 3 2

♥ 9 2

♦ 9 5 4

♣ A 7 4

15
5 3
17

West

Pass

Pass

6 NT by South

♠ A 9 4

♥ A 7

♦ K 8 3

♣ K J 9 6 2



♠ K Q 7

♥ K Q J 3

♦ A 10 6

♣ Q 10 8

North

4 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

6 NT

SOUTH has a maximum 17 point 1 NT bid.

NORTH, with 16 points, can't tell if there are enough points for slam. If SOUTH has

17 points then a slam should be makeable, but if SOUTH has only 15 points then he

should settle for game.

The 4 NT raise solves the problem. It tells SOUTH to bid 6 NT with 17 points, pass

with 15 points, and use best judgment with 16. Here SOUTH bids the slam.

Deal 17

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10

♥ A 10 7 6

♦ Q J 9 8 3

♣ 10 5 3

12

7 10

11

♠ A Q 8 6 2

♥ J 5 3

♦ 7 4

♣ K Q 2



♠ K 9 7 3

♥ 8 4 2

♦ A K 5

♣ J 7 6

♠ J 5 4

♥ K Q 9

♦ 10 6 2

♣ A 9 8 4

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

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 ♠

3 ♠ by North

SOUTH has just 11 points, not enough to open the bidding.

But when NORTH opens 1♠ SOUTH should show her "almost opening strength"

by jumping to 3♠.

NORTH has just 13 points, and knowing SOUTH has less than 13 he passes.

Deal 18

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q J 9 5

♥ J 10

♦ 7 4 2

♣ 8 4 3

9
8 9
14

♠ 7 3

♥ Q 8 6 4 2

♦ A 8 6

♣ K 9 5

N
W E
S

♠ 10 8 2

♥ A K 7 5 3

♦ K Q 5

♣ Q 6

♠ K 6 4

♥ 9

♦ J 10 9 3

♣ A J 10 7 2

West

North

East

South

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

After SOUTH opens with 1

♥

, NORTH has a small "dilemma".

With 11 points she really is only strong enough to make a jump raise to 3

♥

.

But, with five trumps the hand deserves more. So she just bids 4

♥

instead.

Usually, no matter what your strength, when you have five cards in the Major suit that your partner opens

with you should just jump right to game.

Deal 19

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 2
♥ 10 8 6 5 4
♦ J 10 5
♣ A 7 4

7
5 9
19

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ K 10 8 3

♥ J 7 2

♦ 9 8 6

♣ Q J 3



♠ Q J 7 5

♥ A

♦ A K Q 3

♣ K 10 6 2

North

1 ♠

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♦

4 ♠

SOUTH has 19 points, but no 5-card Major suit. With two 4-card minor suits she should start

with 1

♦

.

NORTH has a poor hand, but with 7 points he must respond. His first priority is to show a Major suit

so he responds 1♠.

SOUTH now knows that ♠s will be trumps, so she revalues her hand to 21 points, enough for game.

She bids 4♠.

Deal 20

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 5 2
♥ J 10 8
♦ 9 4 2
♣ Q 10 8 5

9
7 8
16

♠ 10 9 6 3
♥ 7 5 4
♦ Q 7
♣ A K 6 4



♠ K Q J 7 4
♥ K Q 2
♦ A J 6
♣ 9 3

♠ 8
♥ A 9 6 3
♦ K 10 8 5 3
♣ J 7 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

NOTE: There is a better way to bid this hand using special conventions.

SOUTH has 17 points, but with a 5-card Major opens 1♠ rather than 1 NT.

NORTH isn't quite strong enough for a jump raise, so she bids 2♠.

SOUTH has enough extra to make a try for game, so she invites with 3♠.

NORTH has enough extra to accept the invitation, bids 4♠.

Deal 21

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 7 6 4 2
♥ 9 2
♦ 6 4 2
♣ 9 8 6

20
4 4
12

West

Pass

4 NT by North

♠ K J 3
♥ K Q 5
♦ A Q J
♣ K J 4 2



♠ Q 10 8
♥ A J 6
♦ K 10 9 3
♣ Q 10 5

North

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

4 NT

NORTH has a perfect 2 NT opening hand, 20 points and 3-3-3-4 distribution.

SOUTH, with 12 points of his own, knows the partnership is borderline strong enough for slam.

Since he is happy with Notrump, he invites NORTH to bid slam by responding 4 NT.

With one more point NORTH might bid the slam, but here she just passes.

Deal 22

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 8
♥ 8 5 4
♦ Q 10 9 6 4
♣ 9 6

9
8 8
15

♠ J 10 4
♥ A J 6
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 8 7 2



♠ 9 6 5
♥ K Q 2
♦ A 8 7
♣ K Q J 3

♠ K 7 3 2
♥ 10 9 7 3
♦ J 2
♣ A 5 4

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

SOUTH opens 1 NT with 15 points and a balanced hand.

NORTH, with 9 points, cannot bid game herself, but she can invite SOUTH to bid game if he

has the maximum 17 point opener. So she responds 2 NT.

SOUTH doesn't have maximum, he has minimum, so he passes.

Deal 23

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A K

♥ 9 8 7 3

♦ 10 9 8 5

♣ J 10 6

9
8 5
18

♠ J 9 7 5

♥ 6 4 2

♦ A K J

♣ 7 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q 10 8 2

♥ A K

♦ 7 6 4

♣ A K Q 5

♠ 6 4 3

♥ Q J 10 5

♦ Q 3 2

♣ 9 8 3

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

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

1 ♣

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠ by North

SOUTH is 1 point too strong to open 1 NT, so opens 1 ♣.

NORTH responds in his 4-card Major suit, 1 ♠.

SOUTH now shows her 4-card support plus her extra strength by jumping to 3 ♠ and NORTH bids the game.

Deal 24

South Deals

None Vul

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

7
 6 6
 21

♠ 5 4 3
 ♥ A 7 2
 ♦ K 10 6 5
 ♣ 9 8 5



♠ K Q J
 ♥ K Q 8
 ♦ Q J 9 3
 ♣ A K 2

♠ 7 6
 ♥ J 6 5 3
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ J 10 7 4 3

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

SOUTH has a classic 2 NT opening bid, 21 points and balanced distribution.

NORTH knows that her 7 points will be plenty for game, but not enough to consider

slam so she just bids 3 NT.