

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 2		♠ 5
♥ 9 8 7 6		♥ 10 3 2
♦ 8 5 4 3		♦ 9 6 2
♣ K Q 5		♣ A J 10 8 7 4
	♠ Q J 10 8 3	
	♥ A J 4	
	♦ A 10	
	♣ 9 6 2	
18		
5 5		
12		

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

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

what's about to befall!

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

So he uses the Blackwood convention, 4 NT.

SOUTH has two Aces so she bids 5

5

(5 would show zero Aces,

5

5

would show one Ace, etc).

NORTH has heard enough and bids 6.

Deal 2

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



♠ 6 2
♥ A K 8 7 6 2
♦ A 10 3
♣ A 9

♠ K J 10 9 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ Q
♣ J 10 8 4

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

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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

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, which

NORTH raises to 4

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since two trumps is now adequate support.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5 2
♥ 10 9 6
♦ A K
♣ 9 8 5 4

8
11 7
14

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

2 ♠ by South

♠ J 10 8 3
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ J 5 3
♣ 7 6



♠ K Q 7 4
♥ 8 3
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A K Q 2

North

1 ♥
2 ♠

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♣
1 ♠
Pass

SOUTH has 14 points and opens her 4-card ♠ suit.

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

♠

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

raises to 2♠, which SOUTH happily passes.

Deal 4

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 5 4
 ♥ K Q 9
 ♦ 10 6 2
 ♣ A 9 8 4

11
 10 7
 12

West

Pass

Pass

3 ♠ by South

♠ K 9 7 3

♥ 8 4 2

♦ A K 5

♣ J 7 6



♠ A Q 8 6 2

♥ J 5 3

♦ 7 4

♣ K Q 2

North

Pass

3 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

Pass

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

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

by jumping to 3♠.

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

Deal 6

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

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, NORTH has a small "dilemma".

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

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

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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.