

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 7
♥ A 8 2
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ J 10 9 8 4

16
5 1
18

♠ K Q 5
♥ Q 9 5
♦ K Q 9 4
♣ A 6 2



♠ J 8 6 3 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 7 5

♠ A 10 9 4
♥ K J 10 7
♦ A J
♣ K Q 3

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass | 6 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| 6 NT by North | | | |

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 | ♠ 4 |
| None Vul | ♥ K 10 9 7 |
| | ♦ K Q J 3 |
| | ♣ A K 8 5 |
| ♠ K 7 6 5 3 2 | ♠ A J 8 |
| ♥ 8 6 | ♥ 5 4 2 |
| ♦ 9 6 2 | ♦ 7 5 4 |
| ♣ 9 7 | ♣ 10 4 3 2 |

N
W E
S

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

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| | 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 2 ♥ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

4 ♥ by North

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



♠ A K Q 4 2
 ♥ J 10 7 6
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ 9 3

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 | ♠ 10 8 6 |
| None Vul | ♥ K Q 5 |
| | ♦ A 8 6 4 |
| | ♣ A K 10 |

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



| | |
|-----|-------------|
| 16 | ♠ A K Q 4 2 |
| 8 6 | ♥ J 10 7 6 |
| 10 | ♦ 7 5 |
| | ♣ 9 3 |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|------|-------|
| 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 | ♦ A Q J 9 | | |
| ♥ 8 5 | ♥ K J | | |
| ♦ J 10 9 8 3 | ♦ Q 7 6 4 | | |
| ♣ A K J | ♣ Q 5 3 | | |
| | ♠ 8 6 | | |
| | W N E S | | |
| | ♦ 7 4 2 | | |
| | ♦ A K 5 2 | | |
| | ♣ 10 9 6 2 | | |
| | ♠ K 10 4 2 | | |
| 15 9 7 9 | ♥ A Q 10 9 6 3 ♦ — | | |
| | ♣ 8 7 4 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| 4 ♠ by North | | | |

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.