

Deal 1

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 10 6 5 2

♥ —

♦ 7 4 2

♣ A 9 8 6 2

5
6 15
14

♠ 4

♥ K Q 9 8 6 2

♦ 8 6 3

♣ 10 7 5

N
W E
S

♠ K 8 3

♥ A 10 5 4

♦ A J 10 9

♣ K 3

♠ A J 9 7

♥ J 7 3

♦ K Q 5

♣ Q J 4

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

Pass

Dbl

1 NT

Pass

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

Pass

2 ♥ by North

In the balancing seat it is distribution that counts, not point count. With a 6-card Major suit and a singleton you should not let them play 1 NT. You double.

Partner makes the relay bid of 2 ♣.

You bid your suit, 2 ♥, and everybody passes. Notice that partner had a decent hand, but could not bid over 1 NT in the immediate seat.

Deal 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 5 4

♥ A Q 10 9 7

♦ 10

♣ 10 8 7

7
9 15
9

West

Pass

Pass

2 ♣ by South

♠ K 2

♥ 6 3

♦ 7 5 3

♣ K J 9 6 5 3



♠ A 8 7 3

♥ J 8 5 2

♦ Q 9 6 4

♣ Q

North

Dbl

Pass

East

1 NT

Pass

Pass

South

Pass

2 ♣

You don't have a 6-card suit, nor do you have a 5-4 pair of suits. So even with a singleton you don't want to use DONT here. So you pass.

Partner makes a DONT double in the balancing seat.

Right now you probably have a premonition about what is going to happen next. But there really is nothing you can say other than 2 ♣.

Your premonition came true. Partner passes and you are left playing 2 ♣ with a singleton. Nobody promised that DONT would always get you to a good contract.

Deal 3

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 9 6 3
 ♥ 6
 ♦ Q J 8 4 2
 ♣ 5 4

7
 8 17
 8

West

Pass

Pass

2 ♥ by North

♠ J 4

♥ K Q J 10 7 4 3

♦ 7 5

♣ 6 2

N
 W E
 S

♠ 8 5

♥ 8 2

♦ 10 9 6

♣ A K J 9 8 3

North

2 ♥

Pass

♠ A 10 7 2

♥ A 9 5

♦ A K 3

♣ Q 10 7

East

1 NT

Pass

South

Dbl

Pass

You only have 8 HCP but with such a good 6-card suit you should interfere with a DONT bid. You double and partner surprises you by saying 2 ♥.

There is a reason partner didn't say 2 ♣ (which you were going to pass). And the reason is that he figures you will be better off in his ♥s. Since you trust your partner you pass.

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 9 4 2

♥ 9 3

♦ 8 3 2

♣ 10 5 4 2

8

4 15

13

♠ 7

♥ Q J 8 2

♦ K Q 10 7 4

♣ 9 7 3



♠ 10 6 5

♥ K 5

♦ A J 9 5

♣ A Q J 6

♠ K Q J 8 3

♥ A 10 7 6 4

♦ 6

♣ K 8

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

1 NT

2 ♥

Pass

3 ♥

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Since partner has entered the bidding in the immediate seat he should have a pretty good hand, with 9+ cards in ♥s and ♠s.

Usually you are happy to settle for partscore after a DONT sequence, but with such an excellent fit for ♥s your hand is worth a raise.

So you bid 3 ♥ and partner says 4 ♥.

Deal 5

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 7
 ♥ J 10 2
 ♦ J 10 7 3
 ♣ J 6 4 2

7
 3 17
 13

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

2 ♠ by North

♠ A 10 3 2

♥ 6 4

♦ 9 8

♣ K 10 9 7 5



♠ K J 9 6

♥ K 9 7 3

♦ A Q 6 5

♣ 8

North

2 ♣

2 ♠

East

1 NT

Pass

Pass

South

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

You have only 7 HCP but expect partner to have a reasonable hand since West could not keep the bidding open. With your black 2-suiter you bid the lowest one, 2 ♣.

Partner says 2 ♦.

Partner's 2 ♦ bid, the next suit up the line, asks you to name your other suit (or pass if your other suit is ♦s).

You bid 2 ♠ and everybody passes.

Deal 6

West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 4
♥ A 5 4
♦ K 9 7 4 2
♣ K Q J

16
15 5
4

West
1 NT
Pass
Pass
4 ♠ by South

♠ A J 7 3
♥ K Q 9
♦ A Q 8 6
♣ 6 3



♠ K 10 8 6 5 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ 10 5
♣ 8 7

North

Pass
4 ♠

East

Pass
Pass

South

2 ♠
Pass

You would have opened 1 NT but West beat you to it. You cannot double for penalties when you use DONT, so you pass.

Partner bids 2 ♠ in the balancing seat.

The 2 ♠ bid shows a weak hand, with more strength partner would have first doubled, then bid 2 ♠.

Still, you know he has a 6-card suit and you also know that every finesse is going to work. You either bid 3 ♠ or 4 ♠. Be bold.