

Deal 1

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 8
♥ A K Q J 4 3
♦ 10 5 4
♣ A J 3

14
15 6
5

West

1 ♥

Pass

1 ♠ by North

♠ A K J 7 4

♥ 8 7

♦ A 7 6

♣ Q 5 4



♠ Q 9 6 2

♥ 9 5 2

♦ K 9

♣ 9 8 6 2

North

1 ♠

East

Pass

South

Pass

NORTH has an opening hand, 15 points, and a 5-card ♠ suit. Unfortunately WEST beat her to

the punch by opening 1

♥

.

But NORTH should get into the bidding anyway, by Overcalling 1♠. This shows a good ♠ suit

and somewhere between 9 and 16 points.

SOUTH has 6 points. If NORTH had actually OPENED 1♠, SOUTH would be obligated to bid. But knowing that

the Overcall will not be made with more than 16 points, SOUTH just passes.

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 5 3
♥ 9 4
♦ 10 9 5 2
♣ A 9 7 2

11
4 11
14

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by South

♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ K J 6



♠ A K J 7 4
♥ 8 7
♦ A 7 6
♣ Q 5 4

North

2 ♠

Pass

East

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

4 ♠

SOUTH has an opening hand, 15 points and five ♠s. But EAST beat him to the punch,

so he overcalls 1♠.

NORTH has 11 points, and if SOUTH had opened she would make a Limit Raise to 3♠.

But when replying to an Overcall, the strength needs to be a little higher. In Deal 1 it was OK to

pass a 1♠ Overcall with 6 points, here it is correct to just raise to 2♠ with 11 points.

SOUTH actually has a strong Overcall so he bids 4♠.

Deal 3

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 8
♥ A K Q J 4 3
♦ 10 5 4
♣ A 10 3

9
14 5
12

West

1 ♥

Pass

3 ♠ by North

North

1 ♠

Pass

♠ A K J 7 4
♥ 8 7
♦ 9 7 6
♣ J 5 4



♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ A K
♣ K 8 6 2

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 ♠

This time NORTH has just 10 points, nowhere near an opening hand. Still, when WEST opens

1

♥

NORTH should Overcall 1♠. This shows a good ♠ suit

and somewhere between 9 and 16 points.

SOUTH has 13 points. If NORTH had actually OPENED 1♠, SOUTH would insist on game. But NORTH didn't

Open, she just Overcalled. So SOUTH must be more cautious. He jumps to 3♠

and NORTH shows her

minimum type hand by passing.

Deal 4

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 4
♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ J 6 5 4
♣ J 10 9 3

10
4 11
15

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ A 10 5 3
♥ 10 7 5
♦ Q 8
♣ A 8 6 2



♠ K 9 8 6
♥ 4
♦ A K 7 3
♣ K Q 7 5

North

2 ♠

Pass

♠ Q J 7 2
♥ A K J 9 6
♦ 10 9 2
♣ 4

East

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

South

Dbl

4 ♠

SOUTH has 15 points, a singleton in the opponent's suit and 4-card support for any suit

partner might name. In other words, a perfect Takeout Double.

NORTH needs to make a medium-strong bid to apprise SOUTH of her 10 points. She jumps to 2♠.

SOUTH's hand is now worth 17 points because of the singleton. Since he is quite happy with

♠s he bids 4♠.

Deal 5

West Deals
None Vul

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

14
13 12
1

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♣ by South			

NORTH has 14 points, a doubleton in the opponent's ♠ suit and at least three cards in

each of the other suits. This is a normal Takeout Double.

SOUTH has a really awful hand. He has just one point and his only 4-card suit is the one the

opponents have already bid. He wants nothing more than to pass.

But he cannot pass. Partner's Double said "Bid your best suit.", so he bids 2♣.

Mercifully NORTH also passes.

Deal 6

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 4
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ Q 10 9 5

13
2 11
14

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

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ A J 10 7
♥ J 7
♦ Q J 9 5
♣ A 8 3



♠ Q 9 8 5
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ A K 3
♣ 4 2

♠ K 6 3 2
♥ A 8 4
♦ 10 8
♣ K J 7 6

With 14 points, ♣ shortage, and support for the other suits SOUTH makes a Takeout Double.

NORTH has 13 points so she bids 2♣. This is an artificial bid, apprising SOUTH of NORTH's opening

hand strength, and forcing the partnership to reach the game level.

SOUTH suggests

♥

s as trumps.

NORTH doesn't like

♥

s so she suggests ♠s.

SOUTH agrees with ♠s and bids game, 4♠.

Deal 7

West Deals

None Vul

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

8
12 4
16

♠ Q 7 4
♥ 9 6 5 2
♦ Q 5
♣ A 8 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K J 9 8 3
♥ 7
♦ A K J 3
♣ 7 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

WEST's 1

♥

opening is passed around to SOUTH. He is

tempted to overcall 1♠, but with 18 points is a little strong for a mere overcall.

Instead, he doubles.

With 8 points NORTH is not strong enough to jump. She bids 2♣.

SOUTH now bids 2♠. By doubling first, then bidding his own suit,

he shows a good suit and 17+ points.

NORTH raises to 4♠.

Deal 8

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 3
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 10 7 4 2

11
O 11
18

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

3 NT by South

♠ 8 7
♥ A 9 7 6
♦ A 6 2
♣ K 9 6 3



♠ A J 9
♥ K Q 8
♦ Q 7 4
♣ A Q 8 5

North

2 ♣
3 NT

♠ K Q 6 5 4 2
♥ J 2
♦ K J 10 5
♣ J

East

1 ♠
Pass
Pass

South

1 NT
2 ♦
Pass

SOUTH has 18 points, a balanced hand, and a good stopper in their suit. He should overcall 1 NT.

For 1 NT overcalls, the range is increased to 15-18 points.

NORTH bids 2 ♣ (Stayman), just as she would with a 1 NT opening. When SOUTH denies holding

a 4-card Major NORTH has enough points to bid 3 NT. She doesn't worry about a ♠ stopper

since SOUTH promised he had the suit controlled.

Deal 9

West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 3
♥ A 9
♦ K 10 5 4
♣ A 9 7 5

20
13 5
2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	Dbl	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1 NT by North			

♠ A 8 6
♥ K Q J
♦ A J 9 7
♣ K Q 4

W N E
S

♠ J 10 5 2
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ 8 6
♣ J 8 6

♠ K 9 4
♥ 10 8 5 3
♦ Q 3 2
♣ 10 3 2

NORTH has 20 points, excellent

♦

stoppers and a balanced hand.

She is two points too strong to overcall 1 NT. Instead, she doubles.

SOUTH has an awful hand - but since he is forced to bid he says 1♠, assuming NORTH wants

to hear his best suit.

NORTH now bids 1 NT, showing the balanced 19-21 point hand. SOUTH passes, of course.

Deal 10

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8
 ♥ 9 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 6 4 2
 ♣ 10 5 3

10
 0 11
 19

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

♠ K J 6 2

♥ 6 5

♦ A Q 3

♣ 9 8 7 4

W N
 S E

♠ Q 7 4

♥ A Q 10

♦ K J 7 5

♣ A K 6

North

2 ♠

Pass

East

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

South

Dbl

3 NT

SOUTH has a 19 point balanced hand,
 including a stop in

♥

s.

He plans to double, then bid NT. (see
 Deal 9)

NORTH has 10 points though, so he
 jumps to 2♠.

In theory SOUTH could now bid 2 NT to
 continue the description of his hand, but
 he might as well

go ahead and bid 3 NT instead.

Deal 11

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7

♥ K Q 9 3 2

♦ A 9 8 4

♣ Q 8

12

11 4

13

West

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ A Q 10 5 3

♥ 6 4

♦ Q 10

♣ A 9 7 4



♠ K J 4 2

♥ A 8 5

♦ K J 3 2

♣ J 2

North

1 ♠

4 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 ♠

Pass

With a 5-card ♠ suit and 13 points NORTH should overcall 1♠.

SOUTH has 13 points and four ♠s. If NORTH had opened, SOUTH's hand would be good enough

to insist on game. But since NORTH overcalled, SOUTH merely invites with a jump to 3♠.

NORTH has better than a minimum overcall so she accepts the invitation and bids 4♠.

Deal 12

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 5 2

♥ 3

♦ J 9 8 7

♣ Q 8 7 6

11

3 13

13

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by North

♠ Q 3

♥ K Q 9 8 6 4

♦ A 5 2

♣ 9 5



♠ K J 6 4

♥ J 10 7 5

♦ 6

♣ A K J 3

North

4 ♥

♠ A 9 7

♥ A 2

♦ K Q 10 4 3

♣ 10 4 2

East

1 ♦

Pass

South

Dbl

Pass

SOUTH has a very minimum Takeout
Double of 1

♦

. But what it lacks

in strength, it makes up for with perfect
distribution.

NORTH has 13 points and only wants to
play in one contract, 4

♥

.

SOUTH passes happily.

Deal 13

West Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q
♥ A 9 4
♦ K 10 8 3
♣ J 6 5 3

18
13 0
9

West

1 ♦

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

♠ A 10 9 4
♥ K Q J 7
♦ Q 6
♣ A Q 4



♠ J 7 6
♥ 10 5 2
♦ A J 9 4
♣ K 10 2

North

Dbl

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ 8 6 3
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 9 8 7

NORTH has 18 points, a doubleton in the opponent's suit, and at least three cards in the unbid suits.

This is an ideal hand for a Takeout Double.

SOUTH has good strength in WEST's

♦

suit, probably two stoppers.

He has 9 points and no 4-card suit of his own. This is the type of hand to respond 1 NT.

NORTH is happy to play Notrump now that she knows the

♦

s are covered,

so she bids 3 NT.

Deal 14

East Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10 7 3 2
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ 10 9 8 5 3
 ♣ 4

14
 1 12
 13

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

♠ Q 8

♥ A J 9 2

♦ A J 6

♣ Q 9 8 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ A K 9 6 4

♥ Q 5

♦ K 7 4

♣ J 10 7

North

2 NT

Pass

East

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

3 NT

SOUTH has an opening hand, 14 points and five ♠s. But EAST beat him to the punch,

so he overcalls 1♠.

NORTH also has 14 points, she doesn't care too much for ♠s, but she has an

excellent stopper in

♥

s.

She jumps to 2 NT, inviting SOUTH to bid game.

Since SOUTH has several points more than he might have had, and no 6-card ♠

suit to rebid,

he happily bids 3 NT.

Deal 15

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 10 6
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ J 10 4
 ♣ 10 9

15
 11 0
 14

West

1 ♠

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by North

♠ 8 7

♥ K Q 9 7

♦ A K 8 3

♣ Q J 4



♠ A 9 3

♥ J 10 5 3

♦ Q 5

♣ A K 8 6

North

Dbl

3 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♠

4 ♥

NORTH has 15 points and all the requirements for a Takeout Double of 1♠.

With 14 points of his own, SOUTH knows his side needs to be in a game somewhere. He passes this information

to NORTH with a cue-bid of 2♠.

NORTH gets the message and starts the hunt for a trump fit by bidding 3

♥

. That

makes it easy for SOUTH - he bids 4

♥

Deal 16

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 3
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ 10 9 6 4
 ♣ K J 5 3

8
 4 12
 16

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

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by South

♠ K 7 5
 ♥ 8 5 2
 ♦ K Q 3
 ♣ 9 7 6 2



♠ A Q J 6 4 2
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ J 7 2
 ♣ A 8

♠ 9
 ♥ K Q J 10 6 3
 ♦ A 8 5
 ♣ Q 10 4

There is only one reason that SOUTH should not overcall with 1♠. He is too strong.

The maximum strength of an overcall is 16 points. Above that you should double.

So SOUTH doubles, and after NORTH bids 2♣, SOUTH bids 2♠. This shows an overcall

type hand, but with 17 or more points.

NORTH has fine trump support and 8 points so she bids a confident 4♠.

Deal 17

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ A J 8 3
♣ 5 4 3

13
12 0
15

West
1 ♦
Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass
3 NT by North

♠ K 9 8 3
♥ 7 6
♦ K Q 5
♣ A J 7 6



♠ Q J 2
♥ A K 4 3
♦ 7 4
♣ K Q 8 2

North

Pass

2 ♦

2 ♠

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

Dbl

2 ♥

3 ♣

Pass

NORTH has 13 points but has no bid over 1

♦

.

SOUTH can make a Takeout Double, so he does.

NORTH now cue-bids

♦

to show opening hand strength.

SOUTH shows his

♥

suit, NORTH doesn't like it.

NORTH shows her ♠ suit, SOUTH doesn't like it.

SOUTH shows his ♣ suit, NORTH likes it fine, but decides 3 NT will be easier than 5♣.

Deal 18

East Deals

None Vul

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

6
 10 11
 13

West

Pass

1 ♠ by East

♠ 9 6

♥ Q 6 5

♦ J 7 5 4

♣ K 10 6 2



♠ A J 10 7 4

♥ A 7 3

♦ A 8 6

♣ 9 5

North

Pass

East

1 ♠

South

Pass

SOUTH would have had a great opening
 1♠ bid. But when EAST opened 1♠

in front of him he was hornswaggled. He
 couldn't bid any other suit, he couldn't
 bid 1NT

and he sure couldn't bid ♠s. So he must
 pass.

And so does everybody else pass.

Deal 19

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 4
♥ A 8 3
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A K J 9 4

8
12 12
8

West

1 ♣

Pass

3 ♠ by North

♠ K Q J 9 7 5 3

♥ 7 4

♦ Q 3

♣ 6 2



♠ A 8 2

♥ J 5 2

♦ K 9 8 6

♣ 7 5 3

North

3 ♠

East

Pass

South

Pass

♠ 6
♥ K Q 10 9 6
♦ A J 5 2
♣ Q 10 8

If West had passed, NORTH would have opened with a preemptive 3♠.

She should make the same bid with the same hand AFTER the opponents open. And she makes it

for the same reason, to describe her hand and to take away bidding space from the opponents.

SOUTH treats it just like a Preemptive 3-bid, even though it is now called a Weak Jump Overcall.

In this case, SOUTH passes.

Deal 20

East Deals

None Vul

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
1 ♠ by South		Pass	

SOUTH has 12 points, but with two 5-card suits worthy of an overcall. There isn't really a

right and wrong here, but it usually works out best to overcall in the higher-ranking suit. That

leaves open the possibility of bidding the second suit later.

In this Deal, after SOUTH overcalls 1♠, that later possibility never happens because

everybody should pass.

Deal 21

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 10 9 7

♥ K 10 9 5

♦ Q 6

♣ A K

12
16 8
4

West

1 ♠

1 ♠ by West

♠ A 5 3

♥ 4 2

♦ A K 2

♣ J 7 6 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q 8 6

♥ Q 8 6 3

♦ 9 8 4 3

♣ 8 5

North

Pass

East

Pass

South

Pass

♠ 4 2

♥ A J 7

♦ J 10 7 5

♣ Q 10 9 3

NORTH has 13 points but she has to pass.

She cannot Double without support for

♥

s.

She cannot bid 1NT without 2 more points.

She cannot overcall 2♣ with a terrible suit like that.

And SOUTH of course must also pass.

Deal 22

East Deals

None Vul

♠ —

♥ 10 9 4 3

♦ 10 9 6 4 3 2

♣ K 10 4

14

3 13

10

West

Pass

Pass

1 ♠ by East

♠ 10 3

♥ K J 7 6

♦ K J 5

♣ A Q 7 2



♠ K Q J 8 4 2

♥ Q 2

♦ Q 8 7

♣ 8 3

North

Dbl

East

1 ♠

Pass

South

Pass

Pass

SOUTH obviously has to pass when EAST opens 1♠.

NORTH has a reasonable Takeout Double. She hopes SOUTH will name a suit and they can just

play a partscore.

You should almost always bid when partner makes a Takeout Double. Almost always. This is the one time

when you don't. SOUTH's ♠ are so good that he passes, converting the Takeout Double into a

Penalty Double.

Deal 23

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 10
 ♥ 7 5 4
 ♦ Q J 10 4
 ♣ A K J 7 3

11
 11 2
 16

West

1 ♣

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ A K 8 7 2

♥ J 9 8

♦ K 7 6

♣ 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 5

♥ A K Q 2

♦ A 9 8 5

♣ 4 2

North

1 ♠

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

4 ♠

NORTH has a normal overcall of 1♠.

SOUTH has a really good hand, but he doesn't have to worry about missing a slam since NORTH will

not have more than 16 points. So he just bids what he thinks NORTH can make, 4♠.

Deal 24
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ J 8 4 2
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ Q 8 7
 ♣ K 9 7 5

9
 6 14
 11

♠ 10 6 5
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ K J 10 3
 ♣ A J 8 4



♠ K Q 3
 ♥ K Q J 5 3
 ♦ 9 6 5
 ♣ 10 6

♠ A 9 7
 ♥ A 9 7 6
 ♦ A 4 2
 ♣ Q 3 2

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

SOUTH has 12 points and a good enough suit to overcall 1

♥

.

NORTH has 9 points with a good

♦

stopper. She bids 1 NT.

SOUTH has nothing more to say, and lets NORTH play 1 NT.