

Board 1

North should open 1♠ and South will just want to get on to the next hand. West will be keen to keep the bidding alive and should bid 2♦.

North should offer a second suit and bid 2♥ now.

Despite being so weak South must now bid 2♠. To pass "because he is so weak" is WRONG!!!

North is effectively saying he wants to play in 2 of *his side's* best suit; "best" meaning the suit with the *greater number of cards*.

South can see that suit is spades.

A bid such as South's 2♠ to correct to the best suit is called a "preference bid". It does NOT show any strength.

North can make his eight tricks by leading the top two trumps only, then trumping his ♥4 with dummy's last trump.

1	♠ AK842	Dir: N																										
	♥ AKQ4	Vul: None																										
	♦ 1095																											
	♣ 2																											
♠ Q9	♠ J107																											
♥ 82	♥ J10963																											
♦ AK874	♦ Q2																											
♣ AJ95	♣ K74																											
18	♠ 653	<table><tr><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	2	-	E	2	2	2	2	W	2	2	2	2
♠	♥			♦	♣	NT																						
N	-			-	2	-																						
S	-			-	2	-																						
E	2	2	2	2																								
W	2	2	2	2																								
14	♥ 75																											
7	♦ J63																											
3	♣ Q10863																											

DATUM: NS: 210 EW: 210

Board 2

East should open 1♣ and South pass (**never** overcall a suit with less than 5 cards in it!)

After 1♠ from West, East can bid his other suit, 2♥ only because he is strong enough (16 points) to bid "above the barrier", that is higher than 2 of his first bid suit.

If East had less than 16 points he would have to bid 2♣ which would mean a possible heart fit might be missed.

After East bids 2♥ West can add his 9 points to partner's 16 and see his side has the 25 points needed for game.

So, with the 8-card heart fit, he should bid 4♥ straight away.

Declarer should lose only the ♦AK and one heart.

The computer's line of play to avoid a heart loser (lead ♥J and play low) is not one any real person would choose.

2	♠ J984	Dir: E																										
	♥ 106	Vul: N-S																										
	♦ QJ1063																											
	♣ 107																											
	♠ A7632	♠ K5																										
	♥ K952	♥ AJ73																										
	♦ 97	♦ 84																										
	♣ Q4	♣ AKJ52																										
	4	♠ Q10																										
	9 16	♥ Q84																										
11	♦ AK52																											
	♣ 9863																											
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♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																								
N	-	1	-	-																								
S	-	1	-	-																								
E	5	-	3	2																								
W	5	-	3	2																								

DATUM: NS: 570 EW: 140

Board 3

After South and West pass North should open 1♣.

Although East's hand meets the requirements for a takeout double (support for all unbid suits) he is better to bid 1♥ in view of the very good suit.

South bids 1♠ and North 3♣, showing 16 points and lots of clubs.

That makes South's 10 points enough for game.

South's best option is to bid 4♣ here. To bid 3♠ overstates the spade quality and doesn't tell partner about the club support.

It may be possible 4♠ is a better game than 5♣. but that is for **North** to investigate.

If North had some reasonable spades, such as three cards, or two with an honour, he could offer a choice by bidding bid 4♠ over 4♣.

But here North will decline that suggestion and just bid 5♣.

3	♠ 52	Dir: S																															
	♥ 73	Vul: E-W																															
	♦ AKQ																																
	♣ AK8742																																
	♠ J7	♠ Q984																															
	♥ J864	♥ AKQ105																															
	♦ J873	♦ 942																															
	♣ 1096	♣ 3																															
	18	♠ AK1063																															
	3 11	♥ 92																															
10	♦ 1065																																
	♣ QJ5																																
		<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>			♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	5	2	-	3		S	5	2	-	3		E	-	-	1	-		W	-	-	1	-	
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N	5	2	-	3																													
S	5	2	-	3																													
E	-	-	1	-																													
W	-	-	1	-																													

DATUM: NS: 70 EW: 540

Board 4

After three passes South should open 1♦

West, with near-maximum for his initial pass might try a takeout double now. His side might have a fit in another suit and be able to buy the contract (although not the case on this hand).

Whatever West does North should bid 1♥ and South 2♦.

Although 2♦ doesn't promise more than five cards in theory, in this sequence it must be at least six. A hand with only five diamonds would either be balanced or have a 4-card black suit South could bid.

North then can pass 2♦ and be sure it is the best contract available (even though it might not be very good!) South should make his contract losing only three clubs and, at worst, two diamonds.

4	♠ K742	Dir: W
	♥ A8732	Vul: Both
	♦ 2	
	♣ 982	
♠ 985	♠ QJ103	
♥ QJ106	♥ 94	
♦ 97	♦ A1085	
♣ AK64	♣ QJ10	
	♠ A6	
	♥ K5	
	♦ KQJ643	
	♣ 753	
7		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT
10	10	N - 2 1 - -
		S - 2 1 - -
13		E 1 - - 1 -
		W 1 - - - -

DATUM: NS: 250 EW: 230

Board 5

North should open 1♣ and South should bid 1♠ rather than support the clubs immediately. Although, in hindsight, a 2♣ bid might have worked better on this hand.

That is because West is likely to interfere with a 2♥ bid.

That prevents North making the 2♦ bid he wanted to (showing 16-17 points as it is above the "barrier"). His best solution is the slight overbid of 3♦.

If South had a few more points than minimum he could try for game either in notrumps (if he had a heart trick) or spades (if he had a very good suit) or 5♣.

But here South is a minimum for his bid so should give preference to 4♣.

North must resist the temptation to bid one more for the game.

He must appreciate that if 5♣ were makeable South would bid it in view of the strength North has already shown.

5	♠ J7	Dir: N																					
	♥ 84	Vul: N-S																					
	♦ AKQ2																						
	♣ AK952																						
♠ K5	♠ Q1092																						
♥ AKQJ92	♥ 1065																						
♦ 10984	♦ J73																						
♣ 7	♣ J103																						
17	♠ A8643																						
13	♥ 73																						
4	♦ 65																						
6	♣ Q864																						
		<table><tr><td>♣</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>- 2 1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>- 2 1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣	♥	♦	NT	N	4	3	- 2 1	S	4	3	- 2 1	E	-	-	-	W	-	-	-
♣	♥	♦	NT																				
N	4	3	- 2 1																				
S	4	3	- 2 1																				
E	-	-	-																				
W	-	-	-																				

DATUM: NS: 220 EW: 300

Board 6

West has maximum points for a 1♥ opening. North is likely to bid 1♠ and the next two players pass.

West has support for both unbid suits so his best action now is to double for takeout.

Any uncertainty about the meaning of a double in this situation is resolved by the principle "A double of any low level suit bid *when partner has not bid* is for takeout".

It forces partner to bid the best suit, knowing there is support for all of them and not forgetting the hearts West had at the start of the bidding are still there!

After West's double East will bid clubs (possibly not very enthusiastically) and East must not get carried away with his array of high cards as he forced partner to bid even if he had no points at all.

East should play the hand in 2♣, his sides best trump suit.

6	♠ KQ1087	Dir: E
	♥ KQ	Vul: E-W
	♦ Q1092	
	♣ J9	
♠ A	♠ J953	
♥ A7532	♥ J	
♦ A875	♦ 643	
♣ AK6	♣ 107543	
13	♠ 642	
19	♥ 109864	
2	♦ KJ	
6	♣ Q82	
	♠ ♣ ♥ ♦ NT	
	N - - 1 - 1	
	S - - 1 - 1	
	E 3 1 - 1 -	
	W 3 1 - 1 -	

DATUM: NS: 280 EW: 320

Board 7

South should open 1NT (NOT 1♦; this is a balanced hand!). That is likely to end the bidding.

South makes seven tricks with five diamonds and two hearts.

West's best lead for is the ♥J (top of the sequence).

If West leads a black suit South gets an extra trick with the king in that suit.

Things would go sour for South if he were to open 1♦. North would bid 2♦ or 1NT and both of those contracts would go down. There are no more tricks in diamonds than notrumps played by South, and if North declares in notrumps a black-suit lead might give the defenders the first eight tricks!

Alternatively, after 1♦ from South, West might double for takeout although he is a point short for that. East could then play in a black-suit contract making at least eight tricks.

7		♠ 542 ♥ AK7 ♦ Q752 ♣ 853	Dir: S Vul: Both																															
♠ A108 ♥ J1092 ♦ 96 ♣ AQ42			♠ QJ63 ♥ Q65 ♦ 43 ♣ J1097																															
9		♠ K97 ♥ 843 ♦ AKJ108 ♣ K6		<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	1	E	3	-	2	3	-	W	3	-	2	3	-
	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT																													
N	-	1	-	-	-																													
S	-	1	-	-	1																													
E	3	-	2	3	-																													
W	3	-	2	3	-																													
11	8																																	
14																																		

DATUM: NS: 320 EW: 320

Board 8

West should start with 2♥ and East, with a guaranteed 10-card trump fit should jump to 4♥.

If 4♥ fails there was probably a better-scoring spade contract for North-South (East can see the other side has a spade fit as there won't be many spades in the 2♥ opener).

South may think he is being robbed but it is a real shot in the dark to attempt 4♠ on his own.

He can't make the same inference about the spade fit as East can; there might be lots of spades in the hand which raised 2♥ to 4♥!

If South does bid 4♠ here he gets lucky! He will lose only one trick in each off-suit and make 4♠.

If East didn't obstruct so much it would be easier for North-South to get to play in a spade contract.

4♥ will fail by one trick, provided North-South lead clubs early, before dummy's diamond suit is set up.

8		♠ K1054 ♥ Q6 ♦ 8732 ♣ K63	Dir: W Vul: None
♠ J9 ♥ AK10943 ♦ 106 ♣ 985		♠ Q ♥ J752 ♦ KQJ94 ♣ A104	
8	♠ A87632 ♥ 8 ♦ A5 ♣ QJ72		
8 13			
11			

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	3	-	4	-	
S	3	-	4	-	
E	-	3	3	-	
W	-	3	3	-	

DATUM: NS: 260 EW: 260

Board 9

North's 18-point balanced hand should be opened 1♣ (longest suit) and rebid 2NT over any other suit bid partner makes.

The jump rebid in NT shows 18-19 points. That means South's 7 points is enough to raise to 3NT.

Against 3NT East should lead ♥K, the top of a sequence (even though it is not a *solid* sequence). A low heart lead would gift declarer a trick with the ♥J.

North needs five tricks in diamonds to make 3NT.

He has to watch the small diamonds carefully to achieve that.

On leading the ♦A and ♦K first (of course! "*lead the top cards from the shorter hand first*") North will see the ♦10 fall on the first round, then a discard from West on the second.

He can then take the "marked" finesse (so called because he *knows* it will win) of the ♦9 on the third round.

9		♠ AK5 ♥ 763 ♦ AK6 ♣ A642	Dir: N Vul: E-W																														
♠ QJ92 ♥ 9542 ♦ 10 ♣ KQ109		♠ 1073 ♥ KQ108 ♦ J873 ♣ J5																															
18		♠ 864 ♥ AJ ♦ Q9542 ♣ 873	<table><tr><td></td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	2	3	-	1	3	S	2	3	-	1	3	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-
	♠	♥	♦	♣	N																												
N	2	3	-	1	3																												
S	2	3	-	1	3																												
E	-	2	-	-	-																												
W	-	2	-	-	-																												
8	7																																
7																																	

DATUM: NS: 130 EW: 490

Board 10

East should open 1♥ and then what should South do?

An apparently difficult concept to grasp is if you have a balanced hand and your RH opponent opens the bidding you **pass**!

The hand does not qualify for a 1NT overcall (lacks 16 points), nor a takeout double (lacks support for all suits), nor a suit overcall (lacks a 5-card suit).

South will have no regrets when he sees the bidding stop at 1♥.

He can lead ♠AK and a third spade trumped by North who can lead a club killing declarer's ♣K.

A fourth spade can be trumped again by North and declarer still has to lose two trump tricks. That will be down 2!

If South were to contest the bidding his side would suffer a similar fate. This is one of those diabolical hands where both sides will struggle to make any contract.

10		♠ J5 ♥ Q62 ♦ J1097 ♣ J752	Dlr: E Vul: Both
♠ 1086 ♥ 43 ♦ KQ8 ♣ 98643	♠ Q973 ♥ AK98 ♦ A52 ♣ K10	♠ AK42 ♥ J1075 ♦ 643 ♣ AQ	
5 5 16 14			
		♠♥♦♣NT	
		N - 1 - - -	
		S - 1 - - -	
		E 1 - - 2 2	
		W 1 - - 2 1	

DATUM: NS: 320 EW: 320

Board 11

After a pass from South, and 1♥ from West, North will want to compete.

As North has (reasonable) support for all unbid suits a takeout double is better than a 2♣ overcall with such a weak suit.

East should raise to 2♥ whatever North does.

South has enough to compete over 2♥ and his partner's double allows him to safely bid 2♠.

If North had bid 2♣ instead of double South should still be prepared to compete but to bid 2♠ here would be very much a shot in the dark.

Realistically he can only bid 3♣ which should go one down. That would not be a bad result (compared with the opponent's 2♥ making) but making 2♠ or defeating 3♥ would be better. The takeout double and consequent disclosure of the spade fit gives North-South the competitive advantage of the highest ranking suit.

11		♠ AK5 ♥ J10 ♦ QJ8 ♣ Q6432	Dlr: S Vul: None
♠ 94 ♥ KQ975 ♦ A1093 ♣ A10	♠ Q102 ♥ 8642 ♦ K752 ♣ J8	♠ J8763 ♥ A3 ♦ 64 ♣ K975	
13 13 8 8			
		♠♥♦♣NT	
		N 2 - - 2 -	
		S 2 - - 2 -	
		E - 2 2 - -	
		W - 2 2 - -	

DATUM: NS: 320 EW: 270

Board 12

West should open 1♠ and East bid 3♠ showing 10 to 12 points after which West should bid 4♠.

Hands with a big trump fit but no length or shortage in either hand don't play as well as one might think and here West might go down in 4♠ if he is not careful.

He needs to win the likely ♦K lead, draw trumps, then (importantly) lead three rounds of clubs, trumping the third one in his hand.

Having done that he leads his other diamond giving North the lead, and the problem.

If North leads a heart declarer's ♥Q will win the third round and if he leads anything else declarer can discard his third heart from one hand while trumping in the other.

If North's opening lead was a small diamond rather than ♦K it gives declarer a bonus trick with ♦J but that comes back as he has to lead hearts himself and will lose all three of them.

12		♠ 10 ♥ A93 ♦ KQ65 ♣ 106542	Dlr: W Vul: N-S
♠ AKJ743 ♥ Q52 ♦ AJ ♣ 73	♠ Q9852 ♥ J64 ♦ 97 ♣ AK8	♠ 6 ♥ K1087 ♦ 108432 ♣ QJ9	
9 15 10 6			
		♠♥♦♣NT	
		N 2 2 1 - -	
		S 2 2 1 - -	
		E - - 4 3	
		W - - 4 3	

DATUM: NS: 560 EW: 210