





Responding To Opening Bids Of One Of A Suit

Hand 7	Dealer South	Game All	West	North	East	South
	♠ J 7 ♥ A Q 10 5 ♦ K Q 4 3 ♣ A 10 9					Pass 1NT All pass
♠ A 10 8 ♥ J 8 6 4 ♦ A 10 8 2 ♣ 6 4	 ♠ Q 9 6 5 3 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ J 7 6 ♣ Q J					South should respond 1NT as he is not strong enough to bid his clubs at the 2-level, and North should pass (a raise to 2NT should show a stronger hand, about 17-18 points). Declarer wins trick one in dummy with ♥Q and leads ♣A and another. When East follows with ♣Q and ♣J he must resist temptation and duck, as he has no sure entry to hand. This guarantees five club tricks, enough for the contract.
	♠ K 4 2 ♥ 9 7 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K 8 7 5 3 2	Lead: ♦2				

Hand 8	Dealer West	Love All	West	North	East	South
	♠ 10 6 4 ♥ 10 9 3 ♦ K Q J 7 ♣ Q 3 2					Pass 2NT All pass
♠ A K ♥ A 6 2 ♦ 9 6 4 3 ♣ 7 6 5 4	 ♠ Q J 5 3 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ A 5 2 ♣ A 10 8					East has a balanced hand but is too strong to open 1NT so opens in his 4-card suit. West's best response is 2NT (balanced 10-12 points) and East bids game. There are nine tricks available but a modicum of care is needed. Declarer should unblock the spades in the West hand before exhausting all the entries in the East hand to the long spades.
	♠ 9 8 7 2 ♥ J 8 7 5 ♦ 10 8 ♣ K J 9	Lead: ♦K				

Hand Talk1	Dealer North	Love All	West	North	East	South
	♠ K J 8 2 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ 4 3 ♣ K J 8 4					Pass Pass 3♦ All pass
♠ A Q ♥ K 6 3 ♦ A J 8 7 2 ♣ A 10 5	 ♠ 10 7 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ K Q 9 6 5 ♣ Q 9 2					East has 10-12 points and diamond support (without a major suit to show) so he raises the opening bid to the 3-level. West knows that game values are there but rightly suggests the nine-trick no trump game rather than game in the minor. Not only is this easier but it scores better too.
	♠ 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ Q 10 9 4 ♦ 10 ♣ 7 6 3	Lead: ♠2				Note that the normal spade lead (no major suits bid) gives declarer an extra trick in the suit. Such is life.

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Hand Talk2	Dealer East	NS Game	West	North	East	South
	♠ 5 4 3 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ A J 8 ♣ J 9 4 3					1♠ 2♥ All pass
♠ A 9 6 ♥ Q J ♦ K Q 9 7 5 3 ♣ 7 6	 ♠ K Q 10 8 7 ♥ A K 8 7 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K 8					With 4-4 in the majors, East would have opened 1♥, so this sequence promises at least five spades. This makes it easy for West to bid the game in spades based on his 3-card support.
	♠ J 2 ♥ 10 5 4 3 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A Q 10 5 2	Lead: ♦10	2♦ 4♠	Pass All pass		A diamond looks the safest lead. After winning with ♦A North needs to switch to a club otherwise declarer can draw trumps, set up dummy's diamonds with one ruff and discard his clubs to make twelve tricks.