

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

EW 5♥; EW 3N; EW 4♣; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -450

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♥	All pass

1. 10-12, 3card heart support.

A good sequence where East shows 5/4 in two suits, West is able to show invitational values and East bids game because the hand has extras.

Lead: Any suit bar a trump seems feasible.

East will make ten or eleven tricks, the only losers being a heart and one/two clubs. Two clubs will only be lost if declarer leads ♣ K from hand or leads a club to the king from dummy. If East plays ♣ 7 from hand, South's ♣ A is said to "beat the air", i.e. takes no significant card from the opposing side.

### Board 2

East Deals  
N-S Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

NS 2♥; NS 1N; S 1♠; EW 1♦; S 1♣; Par +110

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
1N <sup>1</sup>	All pass		

1. 15-17/18, at least one spade stop.

Lead: ♠ 6 (no lead is great, the club being good in that there are three tricks to cash there but it does set up West's fourth club).

On the lead, ♠ 4 from dummy, South does best to put in ♠ 10. Now declarer, who's not in a great position, may temporise and play a low diamond from hand (if this is taken by a hand holding a trebleton honour then the other honour will crash doubleton in the other hand thereby setting up four diamond winners. No luck here. North wins and plays a second spade. That guarantees West three spade tricks and he plays ace and another diamond. North wins and does best to switch to a club. South wins and plays a third spade. Now the defence has defeated the contract as North South have made two spades, two diamonds and three clubs.

There'll be other variations in the play, the above being just one, and tricks could vary from five to an unlikely eight.

**Board 3**  
South Deals  
E-W Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4♦; NS 2N; S 2♥; NS 2♣; EW 1♠; N 1♥; Par +130

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	3♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3N
All pass			

1. 10-12, 4+card diamond support (limit raise).

**[Follow Up On "Leading To No Trump Contracts" Workshop]**

West has a reasonable five card heart suit so leads a fourth best ♥ 6. ♥ 2 from dummy and ♥ Q from East. South cannot duck this (a play that is sometimes made to cut the defence's communications) because a further heart from East generates five heart tricks. So South wins and counts his top tricks. He has two spades, a heart, a diamond and three clubs. That's seven tricks and declarer needs the diamond finesse against ♦ K to work for the contract. In fact, if that finesse works, there will be five diamond winners for a total trick take of eleven.

Alas the diamond finesse loses and East fires back a heart. West cashes out and South is held to eight tricks. One off.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

EW 4N; EW 4♠; EW 4♥; E 3♦; W 2♦; EW 1♣; Par -630

West	North	East	South
2N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3N	All pass

1. 19-20, balanced.

East has no interest in a major suit game and simply raises to game - the hand is both too flat and short of high cards to think of trying for a slam.

Lead: ♥ 8 (a safe lead).

Blocking suits can be all right provided they can be unblocked at a later stage. Here declarer may run the lead to hand to take a club finesse against ♣ K. That loses and back comes ♦ K. Declarer wins, unblocks ♣ J winner, unblocks dummy's two top hearts, cashes ♣ A and plays a spade to hand. A further heart is cashed but when the spades don't break 3-3 there are only three spade winners. Declarer makes three spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs. That's ten tricks and a score of +630 to East West.

**Board 5**  
North Deals  
N-S Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

  

♠ J 9 7 6 4	♠ J 9 7 6 4	♠ J 9 7 6 4
♥ 7 4	♥ 7 4	♥ 7 4
♦ 4	♦ 4	♦ 4
♣ J 10 6 4 3	♣ J 10 6 4 3	♣ J 10 6 4 3

  

EW 4♦; EW 2N; EW 2♠; EW 2♣; W 1♥; Par -130			
West	North	East	South
	1♥	1N <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3N	All pass		
1. 15-17/18, at least one heart stop.			

**[Follow Up On "Leading To No Trump Contracts" Workshop]**

Lead: ♥ 7 (a dutiful card, ensuring South does not lose the *post mortem*).

It doesn't really matter what card North plays at trick one (barring not covering ♥ 8 if, for some reason, that's played from dummy). On the lead declarer has eight tricks and has to play on diamonds to try for a ninth winner. On the bidding North is most likely to have ♦ A so declarer starts by running ♦ J, hoping ♦ Q is with South. That doesn't happen and North clears the hearts. Declarer can now only cash out the eight top tricks. If he plays another diamond North expectedly wins and cashes a further four heart tricks. There are now only seven winners.

**Board 6**  
East Deals  
E-W Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

  

♠ A 8 5	♠ A 8 5	♠ A 8 5
♥ Q J 10 9 5	♥ Q J 10 9 5	♥ Q J 10 9 5
♦ 10 2	♦ 10 2	♦ 10 2
♣ Q 6 5	♣ Q 6 5	♣ Q 6 5

  

EW 4♠; EW 5♦; NS 2♥; EW 3♣; EW 1N; Par -500; NS 5♥x-3			
West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

East has a flawed twenty count, flawed because the singleton ♥ K is of dubious value (and here that value *is* zero). Three-suited, or semi-three suited for East's 5431 shape, are difficult to develop and it's better to start with a one level opening than a space-consuming 2♣ (where a 6card suit or 5/5two-suiter would be more in order).

For most, 4♠ would be an automatic rebid with East's hands but those of a more circumspect nature may prefer a trial bid of 3♦ (turn West's ♦ Q into ♥ Q and game is not very good at all). After the trial bid it's still not obvious to bid 4♠ as West's hand is minimum but the fitting diamond honours will swing it for most.

Lead: ♥ Q.

North wins trick one and plays a second heart, ruffed by East. East plays a diamond to dummy and has a choice of plays. If he plays for the diamonds to break 3-2 then he'll play a spade to ♠ K (South might duck that but to no avail - South knows that North has only a doubleton spade at most so declarer can't go wrong on the second round). Then declarer will play a second diamond to dummy and play a second diamond. With ♠ J popping up declarer has no further problems. Alternatively if declarer is worried about a 4-1 diamond break he may finesse ♠ 10 on the first round of trumps. That works OK here but would be wrong if it lost to ♠ J and would also not work on some 4-1 diamond breaks.

One way or another declarer should make four spade, four diamond and two club tricks. Game made and +620 to East West.

**Board 7**

South Deals  
Both Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

NS 6N; NS 6♥; NS 3♠; N 3♣; S 2♣; EW 1♦; Par +1440

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 N <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5 ♣ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

1. Too strong for 2 ♥ as a weak2 bid (for most folk).
2. A mark-time bid - it's OK to bid 3 card minors.
3. Ace-showing cue bid.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. 1 of the 5 "aces".

Lead: ♦ A.

It's difficult for North to stay out of slam here and a more "bashing" auction would get to 6 ♥ too. Had North bid 2 ♠ on the second round that would have been natural and game forcing, a so-called responder's reverse. That frees up a jump in a new suit (here 3 ♠) to act as an ace- (or void-) showing cue bid agreeing the last suit bid by partner. South has no ace to cue so retreats to 4 ♥. North has controls in both minors so can use RKCB and the slam is reached.

If you believe your opponents are competent then cashing a side-suit ace against a small slam is usually good at matchpoints, lest an important loser disappear on the run of a side-suit. Here that wouldn't happen.

The contract has potentially two losers - a diamond and a club. The slam is only fair and needs West to hold ♦ A to pitch the club loser. West's cashing of the diamond ace has been beneficial to declarer as there is no longer any need to fret about the contract making.

**Board 8**

West Deals  
None Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

EW 3♠; EW 2N; EW 3♣; EW 1♦; Par -140

West	North	East	South
1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 N	All pass
1. 12-14.			

**Follow Up On "Leading To No Trump Contracts" Workshop**

Lead: ♦ Q.

Declarer counts his winners and has one in hearts, one in diamonds and four in clubs. That's six tricks and he hopes to make a further three in spades, having knocked out ♠ A, to fulfil the contract.

The defence has other ideas and South plays ♦ K on the opening lead. West ducks the next two diamonds but North has ♠ A and the contract is defeated by way of four diamonds and the top spade.

Had South not unblocked ♦ K at trick one, declarer makes the contract by taking the first diamond. He is able to knock out the ace of spades before the diamond suit has been unravelled.

**Board 9**

North Deals  
E-W Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

♠ K 9 7 6 5 3

♥ Q 9 8 6

♦ K Q J

♣ —

N

W

S

E

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

EW 7 ♦; EW 6 ♠; EW 2 ♥; EW 1 N; NS 2 ♣; Par -2000: NS 7 ♥ x-8

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

1. 12-14, balanced.
2. Stayman.
3. No 4card major.

West has only eleven high card points but bidding game is perfectly reasonable given the distribution of the hand. Had East been dealt some values in clubs the hands would not have fit together too well (give East ♣ AQ instead of ♠ AQ and the contract is only fair.

Lead: ♣ A.

West ruffs the opening lead, draws trumps and claims twelve tricks. There are six spade, one heart and five diamond winners.

**Board 10**

East Deals  
Both Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

♠ A 9 5

♥ A Q 6 3

♦ 8

♣ A K Q 9 8

N

W

S

E

♠ Q 6 3 2	
♥ K 10 5 2	
♦ 3	
♣ J 5 3 2	

NS 5 ♥; NS 4 ♠; NS 5 ♣; EW 2 ♦; Par +650

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
3 ♦	Dbl	Pass <sup>1</sup>	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

1. A fearless East may bid 4 ♦ here.

It's a good general "rule" to assume that when partner responds at the three level opposite a double of a three-level preempt, he has about seven points. Here South is just one point short of that guideline and, in any case, North has sufficient extra values to try for game.

Lead: ♦ A.

Despite the preempt, which often warns of impending bad breaks, the hearts behave and declarer can manage eleven tricks by playing up towards ♠ Q (having cashed ♠ A first lest ♠ K drop singleton).

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

NS 1N; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +90

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	All pass		Pass

A lowly spot where the defence should prevail but this contract may make at some tables. North South ought to come to one spade, two heart, one diamond and three trump winners. That's seven tricks and translate to West failing by one trick.

**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 4♦; NS 2N; Par +620

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	Dbl
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4 ♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5 ♦

All pass

1. Weak2 in spades - 6card suit and about 5-9.
2. Do you have a spade stop?
3. No.

This is very difficult for North South as they have a combined thirty count but no making game (bar a far-fetched ability to reached 5 ♣ and to play it as if looking through the backs of the cards). If North's small club is turned into a small diamond then there would be eleven tricks in diamonds. As it is, ten's the limit as the defence will take ♠ A, ♦ Q and a slow club.

Those who attempt 3N should fail by trick, especially on the normal lead of ♠ 3.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

S 4♠; N 3♠; NS 4♦; NS 2N; NS 3♣; NS 1♥; Par +620

West	North	East	South
	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 N

All pass  
1. 12-14.

**[Follow Up On "Leading To No Trump Contracts" Workshop]**

Lead: ♥ 6 (4th highest) [some may lead ♥ 8, second highest, but that's doesn't work as well as West won't necessarily read partner to hold length in the suit].

West should realise that East has led from length though he is marked with just 4-6 points (dummy has 15, declarer 12-14 and West has 7). That suggests that East has led from a five-, rather than four-, card suit. He hopes the side-suit entry will help the defensive cause. That side-suit entry is either a high spade or a high diamond.

West wins ♥ Q and does best to clear the hearts by playing ♥ A and ♥ 2. That sets up dummy's king of hearts as a winner but that's a very temporary "setback". For the purpose of clearing the hearts was to set up two winners for East before East's entry has been knocked out.

Declarer can count only seven top winners (an even spade break may provide one extra trick) and has to play on diamonds to make game. East, however, has the entry in that suit and the contract fails by one trick. Giving North South an early heart trick was a Greek gift for declarer.

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

250215SupervisedPractice

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

EW 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 3♦; EW 1N; NS 2♣; Par -140

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	Pass

1. 12-14.

It may look a little dangerous to bid as East has done but partner is marked with some values when the auction starts with three passes followed by a weak no trump opening bid. South might venture 3 ♣ but that's more obvious if South has a six card suit (now there's at least a known eight card fit with North promising at least a doubleton in support for the opening bid).

Lead: ♣ K (top of a sequence).

Dummy takes the opening lead with ♣ A and takes a heart finesse. ♥ J holds. Now a diamond is played towards dummy and a deep finesse of ♦ 10 taken. That loses to ♦ K and a club comes back. Declarer ruffs, plays to ♦ Q and finesses ♥ Q. He draws a third round of trumps. With diamonds breaking 3-3, declarer has five hearts, three diamonds and a club for nine tricks. On this sequence of plays declarer can be forced out of trumps so shouldn't make a spade before the defence can set up some club winners.