

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4♥; NS 2N; EW 2♠; NS 3♦; Par +300: EW 4♠x-2

West	North	East	South
	1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²
Pass	2 ♥ ³	Pass	3 ♥ ⁴
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

1. 12-14.
2. 5+hearts, transfer.
3. OK.
4. Showing six hearts and invitational to game (roughly 10-12).

Lead: ♦ 8 (second from bad) or ♦ 9 (top of rubbish)

Declarer can duck in dummy or put in ♦ J. In the fullness of time there are ten tricks - six hearts, three diamonds and a club. West may switch to a club at trick two but declarer finesses ♣ 9 (or ♣ J) and no harm can come to him. If East doesn't cash the ace of spades at this point declarer can make an overtrick. He can throw the spade loser on the fourth diamond and take a second (and winning) club finesse.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

EW 4♠; EW 3♥; EW 1N; EW 2♦; EW 1♣; Par -420

West	North	East	South
		1 N ¹	Pass
2 ♥ ²	Pass	2 ♠ ³	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

1. 12-14.
2. 5+spades, transfer.
3. OK.

East is maximum and ♥ A in partner's side suit is a bonus. Bidding game with this hand is automatic.

Lead: ♣ K

Declarer wins the lead and plays a trump, taken by South. South cashes a club and, on seeing partner follow with ♣ J and ♣ 10, plays a third round of the suit. East ruffs with a safe ♠ 9 and draws the remaining trumps. A diamond must be given up but the contract is assured. Had East ruffed the third club low, North would have been able to overruff. That would have been careless and the game would have been needlessly thrown away.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

♠ K 5
♥ Q J 7 4
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ K J 5

NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 3♦; NS 1♣; Par +120

West	North	East	South
			1 N ¹
Pass	2 ♥ ²	Pass	2 ♠ ³
Pass	2 N ⁴	Pass	Pass ⁵

All pass

1. 12-14.
2. 5+spades, transfer.
3. OK.
4. Invitational (11-12) with 5spades, usually (as here) 5332 shape.
5. Declines the invitation because the hand is minimum.

Lead: ♥ 8 (second from rubbish) or ♥ 9 (top of rubbish)

On either of these leads East should duck (unless declarer plays ♥ K) thereby limiting declarer to two heart tricks. Although the defence has only four top tricks they should come to a fifth winner in either spades, hearts or diamonds and hold the contract.

When the opposition have a tentative auction it's best to lead neutrally (passively). A club would also be passive though that immediately gives declarer three tricks in the suit without his having to think of the opposing club layout.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

♠ 5 3
♥ 9 5 4 3 2
♦ Q 4
♣ A 9 3 2

EW 5N; EW 5♠; EW 5♦; EW 1♥; EW 1♣; Par -660

West	North	East	South
1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♥ ²	Pass
2 ♠ ³	Pass	4 ♠ ⁴	All pass

1. 12-14.
2. 5+spades, transfer.
3. OK.
4. 6+spades and game values (partner's opening bid guarantees an eight card fit).

It's also possible for East to blast 4 ♠ directly over 1N. Not that it matters here but such action shuts out the opponents very quickly and gives them very little information. Here the defence has some knowledge - South has failed to double 2 ♥ for a heart lead so that suit is not attractive. North may lead a low club and that guarantees the defence two tricks - ♣ A and ♥ A. West has all the other tricks provided he plays spades from the top (a case of "nine never"). Declarer will seek to finesse in diamonds but ♦ Q popping up saves West a little brain energy.

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 95
 ♥ Q942
 ♦ K105
 ♣ A832

♠ KJ10873
 ♥ 106
 ♦ QJ3
 ♣ K5

♠ Q6
 ♥ KJ75
 ♦ A864
 ♣ Q96

♠ A42
 ♥ A83
 ♦ 972
 ♣ J1074

N
 W E
 S

West North East South

	Pass	1 N ¹	Pass
2 ♥ ²	Pass	2 ♠ ³	Pass
3 ♠ ⁴	All pass		

1. 12-14.
2. 5+spades, transfer.
3. OK.
4. 10-12, 6+spades (game invitational).

A controlled auction where the contract's success is not guaranteed.

Lead: ♣ J

It's best to count the losers from the longer trump hand here. These are: possibly one spade, two heart, one diamond and one club loser. That means the contract can fail by one trick and the heart suit is critical. If North doesn't put declarer to the guess by switching to a low heart at some point, declarer could throw a heart on the fourth round of diamonds (if ♦ Q is covered, duck; if it's not covered, then duck when North covers ♦ J).

If declarer doesn't see the possibility of setting up the long diamond then he might see the heart guess as being the only way to make the contract. If the hand is played in this way, North should duck smoothly when declarer plays ♥ 10 from hand.

East Deals
E-W Vul

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

♠ 5
 ♥ A J 8 5 3
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ A Q 7 5 3

♠ Q J 9 6
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ K Q 5 3
 ♣ K 10 6

♠ K 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 10 9 2
 ♦ A 4 2
 ♣ 4 2

West North East South

2 \heartsuit ²	Pass	1 N ¹	Pass
3 \clubsuit ⁴	Pass	2 \heartsuit ³	Pass
		3 N ⁵	All pass

1. 12-14.
2. 5+hearts, transfer.
3. OK.
4. Shows 4+cards in clubs - invitational (or better) and forcing for one round.
5. Generally denies 3hearts - with a maximum and stops in partner's non-suits, very happy to play in no trumps.

West doesn't have enough to try for a slam so shows the somewhat unbalanced nature of his hand but respects partner's 3N which as good as denies a 5-3 heart fit. 5 ♣ makes (provided declarer ruffs a heart before drawing all the trumps) but that contract won't get a very good matchpoint score.

In 3N declarer can play on hearts (taking a losing finesse against ♥ Q) and should make ten tricks - four hearts, five clubs and a diamond (there is the possibility of a second diamond but the defence should be ahead of the game, taking two spades and the queen of hearts).

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

EW 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 3♣; EW 1N; EW 1♦; Par +110

West	North	East	South
			1 N ¹
Pass	2 ♠ ²	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	Pass ³	All pass	

- 12-14.
- Requesting partner to bid 3 ♣ (transfer to one of the minors).
- 6+clubs, weak (no game interest).

Here we see North South able to bail out into 3 ♣. It's just possible that East will double 2 ♠ to show the spade length (not a great suit or hand at the vulnerability) but 3 ♠ won't in practice play too well and could easily be booked for an awful minus 200.

West may lead a dangerous ♠ J which works well here. East will win and the defence should come to the one spade, two hearts and a diamond. That translates to declarer making nine tricks by way of taking and, if necessary, repeating the club finesse. South can try for a tenth trick by playing a heart to ♥ Q and, after that has lost, finessing ♥ 10 on the way back. That loses too so nine should be the limit (unless West leads a kind heart - or switches to one on winning the diamond ace).

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 2N; EW 2♦; EW 1♣; Par -450

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2 N ¹	Pass
3 ♥ ²	Pass	3 ♠ ³	Pass
4 ♥ ⁴	All pass		

- 19-20.
- 5+spades, transfer. In a similar way to bidding two five card suits naturally, West shows the higher ranking suit first.
- OK.
- Shows 5/5 in the majors, giving East a choice of contracts.

If West had a stronger hand he'd use Stayman first and then bid strongly (more partnership bidding discussion needed!). Here East can play West for 5/5 because West wouldn't adopt this route with only 5/4 : if that were the case the partnership may be stuck in a 5-2 or 4-3 fit.

Here East is happy to play what he knows will be a 5-3 fit and North leads an obvious ♣ Q. Declarer will win and ditch the club loser on the second diamond winner. Trumps are now drawn and West should come to eleven tricks, losing just one other trick to ♠ A.

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

EW 3♠; NS 4♦; EW 3♣; NS 1N; NS 1♥; Par +130

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 N ¹	Pass
2 ♣ ²	Pass	2 ♠	All pass
1. 12-14.			
2. Stayman.			

Here we see West willing to play in 3 ♣ but checking first for a possible 4-4 spade fit. He uses Stayman (with a shape-suitable weak hand) and is very happy to play at the two level.

Lead: ♦ 10 (top of an interior sequence; slightly dangerous, away from the king).

North wins ♦ A and the dynamic defence is to cash ♣ A and switch to a small heart. Declarer may put in ♥ Q and South returns a club for North to ruff. As it happens that's the last trick for the defence as North has ruffed in with the longer trump holding when the defence has a *natural* trump ... but, of course, *North doesn't know that*. Had declarer risen with ♥ A at trick three he would still have made nine tricks but would have given up on making ten.

The defence needs to switch to a heart through declarer early enough else East can discard three hearts on the long clubs.

Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

EW 5♥; EW 5♦; EW 2N; EW 3♣; EW 1♠; Par -650

West	North	East	South
		1 N ¹	Pass
2 ♦ ²	Pass	2 ♥ ³	Pass
3 ♦ ⁴	Pass	3 N ⁵	Pass
4 ♦ ⁶	Pass	4 ♠ ⁷	Pass
5 ♦ ⁸	All pass		

1. 12-14.
2. 5+hearts, transfer.
3. OK.
4. Now 5+hearts and 4+diamonds, invitational (or better) and forcing.
5. Denies 3hearts (else a 3 ♥ bid). Has good cover in the black suits so happy with 3N choice (3 ♠ instead would say spade values but worried about clubs for 3N).
6. Continues bidding out the shape to show 5hearts and 5diamonds.
7. Ace showing cue agreeing diamonds (can't be agreeing hearts as support for that suit has already been denied).
8. Nothing more to add.

Perhaps a little contrived but we see a good auction where West has some interest in reaching a diamond slam. Declarer can draw trumps and take a losing finesse of ♥ J but there are eleven tricks and game makes. The no trump game fails on a spade lead though there is a chance that the spade suit gets blocked and the defence doesn't unravel its winners.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

NS 6♠; NS 5N; NS 4♦; S 4♣; NS 2♥; N 3♣; Par +980

West	North	East	South
			1 N ¹
Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass	4 ♣ ³
Pass	4 ♦ ³	Pass	4 ♥ ³
Pass	6 ♠	All pass	

- 12-14.
- (5)6+spades, game forcing.
- Ace-showing cue bid.

A hand that, playing natural methods, is easier to develop without using transfers. North is able to show strong slam intentions quickly with the jump to 3 ♠ and South, with the fitting top spade honour (and three card support) is able to cue. This is a very co-operative bid and the slam is soon reached.

That said, the contract is not *cold* (bridge jargon for "it will always make"). If East leads a "passive" club then declarer's guess is taken away. Left to his own devices there is a two-way club finesse in that suit. With the diamond finesse losing, declarer needs to get the clubs right otherwise the contract will fail. There is very little to go one so, provided the defence *doesn't* touch clubs, the contract's success is no better than the toss of a coin.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4N; NS 4♣; NS 2♠; NS 2♦; S 1♥; Par +630

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 N ¹
Pass	2 N ²	Pass	3 N

All pass

- 15-17(18), your choice.
- Invitational to 3N without a 4card major.

Here we see North South playing so-called SYSTEM ON where the bids over a 1N overcall are just as they are over a 1N opening, albeit adjusted for the overcaller's known extra strength. 2N here, of course, is a very natural bid.

There should always be nine/ten tricks as declarer can develop two spades, two hearts, at least one diamond and four clubs.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

NS 7♦; NS 6N; NS 6♠; NS 6♣; NS 4♥; Par +2140

West	North	East	South
	2 N ¹	Pass	3 ♥ ²
Pass	3 ♠ ³	Pass	4 ♦ ⁴
Pass	4 ♥ ⁵	Pass	4 N ⁶
Pass	5 ♦ ⁷	Pass	6 N ⁸

All pass

1. 19-20.
2. 5+spades, transfer.
3. OK.
4. Natural, introduces the second suit.
5. Ace showing cue bid, best played as agreeing the second suit.
6. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
7. 0 or 3 of the five "aces", clearly 3.
8. Signs off in 6N but knows that 7♦ is close. 7♦ would be very good if partner has three side suit kings but that's not possible as North cannot hold more than two if he is limited to 20 points.

Lead: 8♥ (2nd from rubbish) or 9♥ (top of rubbish)

An elegant auction to a very good contract though 6♦ might be safer (unless that suit breaks badly). Here declarer has nine top tricks - one spade, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs. Declarer will have to play on spades and these are best played by cashing ♠ A and playing a second one to ♠ Q and ♠ K. With that suit breaking 3-3 declarer has the necessary three extra tricks. Had the suit broken 4-2 declarer would have needed to play clubs for four winners by taking a finesse against ♣ Q and hoping the suit was 3-3 (or ♣ Q 10 doubleton with West). Although these chances make the contract appear a little dicey the order of how declarer plays his cards shows how chances can be combined ("I'll try spades first. If they behave I'm home. If not I have another string to my bow by playing on the club suit").

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

280115SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 3N; NS 3♦; NS 1♣; Par +420

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 N ¹
Pass	2 ♦ ²	Pass	2 ♥ ³
Pass	2 ♠ ⁴	Pass	3 ♠ ⁵
Pass	4 ♠ ⁶	All pass	

1. 12-14.
2. 5+hearts, transfer.
3. OK.
4. Showing 5+hearts and 4+spades, at least invitational and forcing.
5. Support but minimum.
6. More than enough to raise to game.

North has a game forcing hand with both majors and is able to show them efficiently. He bids game in the known 4-4 fit once partner shows 4card support.

East may lead ♣ J through declarer's presumed strength (North marked more with the majors). That guarantees two clubs for the defence. They may switch to a diamond and declarer can win that in the dummy to take a trump finesse, running ♠ J. That loses but dummy can be reached with ♥ A for a second trump finesse. When that holds, trumps are known to be 3-2 and a third round draws ♠ Q. There are now ten tricks and game made.