



### Part 3. Inbetweeny Hands – the *Quantitative Raise*.

If you know that your side has 33+ points you can contract for a small slam in No-trumps. What if you aren't sure? Take Example 4; partner opens 1NT and this is your responding hand:

<b>Ex 4.</b>
♠ K J 6
♥ A K 5
♦ A 7
♣ K J 10 8 3

With 19 points you can deduce that the combined point-count is 31-33, so a slam is not out of the question. However, bidding 6NT immediately would be a reckless venture. What's the solution?

The answer is to make a *quantitative raise* to 4NT. This asks opener to bid 6NT with a maximum and to Pass with a minimum (there are echoes here of the bidding 1NT – 2NT – ? where opener has to reappraise his opening bid).

### Part 4. You Don't Have to Start with 1NT.

Any time one member of the partnership makes a limit bid in No-trumps it may be possible for his partner to calculate there are sufficient values for 6NT (or even 7NT). There may also be occasions where a quantitative 4NT raise is appropriate. Here, for instance, in Example 5, partner opens 2NT to show 20-22 points, what is your best response?

<b>Ex 5.</b>
♠ Q J 6
♥ A J 9 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ Q 9 3

With a combined total of 32-24 points a quantitative (or invitational) raise to 4NT is best. Partner should now make the choice of bidding a slam or remaining in game. The ball is firmly in his court.

### Further examples.

What is your best bid as South after the following auctions?

<p><b>Ex 6.</b></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 100px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td></tr> </table> <p>♠ A 9 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 2 ♣ A 7 4</p> <p><b>7NT.</b> You have a combined 37-39 points (partner has 20-22, remember), so you should have enough to contract for a grand slam. No need to hang around to pick the daisies – the absolute most you could be missing is a King, and that is unlikely to be the case. The Diamonds are a fine <i>source of tricks</i>.</p>		N		W		E		S		West	North	East	South		2NT	Pass	?	<p><b>Ex 7.</b></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 100px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td></tr> </table> <p>♠ A 9 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 2 ♣ A 7 4</p> <p><b>6NT.</b> Partner has proclaimed 17-18 points and you have 17. Adding up what you can see in front of your face to what partner has announced gives you a total of 34-35. That's enough for a small slam and not enough for a grand slam, so you should bid 6NT and expect it to romp home in fine style.</p>		N		W		E		S		West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦		2NT	Pass	?				
	N																																										
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<p><b>Ex 8.</b></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 100px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td></tr> </table> <p>♠ A 9 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 2 ♣ A 7 4</p> <p><b>4NT.</b> Partner has shown 15-16, so your combined total is 32-33 points. 6NT would be a gamble (although not a reckless one). Still, you ought to give partner some leeway with a <i>quantitative raise</i> to 4NT. With a maximum 16 he will proceed to a slam; with a minimum 15 points he will Pass 4NT.</p>		N		W		E		S		West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦		1NT	Pass	?	<p><b>Ex 9.</b></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 100px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td></tr> </table> <p>♠ A J 4 ♥ K 8 ♦ Q 9 ♣ A K J 7 5 2</p> <p><b>6NT.</b> Clubs? What Clubs? You have honours in all suits, so this combined 33-34 point deal will play as well in No-trumps as in anything else. Just to confirm the arithmetic: North is showing a balanced 15-16 points with his rebid and you have 18 lovely points. No need to indulge in daisy-picking now.</p>		N		W		E		S		West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣		2NT	Pass	?
	N																																										
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### §41. Quiz on Slam Bidding 1. Quantitative No-trump Raises.

In each case you are **South**

In Questions 1 to 6 you are the **responder**; in Questions 7 to 10 you are the **opener**.

What is your best bid after the given auctions?

1.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	?

♠ A J 7  
♥ A 10  
♦ K Q J 9 6  
♣ K Q J

2.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	?

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

3.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
	1NT	Pass	?

♠ A K 8 7  
♥ K J 7  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ K 9 5

4.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
	2NT	Pass	?

♠ A K 8 7 2  
♥ A K 9  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ K 5

5.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	?

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

6.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	2♣
	2NT	Pass	?

♠ A 9  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ A 9 8 5  
♣ A 10 6 3

7.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

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

8.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

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

9.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

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

10.

N
W     E
S

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

♠ A 10  
♥ A K 7  
♦ K Q 8  
♣ A J 10 7 3

## §41. Quiz on Slam Bidding 1. Quantitative No-trump Raises.

## Answers

1.

N		E
W		
	S	

♠ A J 7  
♥ A 10  
♦ K Q J 9 6  
♣ K Q J

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	?

**6NT.** Add up what you can see in front of your face (21 points) to partner's announced 12-14 and you come up with a total of 33-35. That's ample for a No-trump slam, so you should take the strain off partner by bidding it immediately. No point in playing the hand in Diamonds.

2.

N		E
W		
	S	

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

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	?

**4NT.** This time (cf Q1) the combined total of points comes to 31-33, so you are on the cusp of a slam. Best is to pass the buck by making a *quantitative raise* to 4NT. North should Pass with a minimum and proceed to a slam with a maximum. The ball is in his court.

3.

N		E
W		
	S	

♠ A K 8 7  
♥ K J 7  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ K 9 5

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♣
	1NT	Pass	?

**6NT.** Here, the combined total of the partnership is 33-34 (your 18 points facing partner's announced 15-16). That's sufficient for a No-trump slam, so you should simply bid it without stopping to pick the daisies. No point in courting North's opinion – the buck stops here.

4.

N		E
W		
	S	

♠ A K 8 7 2  
♥ A K 9  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ K 5

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♣
	2NT	Pass	?

**7NT.** Just count the points – you have a massive 21 and partner, bless his cotton socks, has shown 17-18. That's a combined total of 38-39, so East-West have, at most, a Queen between them. Eschew sympathy; bid the grand slam and expect it to roll in easily.

5.

N		E
W		
	S	

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

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	?

**4NT.** The combined total of points comes to 31-33 as you have 11 and partner 20-22. Best, as in Q2, is to pass the buck by making a *quantitative raise* to 4NT. North should Pass with a minimum 2NT opener and bid 6NT with a maximum. The buck is atop his desk now.

6.

N		E
W		
	S	

♠ A 9  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ A 9 8 5  
♣ A 10 6 3

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	2♣
	2NT	Pass	?

**3NT.** Yes, you have 16 points and yes, you have all four Aces, but *do the maths*. North has shown 15-16 points, you have 16 so, **at best**, you have a combined total of 32 points. You have no obvious *source of tricks* in the guise of a long suit, so best to settle for game.

7.

N		E
W		
	S	

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

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

**Pass.** Quickly. You are rock-bottom minimum to open 1NT, just 12 points and with poor distribution (a 4-3-3-3 pattern). Partner wants to know if you fancy a slam and, with this hand, you want no part of it. You should Pass 4NT and hope to scramble home with ten tricks.

8.

N		E
W		
	S	

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

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

**6NT.** You have shown 15-16 points with your 1NT rebid and partner is now asking you if you'd care to bid a slam with a maximum for your bidding to date. Well, you are top of the range – you have 16 points with a five-card suit to boot. Bid 6NT, expecting a cakewalk.

9.

N		E
W		
	S	

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

**Pass.** Within your stated range of points (2NT showed 17-18) you are minimum with poor distribution (a 4-3-3-3 pattern). Partner wants to know if you are maximum and hence want to bid a slam; with this flat 17-pointer the answer is a firm **No**. Pass 4NT quickly.

10\*.

N		E
W		
	S	

♠ A 10  
♥ A K 7  
♦ K Q 8  
♣ A J 10 7 3

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

**6NT.** You have shown 20-22 points and North wants you to bid a slam with a maximum. Well, you are betwixt and between with 21 points, slap-bang in the middle. What should sway you is that rich *source of tricks*, that lovely five-card Club suit. Give it a go!

## §41. Example hands 1 to 4.

**Hand 1** Love all, dealer North

♠ Q J 5 ♥ K 8 6 5 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ K 10 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ 10 9 8 7 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 8 5 ♣ 9 8 5 4
N		E						
W		S						
♠ K 6 3 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ 9 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ 3		♠ A 4 2 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ A K ♣ A Q J 7 6						

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4NT by North		Opening lead: ♠10	

North has a respectable, if minimum, opening bid of 1NT and South has a small problem in response. South can deduce that his side has a combined holding of 31-33 points, so a slam is in the offing but is not guaranteed. To explain his problem (and to pass the buck) South makes the *quantitative* bid of 4NT, asking North to bid 6NT with a maximum and to Pass with a minimum. With a 4-3-3-3 hand containing just 12 points North has no temptation to bid again. After the ♠10 lead North ducks that to West's ♠K. A Heart switch now would have East-West taking the first three tricks (showing that 4NT is the limit of the hand). Even after a Spade return, declarer can make only two Spades, three Diamonds and five Clubs.

**Hand 2** North-South game, dealer East

♠ 8 5 3 ♥ Q J 10 7 6 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 9 8 6	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ Q 6 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ K J 10 5 3
N		E						
W		S						
♠ A K 4 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ K Q 6 5 3 ♣ A 2		♠ J 10 9 7 ♥ 9 4 2 ♦ J 10 7 4 ♣ 7 4						

West	North	East	South
4NT	Pass	1NT	Pass
6NT by East		6NT	All Pass
6NT by East		Opening lead: ♠J	

East opens 1NT but this time (cf Hand 1) he has a maximum, 14 points and a five-card suit. Once again, his partner is on the cusp of a slam with a 19-point hand containing a five-card suit. West should make a *quantitative raise* to 4NT, allowing East to Pass with a minimum and to advance to a slam with a maximum (as here). After the obvious Spade lead declarer can count three Spades, two Hearts, five Diamonds (assuming a 3-2 break) and two Clubs. No problem – except Diamonds don't split. No matter; East should use the second string to his bow. Before cashing the third top Diamond he should play on Clubs. When they split 4-2 he can concede a trick to the ♣Q, making four Clubs and twelve tricks in all.

**Hand 3** East-West game, dealer South

♠ K J 4 ♥ K 9 6 ♦ K 8 7 4 2 ♣ J 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ 6 3 2 ♥ 8 7 5 2 ♦ J 10 9 3 ♣ A 4
N		E						
W		S						
♠ 10 9 8 7 ♥ Q 10 4 3 ♦ 5 ♣ 9 7 6 3		♠ A Q 5 ♥ A J ♦ A Q 6 ♣ K Q 10 8 5						

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
6NT by South		Opening lead: ♠10	

Here, South opens 2NT showing 20-22 balanced and North is caught betwixt and between. Holding 11 points (not to mention a *source of tricks* in the guise of a five-card suit) North can see that a slam may be in the offing. The combined point-count must be 31-33. What to do? Well, with it not being certain that North-South have 33+ points between them, it is best to issue a slam invitation by making a *quantitative raise* to 4NT. The principle is that South should advance with a maximum (22) and Pass with a minimum (20). Here, it's a relatively straightforward matter to go on to 6NT. Although Diamonds don't break, declarer can set up Clubs to make three Spades, two Hearts, three Diamonds and four Clubs.

**Hand 4** Game all, dealer West

♠ 7 6 4 2 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ Q J 10 7 ♣ 7 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ K Q J ♥ K Q J ♦ K 9 8 2 ♣ A J 3
N		E						
W		S						
♠ A 10 9 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ 10 6 5 2		♠ 8 5 3 ♥ 6 5 4 3 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K Q 9 8						

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4NT by West		Opening lead: ♦Q	

West has a minimum but just-about-respectable opening bid of 1NT. (*True, some hands with three Aces and nothing else should be Passed, but here West has "stuffing" in the guise of Tens and Nines*). East, holding 20 points, can sniff a slam, but should be a little cautious as he has a 4-3-3-3 shape and also has two K Q J combinations, which may not be pulling their weight. With a combined holding of 32-34 the best call is 4NT, allowing West to proceed or Pass as he sees fit. Holding 12 points, West Passes hurriedly. Even 4NT isn't safe (6NT has no chance). The ♦Q lead, though, is unfortunate for North. West takes the ♦A and plays another Diamond, setting up a third trick in the suit with the ♦K 9 8.

## §41. Example hands 5 to 8.

**Hand 5** North-South game, dealer North

♠ K Q 5 ♥ Q 10 8 6 ♦ K J 3 ♣ Q 10 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ J 10 9 8 ♥ A 9 7 5 4 2 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ None
N	E					
W	S					
♠ 7 6 3 ♥ 3 ♦ 9 8 7 6 2 ♣ 9 8 5 4		♠ A 4 2 ♥ K J ♦ A 4 ♣ A K J 7 6 3				

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
6NT by North		Opening lead: ♠J	

North opens 1NT with his 13-point hand and South has to find a sensible response. With 20 points and a fine *source of tricks* in the guise of the long Club suit, the most practical shot is 6NT. Sure, North-South may “only” have 32 points between them, but the long suit makes up for any shortfall. Be cautious with 4-3-3-3 hands (for they play disappointingly) but be more ambitious with 5-3-3-2 hands and, here, with 6-3-2-2 hands. Note that there is no point in playing in Clubs – No-trumps will play just as well. In fact, 6♣ would fail on a Heart lead and Heart ruff at trick two. 6NT is an easy spot, assuming North knocks out the ♥A early. He makes three Spades, three Hearts, two Diamonds and six Clubs – so that’s tricks to spare.

**Hand 6** East-West game, dealer East

♠ 8 6 5 3 2 ♥ K 8 ♦ 9 4 ♣ 10 9 6 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ K J 7 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ A J 7 5 2
N	E					
W	S					
♠ A Q 9 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ K Q 8 7 2 ♣ Q 3		♠ 10 4 ♥ J 9 6 5 2 ♦ J 10 6 3 ♣ K 8				

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
4NT by East		Opening lead: ♥5	

East opens 1♣ and rebids 1NT over a one-level response to show 15-16 points. Whither now, West? Well, adding up what he can see in front of his face to what his partner has announced gives West a total of 32-33 points. Taking a flyer at 6NT is possible but ill-advised – best is to consult East on the matter. A *quantitative raise* to 4NT tells his partner to bid a slam if he wants to, more precisely: if he has a maximum 16 points. With only 15, and no intermediate cards, East wisely calls it a day in 3NT. A Heart lead from South, to North’s King, makes twelve tricks impossible (unless Diamonds break 3-3 and the Club finesse works). Eleven tricks is the limit.

**Hand 7** Game all, dealer South

♠ K Q 4 2 ♥ A J ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ Q J 6 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ A J 9 6 5 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ K 10 8 2 ♣ 9
N	E					
W	S					
♠ 7 ♥ 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ 7 6 ♣ 10 8 7 5 2		♠ 10 8 3 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ A J 5 3 ♣ A K 5				

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	4NT	All Pass	2NT
4NT by South		Opening lead: ♥10	

Another *quantitative raise* rejected. South opens 1♦ and rebids 2NT over North’s 1♠ response. The jump rebid in No-trumps shows 17-18 points, so North is able to calculate a combined total of 32-33 points; that’s nearly a slam. As bidding 6NT directly would be something of a punt, North makes an invitational bid of 4NT, allowing South to get out of the auction with a minimum hand. South is only too relieved to Pass; within the confines of what he has said (17-18, balanced) he has an abject minimum – 17 points and no obvious *source of tricks*. The contract of 4NT should make easily enough, but there is at least one Spade loser and one Diamond loser in 6NT.

**Hand 8** Love all, dealer West

♠ J 10 9 ♥ 3 ♦ 8 6 4 3 ♣ J 9 8 3 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ A K 4 ♥ K 6 ♦ A K 9 ♣ A Q 7 6 4
N	E					
W	S					
♠ Q 8 2 ♥ A Q J 8 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ K 10 5		♠ 7 6 5 3 ♥ 10 9 7 5 4 2 ♦ 10 5 2 ♣ None				

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	7NT	Pass
7NT by West		Opening lead: ♠J	

West, a tad too strong to open 1NT, opens 1♥ and East is looking at a goldmine (23 points). Still, it is vitally important to make a simple response and see what West’s natural rebid is. Thus, East bids a simple 2♣ and awaits West next call. That is 2NT, so East knows that West has 15-16 points. Simple arithmetic tells East that his side has a total of 38-39 points. With that information, East bids 7NT at once, no fuss, no bother. The contract is easy to make, despite the 5-0 Club split. On top are three Spades, four Hearts, three Diamonds and three Clubs – and that little lot totals thirteen. The only hard part is adding up the score (1520 when non vulnerable).