

§56. Slam Bidding 5 Jacoby 2NT.

By the end of this chapter you should understand the following term:

Jacoby 2NT: A jump to 2NT over a 1♥ or 1♠ opening bid is an artificial raise in opener's suit. It shows at least four-card support and a hand that is too good either to respond 3NT or to make a splinter bid.

This chapter is concerned with showing good hands in support of partner when he opens the bidding. In this case we are referring to hands that can guarantee game and can hint at a possible slam. For example, what would you respond to an opening bid of 1♥ if you were to hold the cards of Example 1?

Ex 1.

<table style="border: 1px solid black; margin: 0 auto; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">West North</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">East</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">South</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♥</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">?</td></tr> </table>	West North	East	South	1♥	Pass	?
N										
W E										
S										
West North	East	South								
1♥	Pass	?								

♠ K J 2
 ♥ A Q 10 6
 ♦ A J 9 5
 ♣ Q 3

So far in this course there is no clear answer to the problem. The hand is too good to respond 3NT (see §46) which would show four-card Heart support and around 12-14 points. Responding 2♦ (which would deny holding primary support for partner's major) is no way to go about bidding this hand.

The answer comes from more appliance of science. We use a jump to 2NT (referred to as *Jacoby 2NT*) to show this type of hand – a raise to *at least* game with at least four cards in partner's major. In general, it shows a hand too strong to respond 3NT or too strong to make a splinter bid, should it contain a shortage (see §50). In general, then, that makes a Jacoby 2NT response worth 16+ points with at least four-card trump support.

A Jacoby 2NT response is, of course, forcing to game, so the partnership has time and space to settle matters about whether they wish to bid beyond it.

What should opener do after a 2NT response? There are many different ways to play this convention, here is the simplest version:

With a minimum hand and no interest in a slam, you should jump to game. This is the *Principle of Fast Arrival* (the quicker you reach game, the less interest you have in going further).

With a non-minimum hand and a second suit – bid it.

With a non-minimum hand and a five-card or longer suit, make a waiting bid by rebidding your suit.

With a balanced hand somewhere in the 15-16 point range, bid 3NT.

After early interactions, there is often an exchange of cue-bids or a Blackwood enquiry.

Let's consider some examples for clarity.

Ex 2.

<table style="border: 1px solid black; margin: 0 auto; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<table style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">West</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">East</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♥</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">2NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">3♥</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">4♦</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">4NT</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">5♥</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">6♥</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td></tr> </table>	West	East	1♥	2NT	3♥	4♦	4NT	5♥	6♥	Pass
N														
W E														
S														
West	East													
1♥	2NT													
3♥	4♦													
4NT	5♥													
6♥	Pass													

♠ A 10 4
 ♥ K J 9 8 7 5
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ A K

♠ K J 2
 ♥ A Q 10 6
 ♦ A J 9 5
 ♣ Q 3

After West opens 1♥, East (holding the cards of Example 1, note) responds with a Jacoby 2NT. West, holding a massive 17 points facing a likely 16+, can envisage a slam but contents himself with a *waiting bid* of 3♥. When East cue-bids 4♦, West launches Blackwood. True, he might investigate a grand slam, via 5NT, on hearing of two Aces, but let's not cloud the issue too much here.

Try these hands, where East-West can slam on the brakes early enough:

Ex 3.	♠ A Q 9 5 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		W	E			S		♠ K 8 3 2
	N										
	W		E								
S											
♥ 4	♥ A K Q 5										
♦ K Q J 9	♦ A 10										
♣ J 6 5	♣ 10 8 3										

West	East
1♠	2NT
3♦	3♥
3♠	4♦
4♠	Pass

West opens 1♠ and East responds with a Jacoby 2NT. West has just enough to justify bidding 3♦ (only 13 points, but good trumps, a useful side-suit and an attractive 5-4-3-1 pattern). East's 3♥ is a cue-bid, West's 3♠ is a *waiting bid*, East's 4♦ is another cue-bid and now it becomes apparent that no one is looking after Clubs.

West signs off in 4♠ and East hurriedly Passes.

In this next example we exemplify the *Principle of Fast Arrival*:

Ex 4.	♠ Q 10 9 7 6 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		W	E			S		♠ A K J 8 3
	N										
	W		E								
S											
♥ K J 7	♥ 6 4 3										
♦ Q	♦ A J										
♣ K J 7	♣ A 5 3										

West	East
1♠	2NT
4♠	Pass

West scrapes up an opening bid with a tatty 12 points including a singleton Queen. East, hungry for a slam, replies with a Jacoby 2NT and West has to quench East's ardour. A jump to 4♠ is a "drop dead" bid, proclaiming no slam interest, and East would be wise to let that go.

As a point of interest, even 4♠ has its problems and needs a nifty piece of card play to make it if all the cards are lying badly. That, though, will be left as an exercise for the reader.

The following example shows a 3NT rebid:

Ex 5.	♠ K 10 8 6	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		W	E			S		♠ A Q
	N										
	W		E								
S											
♥ A J 9 5	♥ Q 8 4 2										
♦ A 10 7	♦ K Q 8										
♣ K J	♣ A 10 8 5										

West	East
1♥	2NT
3NT	4♣
4♦	4♠
6♥	Pass

Here, after West opens 1♥ (normal practice with 15+ points and 4-4 in the majors) and sees a Jacoby 2NT response, he rebids 3NT to show the nature of his hand. East now cue-bids the ♣A and, after an exchange of cue-bids, West bids the slam in Hearts. 6♥ is better than 6NT as it requires only a 3-2 Heart split to make; 6NT requires a lucky break in a black suit.

Finally, as a reminder, if East had responded with something other than 2NT (4♥, say) West would have had little or no interest in a slam – as in the auction below.

Ex 6.	♠ K 10 8 6	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		W	E			S		♠ J 3
	N										
	W		E								
S											
♥ A J 9 5	♥ K 10 7 6 3										
♦ A 10 7	♦ None										
♣ K J	♣ Q 9 7 6 4 2										

West	East
1♥	4♥
Pass	

§56. Quiz A on Slam Bidding 5 Jacoby 2NT.

In each case you are **South**In Quiz A you are the **Responder**.

What is your best response to partner's opening bid?

1.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	?	?

♠ A 9 7 4
♥ A K 6 2
♦ Q 3
♣ J 9 2

2.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	?	?

♠ A 9 7 4
♥ A K 6 2
♦ A 4
♣ J 9 2

3.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	?	?

♠ A 9 7 4
♥ A K 6 2
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ 9

4.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	?	?

♠ A Q 7 4 3
♥ A K 6 2
♦ K J 9
♣ 9

5.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	?	?

♠ K J 9 4
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 2
♣ Q J 6 3

6.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	?	?

♠ A 8
♥ K 10 9 7
♦ A 9 7
♣ A 10 9 8

7.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	?	?

♠ 4
♥ 9 8 7 5 3
♦ A Q 10 9 6
♣ J 10

8.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	?	?

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ 8
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ J 8 6

9.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	?	?

♠ 9 8 7 5 3
♥ 4
♦ A Q J
♣ A K Q 10

10.*

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	?	?

♠ 10 9
♥ A K 9 7 5
♦ 8
♣ A K 9 8 3

§56. Quiz A on Slam Bidding 5 Jacoby 2NT.

Answers

1.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	?

♠ A 9 7 4
♥ A K 6 2
♦ Q 3
♣ J 9 2

3NT. An interloper from §46. This artificial bid shows a balanced hand roughly in the 12-14 point range with four-card support. Partner can make the decision of what to do next, whether to revert to 4♠, to investigate a slam or even to Pass! The ball is in his court.

2.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

♠ A 9 7 4
♥ A K 6 2
♦ A 4
♣ J 9 2

2NT. With 16 points and four-card Heart support you are a tad too strong to respond 3NT (cf Q1). 2NT is, of course, *Jacoby*, showing four-card trump support and suggesting 16+ points. What partner does with this information is up to him; you have shown your values.

3.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

♠ A 9 7 4
♥ A K 6 2
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ 9

4♣. A classic *splinter bid*, straight from the pages of §50. Here, you are showing four-card Heart support together with a singleton Club and around 11-15 points. If partner now signs off with 4♥ you will Pass it out and arrange your dummy neatly on the table.

4.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	?

♠ A Q 7 4 3
♥ A K 6 2
♦ K J 9
♣ 9

2NT. Here, you are too strong to start with 4♣ (cf Q3); if partner subsequently signed off with 4♣ you'd be reluctant to Pass as you may still have a slam. Splinter bids are limited to about 15 points, with this hand (17 points) it is better to respond with a *Jacoby 2NT*.

5.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	?

♠ K J 9 4
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 2
♣ Q J 6 3

3NT. Near the top end with 15 points, but you have too many "soft values" (Queens and Jacks) to respond with a *Jacoby 2NT*. North needs a lot of Aces and Kings to make a slam opposite this hand; he may have them, though, so you must bid your hand accurately.

6.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

♠ A 8
♥ K 10 9 7
♦ A 9 7
♣ A 10 9 8

2NT. Yes, you "only" have 15 points (cf Q5), but they are all working and you have "hard values" (Aces and Kings). These are useful when on a slam hunt, so North will not be disappointed by this hand when it is exposed as a dummy if he does go a-slaming.

7.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

♠ 4
♥ 9 8 7 5 3
♦ A Q 10 9 6
♣ J 10

4♥. No half measures here. With five trumps and a shapely hand you must pre-empt the auction as high as you you dare as fast as you can. It is entirely possible that East-West can make 4♠, so you must make it as tough as you possibly can for them to bid it.

8.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	?

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ 8
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ J 8 6

4♥. In classical fashion, a *splinter bid*, showing Spade support and a singleton Heart. Quite wrong to bid 2♦ which might allow East-West into the auction and, in any case, would deny holding Spade support. You would, of course, Pass 4♠ if that were North's next bid.

9.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	?

♠ 9 8 7 5 3
♥ 4
♦ A Q J
♣ A K Q 10

2NT. Now (cf Q8) you are too strong to make a *splinter bid* of 4♥. North may be forced to sign off in 4♠ and you'd be hamstrung. The golden rule of a splinter response is that you always Pass a sign-off. If you are loth to do that, then you shouldn't make a splinter bid.

10.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

♠ 10 9
♥ A K 9 7 5
♦ 8
♣ A K 9 8 3

2NT. Only 14 points? Yes, but there is considerable playing strength here and a you have a very attractive 5-5-2-1 pattern. The alternative (4♦, a splinter bid) would take up too much bidding space and you'd be reluctant to Pass 4♥. 2♣ would be a dreadful response.

§56. Quiz B on Slam Bidding 5 Jacoby 2NT.

In each case you are **South**

What is your best bid after these auctions?

1.

N
W E
S

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

♠ 3
♥ A J 9 7 6
♦ K Q 10 8
♣ K J 6

2.

N
W E
S

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

♠ A J 9 7 6
♥ J 3
♦ Q 6
♣ K J 6 3

3.

N
W E
S

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

♠ A J 9 7 6 2
♥ A 9
♦ Q J 6
♣ K 10

4.

N
W E
S

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

♠ A 10 7 6
♥ A Q 8 6
♦ Q 9 7
♣ K 8

5.

N
W E
S

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

♠ K Q J 3
♥ A K 8 5 4 2
♦ 7
♣ K 8

6.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	?

♠ A K 10 9 5
♥ A J
♦ 8 7 5
♣ A J 2

7.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	?

♠ A K 10 9 5
♥ A J
♦ 8 7 5
♣ A J 2

8.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	?

♠ A J
♥ A K 10 5
♦ A J 2
♣ 8 7 5 2

9.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	?

♠ A J 7 6 4
♥ K 5 3
♦ K Q 7
♣ A Q

10.*

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

♠ A K J 8
♥ Q 7
♦ J 8 5 2
♣ K Q 9

§56. Quiz B on Slam Bidding 5 Jacoby 2NT.

Answers

1.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

♠ 3
♥ A J 9 7 6
♦ K Q 10 8
♣ K J 6

3♦. This is a respectable opening bid (14 points and a 5-4-3-1 shape) and you are entitled to bid your second suit after partner's Jacoby 2NT response. North should now know that your hand is non-minimum and you are 5-4 in the red suits. The ball is now in partner's court.

2.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

♠ A J 9 7 6
♥ J 3
♦ Q 6
♣ K J 6 3

4♣. This is a minimum opening bid with very little slam potential. Rather than bid 3♣, suggesting some useful values, you should apply the *Principle of Fast Arrival* and jump to 4♣. This is terminal, suggesting you have no interest in further bidding and that North Passes.

3.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

♠ A J 9 7 6 2
♥ A 9
♦ Q J 6
♣ K 10

3♠. This is a *waiting bid*, suggesting partner initiates a cue-bidding sequence. You have no second suit to show but you do have a useful hand with 15 points. If partner bids 4♣ or 4♦ next you will follow with 4♥ showing the Ace and encouraging further cue-bidding.

4.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

♠ A 10 7 6
♥ A Q 8 6
♦ Q 9 7
♣ K 8

3NT. This is the best way to show a balanced hand in the 15-16 point range. North is very unlikely to Pass this – it is much more likely that he follows up with a cue-bid in a minor. You are quite strong enough to follow with a 4♣ cue-bid if that were to happen.

5.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

♠ K Q J 3
♥ A K 8 5 4 2
♦ 7
♣ K 8

4NT. Get straight to the point with Blackwood. You are going to play this in 5♥, 6♥ or 7♥ depend on whether North shows one, two or three Aces. (It is impossible for him to have none). With six trumps facing four it is highly unlikely that you have a trump loser.

6.

N		E
W		
	S	

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

♠ A K 10 9 5
♥ A J
♦ 8 7 5
♣ A J 2

Pass. Partner is telling you that he has no interest in a slam and you should respect that by letting the bidding die in game. North has a minimum hand with a lack of *controls* (Aces and Kings, basically). You should just take the money in 4♣ rather than chase rainbows.

7.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

♠ A K 10 9 5
♥ A J
♦ 8 7 5
♣ A J 2

4♣. Partner has made a *waiting bid* of 3♣, suggesting long Spades and a fair hand. You should respond by cue-bidding your lowest Ace, which is the ♣A, allowing an exchange of cue-bids *en route* to a probable slam. You hope partner bids 4♦ next; you'd bid 4♥ then.

8.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	?

♠ A J
♥ A K 10 5
♦ A J 2
♣ 8 7 5 2

3♣. North has shown 5-4 or better in Hearts and Diamonds and a non-minimum hand. With nothing to be ashamed about, you should cue-bid your lowest Ace, lowest in this context being the cheapest bid you can make. If North bids 4♣ next you can follow with 4♦.

9.

N		E
W		
	S	

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

♠ A J 7 6 4
♥ K 5 3
♦ K Q 7
♣ A Q

5♣. Partner has signed off with his jump to 4♣ but you shouldn't give up that easily. With 19 points and five trumps, you are worth one more effort. By cue-bidding Clubs you are showing a very powerful supporting hand and imploring North to cue-bid something.

10.

N		E
W		
	S	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

♠ A K J 8
♥ Q 7
♦ J 8 5 2
♣ K Q 9

4♣. You have nothing to cue-bid and, by bidding 2NT, you have shot your bolt. The jump to 4♣ is *Fast Arrival*, saying that you have done your bit and have nothing further to say. If partner wants to proceed he should understand that you have nothing in the red suits.

§56. Example hands 1 to 4.

Hand 1 Love all, dealer North

♠ K Q 10
♥ K Q 8 5 3
♦ J
♣ K Q 9 8

♠ 8 6 5
♥ J 10 6 2
♦ Q 7 4
♣ 7 5 2

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ A 7 4 3
♥ None
♦ 10 9 8 5 3
♣ J 10 6 3

♠ J 9 2
♥ A 9 7 4
♦ A K 6 2
♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	
6♥ by North		Opening lead: ♦10	

North opens 1♥ and South, with four-card trump support and 16 points, responds with a Jacoby 2NT. North can sniff a slam now as he can envisage a good fit with few losers. Blackwood would not be a mistake, but North might mark time by bidding 3♣. When South follows up with a 4♦ cue-bid, North can try 4NT now, intending to play in 5♥, 6♥ or 7♥ depending on the response. After the ♦10 lead against 6♥, North has to remember the *precaution play* in trumps (from §53). Winning the ♦A, North should cash the ♥A and play another trump, picking up the 4-0 split. Had East held all four trumps, the slam would have been hopeless.

Hand 2 North-South game, dealer East

♠ Q 8 7 6 4 3
♥ K
♦ 10 5 3
♣ J 5 2

♠ K 9
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ K J 8 6
♣ K 4 3

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ A J
♥ 10 9 8 6 4
♦ A Q 9 7
♣ A Q

♠ 10 5 2
♥ J 3 2
♦ 4 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass
6♥ by East		Opening lead: ♠10	

East opens 1♥ and West responds 2NT to show his hand – four trumps and 16+ points. East has a very good hand now (17 points) but bad Hearts. He may temporise with 3♦ and sees West make a waiting bid of 3♥. East might just bash a slam now but might want the security of knowing West has the Ace of trumps before doing so. The play in 6♥ is straight from §53 on *safety plays*. After the ♠10 lead, East's **Count** and **Plan** reveals that the only loser(s) are in trumps. Rather than take the finesse, the textbook play is to cash the ♥A and subsequently lead up to the ♥Q. Here, virtue is rewarded and allows an overtrick.

Hand 3 East-West game, dealer South

♠ J 9 2
♥ A 9 7 4
♦ A K 6 2
♣ A 4

♠ 8 6 5 4 3
♥ None
♦ Q 10 7
♣ J 10 9 8 3

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 10
♥ J 10 5 3
♦ 9 4
♣ K 7 6 2

♠ A 7
♥ K Q 8 6 2
♦ J 8 5 3
♣ Q 5

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
4♥ by South		Opening lead: ♣J	

The North cards here and the South cards of Hand 1 look similar... South opens 1♥ on a fairly tatty 12 points and North responds 2NT to show his excellent support and all-round good hand. Is South interested in looking for a slam? Not a bit of it! With a heap such as South's, the right bid is a jump to 4♥. This is the *Principle of Fast Arrival* at work, saying that the quicker you arrive at a game, the less interested you are in progressing further. North, having been told what to do, Passes. Even 4♥ is not secure after the ♣J lead; with losers in Spades, Clubs and Diamonds, South must avoid a trump loser. This is the identical position to Hand 1; declarer must cash the ♥A first and pick the trumps up via a *double marked finesse*.

Hand 4 Game all, dealer West

♠ Q J 10 6
♥ J 3 2
♦ 10 4 2
♣ 8 6 5

♠ 8 4
♥ 10 9 8 6 4
♦ A Q
♣ A Q 9 2

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ K J 8 6
♣ K 4 3

♠ A 7 5 3 2
♥ K
♦ 9 7 5 3
♣ J 10 7

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♥ by West		Opening lead: ♠Q	

The East cards here are identical to the West cards of Hand 2. West opens 1♥ and East responds with a Jacoby 2NT to show four-card trump support and 16+ points. What should West do next? Well, he does have two Aces, but the rest of his hand is tat – poor trumps and a whole heap of losers. To tell East he has little slam ambition and has a minimum opener, West should jump to 4♥, and East should Pass that. The ♠Q lead skewers dummy's ♠K and declarer's **Count** and **Plan** tells him that he has to avoid two trump losers. Well, the situation is identical to Hand 2 – declarer should cash the ♥A first, intending to lead up to the ♥Q later. When the King falls, West can finesse against the Jack and score an unexpected overtrick.

§56. Example hands 5 to 8.

Hand 5 North-South game, dealer North

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

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

North opens 1♠ and sees his partner respond with a Jacoby 2NT to show a very good hand with Spade support. What now? Well, with a minimum hand with unattractive shape (5-4-2-2), it would overstate the values to show the second suit with a 3♣ rebid. Best is to disclaim any slam interest with a jump to 4♠, using the *Principle of Fast Arrival*. Having been told to shut up, South does precisely that. East leads the ♦10 and North's **Count** and **Plan** tells him that, with nine easy winners (five Spades, one Heart, two Diamonds and one Club), he needs a Club ruff in dummy. The ♠A reveals the nasty trump break, so declarer should play a Club, knocking out the ♣A. Later, he can ruff a Club with the ♠K and then run the ♠9 from dummy.

Hand 6 East-West game, dealer East

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

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠ by East	Pass	4♣	All Pass
4♠ by East		Opening lead: ♣A	

East opens 1♠ and sees his partner jump to 2NT, suggesting a slam. Well, East may have a nice 5-4-3-1 hand, but he is minimum in terms of values and the ♥K is singleton, so is of dubious value. With such a minimum opening bid, East should attempt to shut the door in West's face (so to speak) by jumping to 4♠. Having received the message loud and clear, West Passes. South cashes the first three Club tricks against 4♠, showing the folly of East-West bidding beyond game, and exits with a red card. East has to avoid a trump loser and must be careful to make the *precaution play* of cashing the ♠A first. This allows a *marked finesse* against North's ♠Q 10 x; had South all three trumps, the contract would have been hopeless.

Hand 7 Game all, dealer South

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	Pass	6♣
6♠ by South		Opening lead: ♦10	

South opens 1♠ and is delighted when North (with a similar hand to South, Hand 5) responds 2NT to show Spade support and slam interest. With a decent opening bid, South rebids 3♣, allowing North to cue-bid 3♦. Assured of control in Diamonds South now launches Blackwood and bids a small slam. West leads the ♦10 and South's **Count** and **Plan** tells him that a Club ruff would make the total reach twelve. The ♠A is a *precaution play* against any 4-0 trump break; South now knocks out the ♣A, regains the lead, ruffs a Club with the ♠K and takes the *marked finesse* against East's ♠J before drawing trumps.

Hand 8 Love all, dealer West

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
6♣ by West		Opening lead: ♥10	

West opens 1♠ and is both surprised and delighted when East responds with a Jacoby 2NT. With 19 points, West is assured of a slam – he could mark time with a *waiting bid* of 3♣ but there is much to be said for just blasting away with Blackwood. West might have tried a grand slam had East shown two Kings with his two Aces – as it is, he settles for 6♣ after the 6♦ response. After the ♥10 lead it is vital to pick the trumps up without loss. In an identical position to Hand 6, West must cash the Ace first. This is a *precaution play* against South holding all three trumps; if North had them all, a trump loser would be inevitable.