Major Suits and Slams

Patrick, December 2018

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PART 1

3-card major raises4-card major raises

3-card Raises

- Over 1M showing four ...
 - unless 4333 it is recommended
 - which can affect the choice of opener
- Over 1M showing five ...
 - if you want to compete, you must show
 - immediately unless you are worth a second bid
 - unless weak enough not to care ...
- In competition ...

Over partners 1 opener

B1	B3	B5
▲ J832	♠ Q 8 3 2	▲ K832
💙 K 7 5	💙 A 7 5	💙 A 7 5
8754	♦ Q754	♦ KT54
♣ J 5	♣ 65	♣ 65
B2	B4	B6
♠ Q 8 3 2	▲ K 8 3 2	🔺 K Q 8 3
💙 A 7 5	💙 A 7 5	💙 A 7 5
8754	♦ Q T 5 4	♦ JT54

4-card Raise : short of game

- Traditionally 1M-2M or 1M-3M
- Issues : granularity

- Solution : more alternatives
 - (a) include top game try into Jacoby
 - (b) give up some suit jumps (a la Bergen)

4-card raise : GameTry+

Jacoby 2N

- Splinters
- Jump to 3N
 - often balanced raise no shortage
 - can be used to distinguish (a) strength of splinter, or (b) void/singleton

Over partners 1 opener

B7	B9	B11
▲ A J 3 2	▲ A J 3 2	▲ A J 3 2
💙 K Q 5	🔻 K Q 5	💙 AK5
♦ Q754	• Q754	♦ KT54
♣ 65	♣ A 5	♣ A 5
B8	B10	B12
▲ A J 3 2	▲ K 8 3 2	🔺 K Q 8 3
💙 K Q 5	💙 A 7 5	💙 A 7 5
T 8 7 5 4	KQT54	♦ AKQ54

Raises in Competition

• Direct raises more obstructive

- Cue bid first for all good raises
 some still play 2N = jacoby with 4cd support
- Note : bidding becomes less accurate !

PART 2

Indicating Slam Interest

Why "indicating"?

• The importance of dialogue

- Needs two tricks beyond game
- Needs suitable controls

• Biggest failing I see - making the decision alone

Key slam indicators

• Splinters

Self supporting splinters

- Unexpected cue bids
 in impossible trump suits
- Artificial support bids

Self Supporting Splinters

- You have bid a suit
- Partner has bid NT

 Any splinter sounding bid, sets YOUR suit as trumps

1N-2♥-2♠-4♣

1♦-1♠-2N-4♣

Unexpected Cue Bids

 When suggesting trumps is inappropriate 1N-3♥(slam try)-4♣ 1♣-2♥-3♦-4♣ 1♥-1♣-3♥-4♣ 1♣-2♦-2N-3♣-4♣

 RULE : new suit at 4-level is never suggesting trumps if you could have suggested that suit earlier. [List exceptions]

Artificial Slam Tries

- Over partner's 3-level preemptive opening
 - Bidding 4* as slam interest (4* over clubs)

- After Stayman bidding the other major (3L+)
 - 2N-3♣-3♥-3♠
 - 1N-2**♣**-2**♠**-3♥

- Over partner's 4-level pre-empt
 - new suit except major over minor is a cue bid

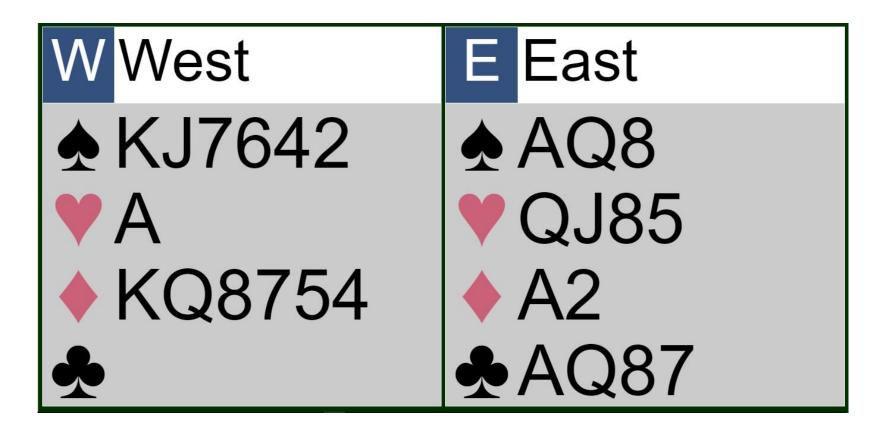
And after "indicating" ?

• Partner must respond

- usually return to trumps is the sign off

- The conversation continues
 - cue bidding
 - perhaps RKC to avoid a bad slam

Play this 6 Slam with me ...



The thinking

Lead is a club through the AQ

- 1. There are 11 tricks in top cards and long diamonds to help this is too easy!
- 2. What can go wrong? A bad diamond break.
- Can I guarantee 12 tricks without diamonds?
 Yes, using ♥QJ.
- 4. Start with a top spade confirming not 4-0;
 then ♥A and back to trumps ending with the ace; lead the ♥Q and let it run if not covered.

	 N North ▲ 1095 ♥ 9632 ♦ ▲ J95432 	
 ₩ West ▲ KJ7642 ♥ A ♦ KQ8754 ♣ 		 E East ▲ AQ8 ♥ QJ85 ▲ A2 ▲ AQ87
	 S South ▲ 3 ♥ K1074 ♦ J10963 ♣ K106 	

PART 3

Playing in other suits

When other suits come in ...

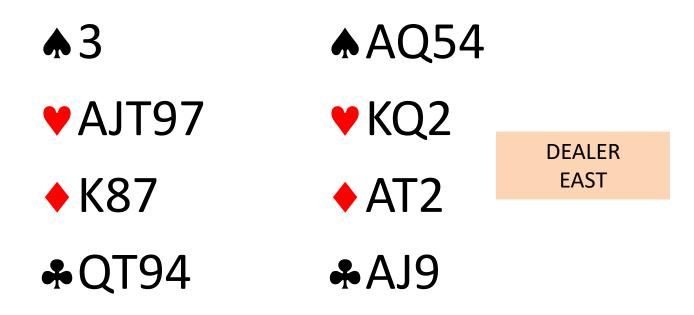
• After NT opening and transfer

• After minor opening and support

• Even after an immediate major raise

After NT opening and transfer

- 1N 2R 2M 3m = second suit
 - all bids natural, plus 4om = support for both
- 2N 3R 3M 4m = second suit
 - less space now, sign offs are clear plus ...
 - bids of other suits are slam interest in M,m



w	E
	2N
3♦	2 🗸
4 🐥	?

After minor and raise of major

• Commonly : 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♠ - ?

- Could be 3cd support or 4
- Might be right to play in a different suit

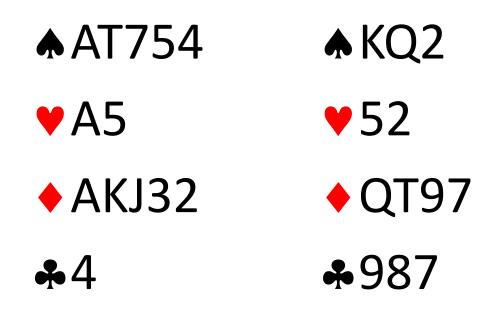
• You need 2N as an asking bid here

▲KQ63	▲ AT54	
♥AJ7	♥72	DEALER EAST
♦ Q5	AKJ92	
♣ KQ73	\$ 98	

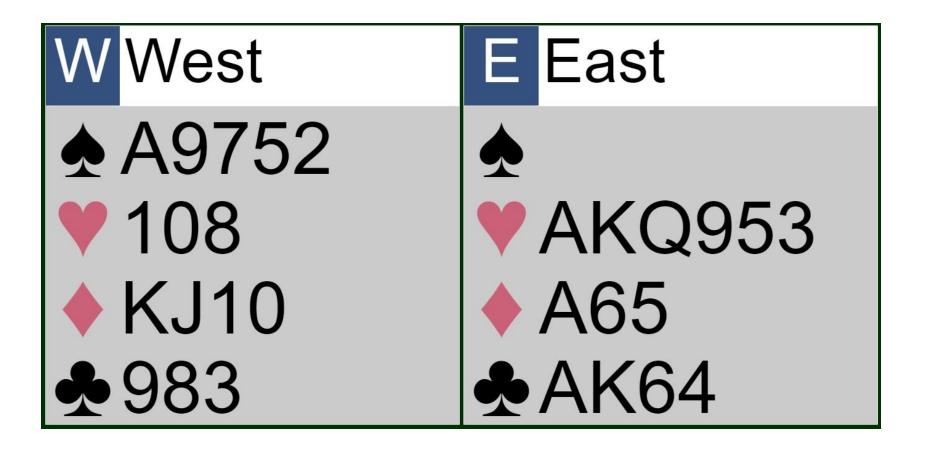
W	E
	1 🔶
1♠	2♠
2N	4 🔶

After major has been supported

- Might only be 3-card support
- Might have 5-4 or better on the side



Play this 6♥ Slam with me ...



The thinking ...

Lead is the jack of spades.

- 1. I must play hearts from the top, so I assume they behave, which gives me 11 top tricks.
- The twelfth trick could be a diamond finesse (and I throw losing club on the ♠A) or the long club (if they are 3-3, when I throw a diamond on the ♠A).
- 3. Can I give myself both chances? Yes, but I don't know my discard so I must not cash ♠A yet. Ruff the spade lead, draw trumps then duck a club, win the return and cash two top clubs. Now I know what to discard, and if clubs 4-2 I must guess the diamonds.



PART 4

Slam bidding tools

Not playing 3N ...

• If you have a known 8-card major fit, and willing to give up 3N, then it has better uses ..

- 3N = waiting bid, so you can cue bid clubs
- 3N = no singleton
- 3N = non-serious slam try

RKC and the Q-ask

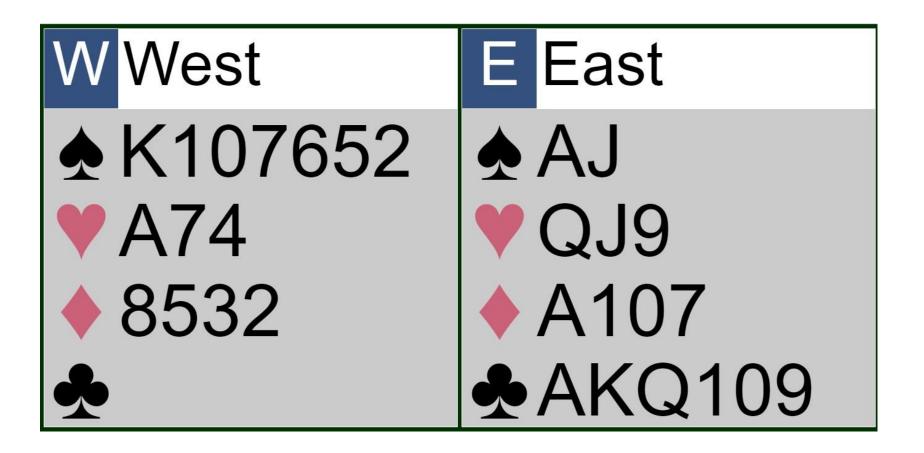
- Generally no slam needing a finesse
- So no slam missing an ace and the trump Q

- After $4N 5 \clubsuit$, or $4N 5 \diamondsuit$
 - lowest no-trump bid asks
 - sign off in trumps without the queen
 - else show the queen and any king you can bid

Bidding 5M

- Sometimes the only slam try, but when others are available
- 5M => none of the other tries are suitable
 - so cue bidding would not work
 - so 4N asking would not work
- If one control missing, demands slam with it
- If multiple missing, shows all or none
- If trumps matter, it is the J & T we need

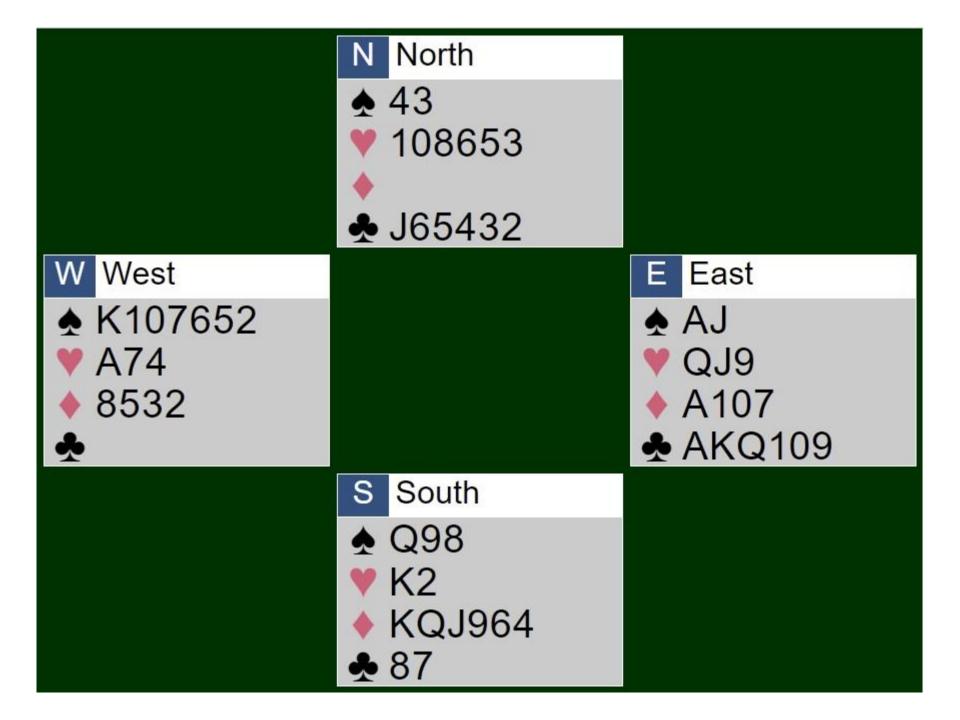
Play this 6NT Slam with me ...



The thinking

Lead from South is the **•**K and North shows out

- Even if clubs are 5 tricks, I need tricks from spades. If spades play for 6 tricks, I have 11 tricks and need either &J to fall or the heart finesse.
- 2. If I play A and J then South will cover and I am stuck in the wrong hand. What about leading J first? That holds, then A, clubs which don't work and I am in the right hand for the heart finesse!



THE END OF THE DAY

Questions on anything ?

Fill in feedback sheets