

Opening 2C & Bidding Slam - Ed L'Heureux (18Oct2025)

1		<p>♠ AK ♥ AQJ3 ♦ KQJ8 ♣ Q82</p>		<p><i>Dir: N</i> <i>Vul: None</i></p>	
♠ 8532		♠ J64			
♥ K98		♥ T76			
♦ 973		♦ 64			
♣ 964		♣ AT753			
22		♠ QT97		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
3	5	♥ 542		N 4 6 6 6 6	
10		♦ AT52		S 4 6 6 6 6	
		♣ KJ		E - - - - -	
				W - - - - -	

<u>N</u>	<u>S</u>
2C	2D A or K or more
2NT 22-23 flat	3C Stayman
3H 4 hearts	4C Gerber
4S 2 aces	6N places contract

Key point: South can “see” 32. Starts Gerber.

Bidding: Should use Gerber when the contract will be a NT contract. South knows partnership has 32+. Missing an ace, stops at 6NT.

Lead: AC. At the 6 level, cash your Ace in case partner has K or opps take 13 tricks in other suits.

Play: Having lost the AC, must finesse the KH twice to make the contract. Go down otherwise.

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2		<p>♠ Q864 ♥ A3 ♦ Q863 ♣ 754</p>		<p><i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i></p>	
♠ 7		♠ AK1052			
♥ KQ964		♥ J1082			
♦ KJ7		♦ A5			
♣ AQ83		♣ K10			
8		♠ J93		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
15	15	♥ 75		N - - - - -	
2		♦ 10942		S - - - - -	
		♣ J962		E 5 3 6 4 5	
				W 5 3 6 4 5	

<u>W</u>	<u>E</u>
	1S
2H 10+	4H 14+
4NT Blackwood	5H 2 aces
6H	P

Key point: West has 15 HCP + 2 length points.

Bidding: East's 4H shows 14+, not 12-13 minimum opener. West can “see” 17 & 14+, so asks for aces. Missing 1 ace, West settles for 6H.

Lead: 3D (low from something) or 7C (top of nothing) look like the best choices.

Play: Lose only the ace of trump. Can ruff 3C and pitch 7D on KS.

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3		♠ J3	Dlr: S	
		♥ 65432	Vul: E-W	
		♦ 986		
		♣ 982		
♠ T5			♠ 9876	
♥ KJT7			♥ Q9	
♦ AJ53			♦ KQ2	
♣ 653			♣ JT74	
1		♠ AKQ42		
		♥ A8		
9	8	♦ T74		
		♣ AKQ		
22				

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	3	3
S	2	-	-	3	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

<u>N</u>	<u>S</u>
	2C
2H No A or K	2S spade suit
Pass	

Key point: After 2H (no A, no K, less than 4 points), responder can pass the next bid.

Bidding: North responds 2H showing no A, no K and less than 4 points. North has only 1 point & no support for spades, so passes after South's 2S bid.

Lead: Leading a heart (away from a king) or leading a diamond (away from an ace) are bad. Lead top of nothing 6C.

Play: Lose 3 diamonds & 1 heart. Make 3 spades.

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4		♠ 76		Dlr: W	
		♥ K109		Vul: Both	
		♦ Q62			
		♣ J10874			
♠ KJ82				♠ AQ943	
♥ A832				♥ 654	
♦ AJ				♦ K94	
♣ AKQ				♣ 92	
6		♠ 105			
		♥ QJ7			
22		♦ 108753			
3		♣ 653			

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	3	5	6	5
W	3	3	5	6	5

<u>W</u>	<u>E</u>
2C	2S 8+ pts, 5+ spades
4NT Blackwood	5D 1 ace
5NT kings?	6D 1 king
6S	P

Key point: West can “see” 30+, starts Blackwood

Bidding: West knows partnership has 30+ and a spade fit. West starts Blackwood. Missing 1 king, West stops in 6S. (Some might try 7S.)

Lead: QH, top of touching honors, is good lead.

Play: East's losers: 2H & 1D = 3 total. Can ruff a diamond. Can pitch a small heart on QC. (Don't pitch a diamond on QC; the diamond can be ruffed.)

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5		Dlr: N Vul: N-S	
♠ AQ8 ♥ A52 ♦ KQ102 ♣ A42		♠ 973 ♥ 96 ♦ 8765 ♣ 8765	
♠ J10542 ♥ KJ104 ♦ J4 ♣ K3		♠ K6 ♥ Q873 ♦ A93 ♣ QJ109	
19		♣♦♥♠NT N 6 6 5 3 6 S 6 6 5 3 6 E - - - - - W - - - - -	
9	0		
12			

<u>N</u>	<u>S</u>
1D	1H
2NT 18-19 flat	4C Gerber, aces?
4NT 3 aces	5C kings?
5H 1 king	6NT

Key point: South can “see” 30+, starts Gerber.

Bidding: North's 1D & jump to 2NT shows 18-19 balanced. South can “see” at least 30 points. Have all aces, missing 2 kings, stop in 6NT.

Lead: 9S. Lead an unbid major against NT.

Play: With 4 of top 5, play to trap the missing honor. Lead QC towards AC, then JC towards AC, until KC is captured. Makes 3S+1H+4D+4C=12 tricks.

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6		Dlr: E Vul: E-W	
♠ 102 ♥ 107642 ♦ Q95 ♣ J102		♠ AKQ98765 ♥ A ♦ K4 ♣ K6	
♠ J43 ♥ K83 ♦ 1087 ♣ A943		♣♦♥♠NT N 3 3 2 - - S 3 3 2 - - E - - - 4 3 W - - - 4 3	
10			
3	19		
8			

<u>W</u>	<u>E</u>
	2C 9-10 tricks
2H no A or K	4S hoping to make

Key point: Bid game. Partner might pass 2S.

Bidding: East has 9 almost sure tricks and probably 10, so opens 2C. After 2H by West, East jumps to the probable game in case West might pass 2S.

Lead: The TD, top of nothing, is likely best.

Play: Makes 10 tricks if opponents lead a diamond, or opponents lead a club, or partner has QD, or partner has QC. Partner has QD, so makes 10 tricks on any lead.

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7		<p>♠ K62 ♥ 875 ♦ AQ54 ♣ 652</p>		<p><i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: Both</i></p>																															
<p>♠ QJ ♥ 943 ♦ 9763 ♣ J974</p>		<p>♠ 109743 ♥ J6 ♦ KJ102 ♣ 108</p>																																	
<p>9 4 5 22</p>		<p>♠ A85 ♥ AKQ102 ♦ 8 ♣ AKQ3</p>		<table> <tr> <td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	3	7	4	6	S	5	3	7	4	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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S	5	3	7	4	5																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																														

N

S
2C

2D A or K or more 2H heart suit
3H sprt & 8+ pts 4NT Blackwood
5D 1 ace 5NT kings?
6D 1 king 6H

Key point: Slow arrival (3H) shows “extras”.

Bidding: North's 3H show extras, not just 3-7 pts. If North had both missing kings, South would bid 7H. Alternative: North might bid 4NT instead of 3H.

Lead: QS from QJ. Or 4C, bottom of something.

Play: Try diamond finesse. If QD holds, pitch one of South's two losers on AD. If not, pull only 2 rounds of trump. Then Play AKQ clubs & ruff a club, hoping E cannot overruff.

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8		<p>♠ 9542 ♥ A532 ♦ 93 ♣ 1053</p>		<p><i>Dlr: W</i> <i>Vul: None</i></p>																															
<p>♠ KQJ7 ♥ Q6 ♦ Q862 ♣ AJ9</p>		<p>♠ 106 ♥ KJ9 ♦ AKJ5 ♣ KQ74</p>																																	
<p>4 15 17 4</p>		<p>♠ A83 ♥ 10874 ♦ 1074 ♣ 862</p>		<table> <tr> <td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	5	3	5	5	W	5	5	3	5	5
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																														
E	5	5	3	5	5																														
W	5	5	3	5	5																														

W
1NT

4H 1 ace

E

4C Gerber

4NT sign off

Key point: Gerber allows sign off @ 4NT or 5NT.

Bidding: West opens 15-17 1NT. East has 17 HCP, can “see” 32-34 total. Missing 2 aces, East signs off in 4NT.

Lead: You know opponents have lots of points. Lead 4th best from longest & strongest anyway: 2H.

Play: N/S get their 2 aces. E/W have everything else. Makes 5NT.

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<h1 style="font-size: 2em;">9</h1>		<p>♠ K973 ♥ AKJ95 ♦ AQ6 ♣ Q</p>	<p><i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: E-W</i></p>																														
<p>♠ 42 ♥ 87 ♦ 9832 ♣ K8652</p>		<p>♠ J65 ♥ Q643 ♦ K105 ♣ 1073</p>																															
<p>19 3 6 12</p>	<p>♠ AQ108 ♥ 102 ♦ J74 ♣ AJ94</p>	<table border="1" style="font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	4	5	7	5	S	3	4	5	6	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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S	3	4	5	6	5																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																												

<u>N</u>		<u>S</u>	
1H		1S	
4S	19+	4NT	Blackwood
5H	2 aces	6S	

Key point: South can “see” 31+, starts Blackwood

Bidding: North's 4S shows 19+. South has enough to launch Blackwood. Missing no aces, bids 6S.

Lead: 9D, top of nothing in unbid suit. If you don't lead a club, you might make your K.

Play: Best way to make this hand is to ruff 3 clubs. Say opps win KD at trick 1. Cash your 5 high card winners: AH, KH, AD, QD, AC. Ruff a club, ruff a heart, ruff a club, ruff a heart, ruff your last club with KS (so no overruff). AS & QS are tricks 11 & 12.

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<h1 style="font-size: 2em;">10</h1>		<p>♠ 105 ♥ QJ74 ♦ J1053 ♣ Q63</p>	<p><i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: Both</i></p>																														
<p>♠ J9843 ♥ 653 ♦ 98 ♣ 952</p>		<p>♠ AKQ2 ♥ A82 ♦ Q764 ♣ AK</p>																															
<p>6 1 22 11</p>	<p>♠ 76 ♥ K109 ♦ AK2 ♣ J10874</p>	<table border="1" style="font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	1	-	-	S	1	-	1	-	-	E	-	-	-	3	2	W	-	-	-	3	2
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	1	-	1	-	-																												
S	1	-	1	-	-																												
E	-	-	-	3	2																												
W	-	-	-	3	2																												

<u>W</u>		<u>E</u>	
2H	no A or K	2NT	22-23 balanced
3H	transfer	3S	
Pass			

Key point: Weak hand: transfer to 5 card major.

Bidding: When partner shows a NT hand, a weak responder should transfer to a 5 card major & pass. The weaker the hand, the more important to transfer.

Lead: AD from AK. Partner does not have the Q & should discourage. If you continue with KD, you give declarer an undeserved trick with the QD.

Play: Should lose 2 hearts & 2 diamonds. Can ruff last club after pulling opponent trumps. Makes 3S.

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11		♠ T86 ♥ A976 ♦ Q75 ♣ 872		Dlr: S Vul: None	
♠ K732		♠ J954			
♥ QT		♥ J432			
♦ JT842		♦ K6			
♣ Q6		♣ J54			
6		♠ AQ		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
8	6	♥ K85		N 3 2 2 - 3	
20		♦ A93		S 4 2 2 - 3	
		♣ AKT93		E - - - 1 -	
				W - - - 1 -	

<u>N</u>	<u>S</u>
	2NT 20-21 balanced
3C Stayman	3D no 4-card major
3NT	

Key point: Open 2NT with a flat 20-21, not 2C.

Bidding: North uses Stayman to check for a 4-4 heart fit. It's not there, so N/S settle in 3NT.

Lead: 4D, 4th best from longest & strongest suit.

Play: Fast tricks: 1S, 2H, 1D, 2C = 6. Need 3 more. Clubs should yield 2 more. Avoid spade finesse "into" danger hand as long as possible. East should play KD. Lucky you: Win with AD & QD is now good. Work on clubs first. Play A, K & T. You now have 4 clubs, 2 diamonds & 3 tricks in the majors.

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12		♠ A82 ♥ KJ32 ♦ QJ9 ♣ 983		Dlr: W Vul: N-S	
♠ KQJ103		♠ 654			
♥ A8		♥ 1065			
♦ A8		♦ K7653			
♣ AKJ2		♣ 64			
11		♠ 97		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
22	3	♥ Q974		N - - - - -	
4		♦ 1042		S - - - - -	
		♣ Q1075		E 3 3 2 5 3	
				W 3 3 2 5 3	

<u>W</u>	<u>E</u>
2C	2D At least A or K
2S	4S 3-7 pts

Key point: Fast arrival (4S) says "nothing extra".

Bidding: 2D shows an A, K or more. 2S is a spade suit. 4S: Support for spades, but nothing extra.

Lead: Leading a heart away from K&J is bad. Lead QD, top of touching honors.

Play: Losers: 1S, 1H, 0D, 2C = 4 total. Might need to ruff a club in dummy, so delay pulling trump. Win KD in dummy. Lead a low club towards the Jack. If the Jack wins, this eliminates a club loser. If Jack loses, play AC and ruff the 2C in dummy. If Jack finesse wins & you ruff a club, you can make 5S.