

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul



♠ A 2
♥ A Q 7
♦ A 6 4
♣ A J 8 7 5

HCP=19

Upgrades: ♥ AQ together, 4 aces

Downgrades: none

Shape: 5332 = 1/2 point

Decision : Upgrade 1 full point and then some = Good 20 count

Board 2

North Deals

None Vul



♠ A 10 4 3

♥ —

♦ 10 8 7 5

♣ K Q 10 9 8

HCP: 9

Upgrades: ♠ A, ♠T with ace, ♣ KQ together, ♣T98 with higher honors

Downgrades: None

Shape: 3 suited 544 add 2-2.5 points.

Decision: Call it a good 12 count

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul



♠ A J 10 6 5 4 3

♥ Q 8 6 5

♦ 5 4

♣ —

HCP: 7

Upgrades: ♠ A, ♠ JT with higher honor, Honors in length

Downgrades: Unsupported ♥ Q

Shape: 74 = add 3 points.

With 7-4 add 1 extra for in long suit

With 2-0 in short suits add 1/2 point

Total = 11.75, call it a bad 12 .

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul



♠ A K 9 7

♥ K 7 4

♦ Q J 8

♣ Q 3 2

HCP:15

Upgrades: ♠ AK, ♠ A

Downgrades: ♣ Q

Shape: 4333 = -0.75

Decision: 14.5. you decide whether to call it 14 or 15.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul



♠ Q J 8 6 5

♥ A

♦ 8 5

♣ Q 6 5 4 2

HCP:9

Upgrades: none

Downgrades: None (don't downgrade honors in 5 card suits)

Shape: 2 HCP for 55

Decision: 11

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul



♠ A 10
♥ 10 9 8 7 3
♦ J 10 9 2
♣ A 10

HCP: 9

Upgrades: ♠ A, ♥ T987, ♦ JT9, ♣ A, ♠T+♣T

Downgrades: none

Shape: 54=1, 22=0

Decision: Good 11 count

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul



♠ J 10 9 8 6 3

♥ A Q 10 9 7

♦ K

♣ 4

HCP:10

Upgrades: ♠ JT98 (x2 for long suit), ♥ A, ♥ AQ, ♥T with higher honors, ♥ 9 with higher honors

Downgrades: stiff ♦ K = -1

Shape: 65=add 3, 11=0

Decision: poor 13 count

NOTE: HCP seems like a poor way to evaluate this hand. If your partner has ♠ Axxx and 2 hearts you have decent chances of making game. Plus how valuable is the ♦ K? Similarly ♥ Kxxxx and a singleton spade gives you a good chance of making game.

As little as ♠ AQ ♥ Jx ♦ xxxx ♣ xxxx Makes this a game I'd want to be in, but opposite ♠ xx ♥ xx ♦ QJxx ♣ AKxxx you have 4 top losers and still need good things to happen in hearts and you cannot get to dummy to finesse!

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul



♠ K J 10 4 2

♥ K J 10 6 2

♦ J 8 6

♣ —

HCP: 9

Upgrades: ♠ JT with higher honors, ♥ JT with higher honors

Downgrades: ♦ J At least 1/2 point downgrade

Shape: 55 = +2, 30 = +1/2 point

Decision: Poor 12 count

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul



♠ —
♥ 8 5
♦ A K 10 9 4
♣ A K 6 5 4 2

HCP: 14

Upgrades: ♦ A, ♦ AK, ♦ T9 with higher honors, ♣ A, ♣ AK

Downgrades: none

Shape: 6-5 = 3, 2-0 = .5

Decision: Bad 19 count

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul



♠ J 10 9 5 2
♥ 9
♦ 9 6
♣ A Q 7 6 3

HCP: 7

Upgrades: ♠ JT9 together in length, ♣ A, ♣ AQ

Downgrades: none

Shape: 5-5 = 2, 2-1 = 0

Total: 10 count

Board 11

South Deals
None Vul



♠ A Q 7 4 3
♥ K J 10
♦ A K 5 2
♣ 10

HCP: 17

Upgrades: ♠ A, ♠ AQ, ♥ JT with higher honors, ♦ A, ♦ AK

Downgrades: none

Shape: 54=1,31=.5

Decision: Bad 20 count

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul



♠ A K Q 8 5 3
♥ —
♦ K Q 10 8 6 4
♣ Q

HCP: 16

Upgrades: ♠ A, ♠ AK, ♠ KQ, ♠ AKQ, ♦ KQ, ♦ T with higher honors

Downgrades ♣ Q stiff, =-1

Shape: 66=4

Decision: 20.5 Either 20 or 21 depending upon your style/mood

NOTE: This way of evaluating really doesn't do the hand justice. Game is likely to make opposite any 3 small spades. Given 2 spades and the ♦ J game is also likely to make.

Partner's actually hand opposite was

♠ Txx

♥ AKJx

♦ xx

♣ KJxx

12 HCP and a fit typically equals game opposite an opening hand and we got to slam off 2 cashing aces. When spades also split 4-0 offside 6 ♠ was always down 2.

Board 13

North Deals

Both Vul



♠ 7 6 2
♥ A K Q 10 8 5 4 3
♦ —
♣ J 7

HCP: 10

Upgrades: ♥ A, ♥ AK, ♥ KQ, ♥ AKQ, ♥ T with higher honors

Downgrades: short ♣ J (-.5)

Shape: add 4 points for 8 card suit, add 1 point for 320 shape in side suits

Decision: Poor 16 count

NOTE: I hope everybody understands that HCP is not an effective way of evaluating this hand.

Consider this 16 count:

♠ KQx
♥ KJxx
♦ Ax
♣ Qxxx

The hand above will take 8 tricks with hearts as trump and possibly 1 or 0 tricks without hearts as trump. The other 16 count is unlikely to take more than 6 tricks, but will take tricks no matter what is trump.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul



♠ A K J 9 6 5 3 2
♥ 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 4

HCP: 8

Upgrades: ♠ A, ♠ AK, ♠ J with higher honors

Downgrades: none

Shape: 4 points for 8 card suit, +.5 for 311 shape in side suits

Decision: 13 count

I really hope no one seriously thinks this hand should be evaluated based on HCP.