

## Successful Slam Bidding

**Board 1**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

♠ K 8 7 3 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ 9 7 5 4		♠ A Q 6 5 2 ♥ K 8 7 ♦ K J 9 8 ♣ Q	♠ 9 4 ♥ J 10 9 3 ♦ A 5 2 ♣ K J 10 3
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	♠ J 10 ♥ A Q 5 4 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A 8 6 2		
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West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT!
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

If using the 2/1 system and South responds 2 ♥, North may be off to the races and get too high. This is about a 10% slam, requiring two successful finesses and the majors breaking. We want slams to have 60%+ chance.

**HE:** 16+13=29 (♥)

**Lesson:** (i) Because we open all R20 hands, Responder must have solid opening values (13+) to make a 2/1 bid; (ii) Opener is in the *Slam Zone* with a 15+HE after a 2/1 bid.

**Questions:** (a) Is South's 3 ♥ bid forcing? (b) If South did make a 2/1 Game Force 2 ♥ initial response, what should North rebid?

**Board 2**  
 East Deals  
 N-S Vul

♠ K Q 8 7 6 ♥ 9 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ A 9 6 3		♠ 4 ♥ 10 8 6 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 8 7 5 4 2	♠ A J 10 5 3 ♥ A 5 ♦ A K J 2 ♣ K Q
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	♠ 9 2 ♥ K Q J 7 4 ♦ Q 10 8 6 5 ♣ J		
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West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♠	All pass		

Knowing that the minimum, combined HE is 34+ with a fit after East raises, West begins with a ♣ *Control Bid*. East also knows the partnership is in the *Slam Zone* and continues to *Control Bid* getting key information about ♥. Now East *KeyCard Asks*. 5 NT confirms all KeyCards and asks for outside *Specific Kings*, finding none with West. This must mean West has a ♥ void or singleton.

East can estimate a combined HE: 11 + 24 = 35, using West's known cards. As this is not typically enough for a Grand, East should resist going for the Grand.

**HE:** 12+24=36 (♠)

**Lesson:** (i) With a combined 30+HE and a 8+card fit, make a *Slam Invite*; (ii) A suit bid response to 2 ♣ typically promise 2 of top 3 honors and 5+cards in a major or 6+cards in a minor; (iii) Grand Slams should be close to 75%

**Questions:** As East: (a) Would you *KeyCard Ask* over 2 ♠? (b) Why did you bid 5 NT if you're not going on?

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**Board 3**

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 7 4  
♥ K 9  
♦ K 10 9 7  
♣ Q J 9 3 2

♠ Q 2  
♥ A Q J 2  
♦ A 6 5 4 3  
♣ 7 6

N
W     E
S

♠ A K J 8 6 3  
♥ 8 5  
♦ Q  
♣ A K 8 4

♠ 10 9 5  
♥ 10 7 6 4 3  
♦ J 8 2  
♣ 10 5

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♠	All pass		

Making a Responder Strong Jump Shift (R-SJS), East sets a Game Force and a *Slam Invite*. This simplifies an auction that would otherwise get complex. East should not *KeyCard Ask* over 3 ♠, which shows the ♠ Q in this particular deal. The better alternative is to *Control Bid* ♦ to see if West has a 1st or 2nd round ♥ control. Typically, we want our 1st *Control Bid* to show an Ace or King. Here East is in charge, so there's little possibility of confusion.

**HE:** 14+20=34 (♠)

**Lesson:** (i) Using R-SJS simplifies a whole class of auctions; (ii) Avoid using *KeyCard Ask* when you have an exposed suit, even if it is Partner's 1st bid suit.

**Questions:** (a) If you didn't use R-SJS what would your rebid over 1 NT by West? (b) If West responded 6 ♦ or 6 ♥ to 5 NT, should East bid 7 ♠?

**Board 4**

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A K Q 9  
♥ Q 7 3 2  
♦ J 9 8  
♣ Q 5

♠ 10 8 3  
♥ 10 6 5  
♦ Q 7 5  
♣ 8 7 6 3

N
W     E
S

♠ 7 6 4 2  
♥ K J 8 4  
♦ K 6 3 2  
♣ J

♠ J 5  
♥ A 9  
♦ A 10 4  
♣ A K 10 9 4 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 NT	All pass	

South bids 2 ♣ *Game Forcing*, simplifying these auctions. Bidding the majors up-the-line, North shows a 4-card ♥ suit. South continues with 3 ♣, although some would bid 2 NT, planning to bid 4 NT over Partner's likely 3 NT. North bids the expected 3 NT. South now makes a quantitative 4 NT *Slam Invite*.

With Qx in Partner's suit and a terrific ♠ suit, North should accept. The auction is only slightly aggressive; 3 NT making 6 gets 54% of the matchpoints; 6 NT making is a top.

**HE:** 13+18=31 (NT)

**Lesson:** (i) Play 1 ♦-2 ♣ as Game Force. Use 1 ♦-3 ♣ as invitational with 6+cards. (ii) Prioritize NT over a minor, especially with balanced or semi-balanced hands; (iii) fits are often slam keys and misfits are "red flags."

**Questions:** (a) What would it mean if North rebid 3 ♠ rather than 3 ♥? (b) Should North rebid 3 ♠ instead of 3 ♥ since the ♠ suit is so powerful?