



In both methods, the preempt is made with less than an opening hand. It should be a poor ten points or less. A rule of thumb that I like is: If you would go to game opposite a one notrump opener by partner then do not preempt in first or second seat.

South has a hand worthy of competition and makes a takeout bid of 4NT. A double of four spades would be penalty while a double of four hearts would be takeout. North chooses clubs and South asks North to make an equal level correction by bidding five diamonds. This bid shows both diamonds and hearts while denying clubs. The 4NT bid originally showed support for all unbid suits. North chooses diamonds by passing.

**The play:**

West has a natural lead of the ace of spades from ace and king. The defenders will get their two aces and South will make five diamonds for 600 points.

East has two cover cards, and if he had two spades, he could safely raise partner to six spades to further the preempt. Because of East's singleton spade, he could bid five spades. He should not, however, because one does not sacrifice over five of a minor. It could push them to a makeable six. Furthermore, if they should have been in 3NT, five of a minor will be a bad result for them and one does not risk giving them 800.

**Notes:**

-All the bridge columns may be viewed at <http://watsongallery.ca>.