

Two Over One

The logo for 'Two Over One' features a large red heart in the background. Overlaid on the heart are two grey playing card symbols: a spade pointing upwards and a club pointing to the right. The text 'Two Over One' is written in a large, black, sans-serif font across the top and middle of the graphic.

Two Over One Workshop By Warren Watson

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/Workshops/TwoOverOne.pdf>

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Two-Over Origins

In the 1950's the Italian Blue team dominated tournament bridge with their strong 1♣ system. These players and others believed Standard American was inadequate.

Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone developed a five-card major system with negative doubles and forcing no trump response to major openings. Eastern Scientific adopted aspects of the Roth-Stone system while the West Coast still adhered to Four-card majors.

Richard and Rhoda Walsh, John Swanson, and Paul Soloway incorporated two-over-one game forcing responses into the Eastern scientific system. This became known as the Walsh system or Western (California) Roth Stone. Over time, the Walsh system became known as two-over-one and tourney players started to recognize the benefits of the system.

http://www.bridgehands.com/Conventions/Two_Over_One.htm Accessed March 7, 2016

Benefits of Two-Over-One

- It incorporates many aspects of Standard American.
- It allows for slam exploration where in Standard American, one has to make sure the partnership gets to game and this often takes up room useful for slam exploration.
- It is simple to learn and not as Memory intensive as complicated systems as Strong Club (Strong 1♣) systems.
- You can play two-over-one with many different partners with only a nominal bit of discussion.
- Many players incorporate the better aspects of 2/1 into Standard American such as four-card support limit raises. NMF, FSF and Inverted minors are good aspects of both systems.
- You are in a better position if your RHO makes an overcall or a pre-empt

What is Two Over One

These are game forcing auctions and the bidding cannot pass out until the partnership reaches game or four of a minor. With a minor fit, one often tries for 3NT, keeping in mind, a two-over-one response does not necessarily have enough for five of a minor. 28 or 29 points are needed for the five-level.

W	N	E	S
1♦	P	2♣	
1♦	P	1NT	6 to 9 (10-), no four-card major
1♦	P	2NT	11 (10+) to 12, no four-card major
1♥	P	2♣	
1♥	P	2♦	
1♥	P	1NT	5 to a bad 12, no four ♠'s, forcing one round
1♠	P	2♣	
1♠	P	2♦	
1♠	P	2♥	
1♠	P	1NT	5 to a bad 12, forcing one round

Two over one becomes just Standard American:

- After the first round of bidding
- by a passed hand or
- in competition

Notes:

Over 1♣ openings, two-over-one responses do not apply because they are jump shifts. Depending on partnership agreement, jumps shifts can be weak or strong. Furthermore, 1♣ then 2♣ has special meaning which comes up in inverted minors.

1NT forcing is only over a major and is discussed under 2/1 gadgets.

Two-Over-One Variations

Variation 1:

2♣ over 1♦ may be invitational

1♦ 2♣ is 10+ and the responses to inverted minors are used

Variation 2:

Repeating a suit takes the two-over-one GF off

1♠	2♣
2♦	3♣

I have tried both variations and I prefer that all two-over-one responses are game forcing.

Standard American-A Review

Learning Two-Over-One does not mean you can forget Standard American. Two-Over-One game forcing system becomes Standard American in competition or by a passed hand.

The basic bidding principle of Standard American is that a new suit at the two-level shows 10 HCP's and promises a rebid. This applies in competitive bidding as well unless the bid is preceded by 1NT or by a negative double.

In fact, any time a new suit at the two-level is bid, later in the auction or in competition, ten points are needed.

A new suit at the three-level by either partner is forcing to game.

Example:

1♠	2♥	5+ ♥'s and 10+ HCP's
3♣		GF, Yes you can rebid a five-card major here

Without 5♥'s, one usually chooses a four-card minor.

Without 10 HCP's one just bids 1NT.

1♠	1NT
----	-----

1NT is not forcing showing a hand of six to nine points. With a minimum, and no second suit, partner is expected to pass. With a second suit, opener should almost always show it.

1NT response does not promise any distribution in particular. It does not promise even one ♠. 1NT just shows enough points to respond but not enough points for a new suit at the two-level.

A new suit at the two-level shows 10 HCP's except the following cases:

1. When you know there is an eight-card fit, you can consider distributional points.

2. After one limits one's hand by 1NT

W	N	E	S
1♠	P	1NT	P
2♣	P	2♥	

East has long ♥'s and less than 10 HCP's and no ♠ support otherwise he would have bid 2♥ directly.

3. After one limit's one's hand with a negative double.

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♣	Dbl	P
2♦	P	2♥	

East has long ♥'s and less than 10 HCP's and no ♠ support otherwise he would have bid 2♥ directly. He could have made a negative double with ten plus points and only four hearts but he would never rebid 2♥.

4. After a Notrump overcall

W	N	E	S
1♣	1NT	2♥	

You would double 1NT with 10+ points and a good lead.

2♥ shows a good suit and less than 10 points

5. After Opponent's takeout double

W	N	E	S
1♠	Dbl	2♥	

You would redouble with 10+ points so a new suit at the two-level is just a good suit and less than ten points.

6. Partner doubles and you respond in a lower ranking suit than the suit doubled.

W	N	E	S
1♠	Dbl	P	2♥

South has four ♥'s and 0 to 8 HCP's

Underlying Principles (more in the examples)

Opener Faces an Opener

Opener + Opener = Game in 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠

Show What Your Points Dictate

When your partner opens and you have an opener, you need not rush to make a 2/1 game force. In an auction with enough points for game, you can bid your hand. Bid your longest suit first then your shorter suits next, always making a bid that is forcing one round until you can make a bid which is forcing to game. Eventually you will make sure you get to game.

If your partner opens, and you have 6-9 points, the story is completely different, you will likely be unable to show your hand. You make a bid of a new suit at the one level then choose one of opener's suits at the two-level or rebid your own six card suit at the two-level or rebid 1NT.

If your partner opens, and you have 10-12 points, the story is also completely different, you may still be unable to completely show your hand. You make a bid of a new suit at the one level then choose one of opener's suits at the three level or rebid your own six-card suit at the three-level or rebid 2NT.

Principle of Fast Arrival

In a game forcing auction, jumps to game show a minimum holding. One never tells the same story twice.

Misfits

First one to find a contract killing misfit passes.

When each partner has a long suit and neither has support from partner, the weaker hand should play the hand otherwise, it may have no entries with partner's suit as trump.

Two No Trump Rebids: No Answer to a Misfit

Rebidding 2NT when partner could have 6 points is 18-19. Rebidding 2NT when partner responded 1NT to a minor opening, is invitational showing 16 or 17 points. Pulling two no trump is usually suggesting a better partial or expressing a concern with stoppers. Remember partner has 3NT in his bidding box too. With a void, one never bids any No Trump but may grudgingly pass partner's No Trump suggestion.

Rule of 23

You need to know you have 23 points in your and your partner's hand to ever rebid 2NT.

1♦ 1NT
2NT

2NT is invitational and you have 16 or 17 points and you are asking partner if he has nine points or a really good eight.

Two-Suited Hand Principle

Two-suited hands play better than one would expect from the high card points especially if all the high card points are working. Typically a hand that has all the points working has no wasted honours and the long suits have most of the points and good intermediates.

Example:

If you have an eleven-point two-suited hand with all the points working and partner has a four-card limit raise, expect game.

Rule of 20

Two-suited hands are so good that we tend to open light (in high card points not playing strength) when the length of the two suits plus the honour points in those suits add up to 20 or more.

Better Minor Principle

Better minor means open the longer minor and if they are the same length open 1♦ unless they are 3-3 then always open 1♣. The only time one opens 1♦ without four of them is when one is 4-4-3-2. Therefore if partner opens 1♦ and rebids 1NT, you know he has four Diamonds because he did not raise your major. Therefore when 1NT will be a struggle and you have four diamonds, bid 2♦.

Rule of 22

On average, one needs a combined 22 points to either set opponents 1NT or to make your own 1NT. In both cases, that amounts to seven tricks. Obviously long suits and working points affect the rule.

Slam bidding

When you are trying for a slam, you need to find a fit or you know where your tricks are coming from. One tends to make use of lower bidding space as much as possible to explore for slam. Two-Over-One game forcing allows one to do just that. Take advantage of it.

Use Blackwood and Cuebidding together.

When you have a major fit, new suits in a GF auction are cuebids. When you have a minor fit in a GF auction new suits are either No Trump stoppers or cuebids. If partner pulls No Trump then they were slam tries, cuebids.

When you have a major fit, and are not in a game forcing auction, new suits below three of the major are just game tries.

Busy auctions are slam tries.

Pulling 3NT for 4♣ or 4♦ are slam tries.

Basic Card Combinations

8 ever 9 never

Missing the king, play for the drop with 11 cards or more and finesse with ten or fewer.

AQ10

7652 small to the ten then small to the Queen

AQ102 for no losers same as above but a much lower percentage than

7654 small to the Queen and if that loses, small to the ten

AQ1032

7654 Small to the Queen then cash the Ace

To run an honour through, you need the one touching below. Also play up to honours that are equivalent before running the honour through

AJ102

Q43 Small to the Jack and small to the ten

KQ103 Small to the King. If it loses then small to the ten

8765 If the King wins and East is not holding up then small to the Queen.

AJ109 Without two entries in South hand, just cash the Ace and play small

87654 With two entries, small to the 9 then small to the 10.

A7654 Small to the Ace then small towards the Queen

Q1098

A765 Run the 10 through and then run the Queen through.

Q1098 8 or fewer cards

AJ92

7654 Small to the 9 then small to the Jack

AJ54

7632 Small to the Jack

AJ32

654 Small all around, cash the Ace then play small to the Jack.

Two Over One Gadgets

Forcing No Trump

Last Revised March 8, 2016

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/ForcingNoTrump.pdf>

This is the workhorse of the Two-Over-One Bidding System.

The bid of One No Trump only over a major, by an unpassed hand, in an uncontested auction, shows 5 to 12 HCP's and denies the ability to make a Two-Over-One game forcing call. It is forcing one round.

1NT shall be announced as "Forcing" since it is in blue in the ACBL convention card.

1♠ 1NT

1♥ 1NT also denies 4 ♠'s

If player is a passed hand it is 6-9, not forcing, denying 10+ points and 3 spades.

P	P	1♥	P
1NT	P	P	P

6-9

Some play this as semiforcing, showing 5-11 HCP's, which can be passed with a balanced minimum.

In competition, 1NT is natural, 6-9 with a stopper.

P	P	1♥	1♠
1NT	P	P	P

6-9

Rebids by Opener after Forcing No Trump

Better Minor Not Short Club

1♠	P	1NF	P
2♣			

Without 4 ♥'s and then 6 ♠'s, one rebids the longer minor and if 3-3 we bid 2♣, therefore 2♣ or 2♦ could be 3 cards.

1♥	P	1NF	P
2♣			

2♣ could be 2 cards if 4-5-2-2 and not enough points to reverse
2♦ could be 3 cards

Limit Raises

1♠	3♠	four-card support limit raise
1♠	1NT	
2♦	3♠	3 card limit raise
1♥	4♥	0-8 HCP's, five trump and a singleton.

Inverted Minors

Last Revised January 16, 2016

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/InvertedMinors.pdf>

The Problem:

One often wants to be in 2NT or 3NT and after a limit raise, there is not a lot of room to investigate stoppers. Whatever form of scoring, 3NT will often make when 5♣ or 5♦ will not.

So why not switch the above responses and get more room to investigate stoppers?

In Inverted Minors:

1♣	2♣	10+ high card points and 4+ ♣'s
1♣	3♣	6-9 points and 5+ ♣'s
Both ♣ raises show:		no 4-card ♦ suit and no 4-card major
1♦	2♦	10+ high card points and 4+ ♦'s
1♦	3♦	6-9 points and 5+ ♦'s
Both ♦ raises show:		no 4-card major

Note: It is high card points because the partnership is looking for 3NT.

By a passed hand:

Inverted minors are still on but confirm this with your partner because some people play that inverted minors are off by a passed hand.

In competition:

The 10+ bid of Inverted minors is **always** off in competition because one has the cuebid to show 10+ raise. The simple raise is 6 to 9 and the double raise is weak. Weak is defined as whatever you think you can get away with and is usually less than 8 HCP's. For safety, you will probably have a side singleton if vulnerable.

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	2♦	6-9 no 4 ♥'s, 4+ ♦'s (only 4 in a pinch)
1♦	1♠	3♦	0-5 weak, 5+ ♦'s, singleton somewhere if vul
1♦	1♠	2♣	Limit + in ♦'s, no 4 ♥'s, 4+ ♦'s

W	N	E	S
1♦	Dbl	2♦	6-9
1♦	Dbl	3♦	0-5 weak, 5+ ♦'s, singleton somewhere if vul
1♦	Dbl	2NT	Limit + in diamonds, 5+ ♦'s no exceptions to play 2NT or 3NT, must redouble first
1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	10+, no diamond fit, major suit values

The same for ♣'s

Rebids after Inverted Minors:

After 1♣ then 2♣ or 1♦ then 2♦, Show and Tell stoppers:

Bid No Trump:

- One does not bid notrump when one passes a suit without a stopper
- If one cannot bid no trump then one shows stoppers up the line.

Bid stoppers:

- Up the line
- One skips a suit one does not have stopped if one is cuebidding stoppers.

Opener Rebids:

2NT all skipped suits stopped and 12 to a bad 14

3NT all skipped suits stopped and a good 14 to a bad 17

FSF (Fourth Suit Forcing)

Last Revised March 25, 2016

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/FSF.pdf>

In San Antonio, I sat down at a table 15 minutes before gametime and started discussing a two-over-one convention card with my partner. A nonagenarian sat down at our table because he was going to be our first opponent. I asked my partner if we were playing Fourth Suit Forcing and before my partner could reply the nonagenarian scoffed, "So tell me when the fourth suit is not forcing."

Yes busy auctions tend to be forcing and one does not scramble to save partner from a misfit if one does not have the points to do so. I essentially agree with the nonagenarian except, when I bid the fourth suit, I may not have it at all. It is a completely artificial bid asking partner to not pass until game in No Trump or four of a minor or a game in a major has been bid.

N	S
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦

South is not showing Diamonds at all. He may or may not have them. All it does is:

- Puts a game force on
- Asks partner to further describe his hand.
 - North has denied four hearts but he bids them now it shows three.
 - North can bid:
 - 2♠ with five ♠'s
 - 3♦ with four ♦'s
 - 2NT without four ♦'s but holding a ♦ stopper.
 - 3♣ with six ♣'s, 2 or fewer ♥'s and 3 or fewer ♦'s.
 - 3♣ with five ♣'s when unable to rebid No Trump because of no ♦ stopper or an unbalanced hand.
- North must not bid 3NT, leaving partner with room to describe his hand. The game force is on so please use the extra bidding room if you need to or allow partner to.

NMF (New Minor Forcing)

Last Revised March 11, 2016

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/NMF.pdf>

This is closer to Standard American when one bids four card suits up-the-line then most players realize.

N	S
1♣	1♠
1♥	2♦

South skipped a four-card ♦ suit to bid a longer ♠ suit. Nowadays, because auctions can get pre-empted more often than they used to, one will always skip a ♦ suit to bid a major unless one has a full opener. This way partner will know what major you have and that will help him decide what to do in a pre-empted auction.

Splinter Bids

Last Revised March 12, 2016

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/SplinterBids.pdf>

Splinters are a Must

A splinter says that any high cards in that suit are not working. "Any time the auction tells you that all of your high cards are working you should be optimistic"... A splinter can be much more effective than intense and extensive cuebidding.

From Mike Lawrences Book on Hand Evaluation p 71-76

Fact:

With no Wasted Honours and a fit, only 27 HCP's are needed for slam when there is a singleton

Reason: the deck becomes a 34 point deck.

Missing an Ace and King from 40 is 33 and missing Ace and King from 34 is 27.

Examples:

♠	AKxxx	♠	Qxxx
♥	Axx	♥	KQxx
♦	Kx	♦	Axxx
♣	xxx	♣	x

That was 25.

♠	AKxxx	♠	QJxx
♥	Axx	♥	QJxx
♦	Kx	♦	AQJxx
♣	xxx	♣	x

That was 27 and responder was quacky

♠	AKxxx	♠	QJxx
♥	Axx	♥	KQJxx
♦	Kx	♦	QJxx
♣	xxx	♣	J

This makes 5 because responder does not have 13 HCP counting the J♣ as zero

Definition of a Standard Splinter:

1♥ followed by 3♠, 4♣, 4♦

1♠ followed by 4♣, 4♦, 4♥

12 to a bad 15 with four-card support

With a good 15 or more use Jacoby 2NT to give more room for slam exploration

This is a valuable tool to find a cheaper slam

One does not splinter with a singleton Ace, King or Queen because partner will wrongly discredit any honour he has in the suit.

Response:

With Axxx or xxxx in the splinter suit, make a cuebid even with a minimum

With K or Q in the splinter suit, bid game

With a Quacky minimum, also bid game

Other Splinter Examples

1♠ P 4♣

1♥ P 1♠ P
4♦

1♣ P 1♠ P
3♦

1♦ P 1♠ P
3♥ splinter same strength as jumping to 3♠

1♦ P 1♠ P
4♥ splinter but GF not invitational same strength as jumping to 4♠

1♣ P 1♠ P
2♠ P 4♦

1♠ P 2♣ P
2♠ P 4♦

1♦ P 1♥ P
2♥ P 4♦

1♦ P 2♦ P
3♥ Splinter

Delayed splinter

1♣	P	1♥	1♠
1NT	P	3♠	

Self Splinter

1♠	P	2♠	P
4♣			

Splinter in 2/1 Auctions

Shows no extra values, but splinters allow one to make an assessment of what HCP's are working.

1♥	P	2♣	P
3♦			

Splinters in No Trump Auctions

1N	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	3♠	

1N	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	4♦	

Splinters in Competition

W	N	E	S
1♥	2♣	P	3♥

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♥	1♠	2♥	4♣

Jacoby 2NT

Last revised Oct 31, 2015

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/Workshops/Jacoby2NT&Splinters.pdf>

12+ HCP (Actually any hand that would open in first or second seat)

Four-card major support

No singletons or voids (Splinters)

1♠ 2NT

3♦ Singleton or void in diamonds, 12+HCP outside of diamonds

1♠ 2NT

4♣ A good five-card suit that is a source of tricks

AKQxx, AKJxx, KQJxx, AQ10xx

One also has a stiff or void, but the suit is more important to one's hand.

Rebids after Jacoby:

By either partner:

- Jumps to game in the major are minimum (12-14)
- A bid of another game, 3NT (not to play ever) (15-17)
- A bid of three of one's major is 18+
- Other bids are cuebids showing first round control.
 - Responder cannot show another suit after responding 2NT
 - If you skip a suit, you are missing that control (Ace or void).

Simpler System of Rebids

- Jumps to game in the major are minimum (11-14)
 - Or opener has wasted values (King or Queen) in partner's singleton
- A bid of three of one's major is extra values (15+) and starts cuebidding
- A bid of 3NT can be keycard Blackwood but usually it is just extra values as well and asks partner to start cuebidding. Perhaps the person who bid 3NT wants to hear about Clubs.

Slam Stuff

Keycard Blackwood 0314

The keycards are the four aces and the King of trump or the King of the last naturally bid suit.

1♠	4NT
5♣	0 or 3
5♦	1 or 4
5♥	2 without the Queen of trump
5♠	2 with the Queen of trump

1430 and Queen Ask

1♠	4NT
5♣	1 or 4 (to give more room for the Queen-ask)
5♦	0 or 3
5♥	2 without the Queen of trump
5♠	2 with the Queen of trump

1♠	4NT
5♣	5♦ Do you have the Queen
5♥	No
5♠	Yes

1♠	4NT
5♣	5♦ Do you have the Queen
5♠	No
5♥	Yes with the ♥King
6♣	Yes with the ♣King but not the ♥King
6♦	Yes with the ♦King but not the ♥King and not the ♣King
6♠	Yes with no side Kings

Specific kings

After asking for Keycards, 5NT promises all the keycards and asks for the number of Kings. I prefer asking for the lower ranking specific King.

1♠ 2NT
4NT 5♦
5NT 6♣ I have the ♣King
6♦ I have the ♦King and not any King I skipped
6♥ I have the ♥King and not any King I skipped
6♠ I have no Kings

1♠ 2NT
4NT 5♦
5NT 6♣ I have the ♣King
6♦ Do you have the ♦King as well?
6♥ no but I have the ♥King
6♠ no
7♠ yes

Third Round Control Ask

1♠ 2NT
4NT 5♣
6♦ bid 6NT with Q♦
Bid 7♠ with doubleton

Small Slam Force

1M 5M

Five of Trump Suit as Asking Bid (from Amalya Kearse)

1. If the opponents have bid a suit and partnership has not made a control showing cuebid, 5M asks partner to bid 6 if he has first or second round control in the suit.
2. If 1 does not apply, then 5M asks partner to bid 6 if he has first or second round control in the unbid suit.
3. If 1 does not apply and 2 does not apply or there are more than one unbid suit, 5M asks partner to bid 6 if he has two of the top three trump honours and pass if otherwise.

Grand Slam Force

5NT when there is no trump suit says, "pick a slam partner."

1♠ 2NT

5NT 6♣ no top trump honour (AKQ)

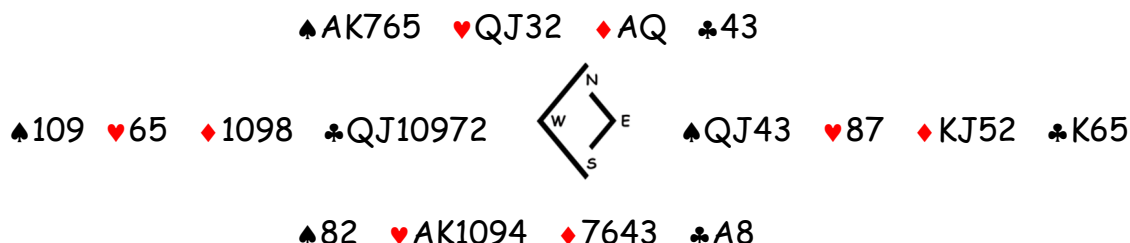
6♠ one of AKQ of trump

7♠ two of AKQ of trump

Workshop 1 The Two-Over-One Response

Board 1 Slam Exploration Room

North Dealer None Vulnerable



In Standard American:

N	E	S	W
1♠	P	2♥	P
4♥	All Pass		

In Two-Over-One:

	N	E	S	W	
	1♠	P	2♥	P	South has 5 ♥'s and a good 12+
North has extra values	3♥	P	4♣	P	3♥ is a cuebid request-Do it!
North has a ♦ control	4♦	P	4♥	P	I will cuebid for you -but nothing extra
We have 5♥ for sure	4NT	P	5♣	P	0 or 3 keycards
	6♥	All Pass			

Bidding Note:

One does not use any form of Blackwood with a void or any suit with two quick losers (a worthless doubleton for example). However, South cuebid a suit in which North has a worthless doubleton.

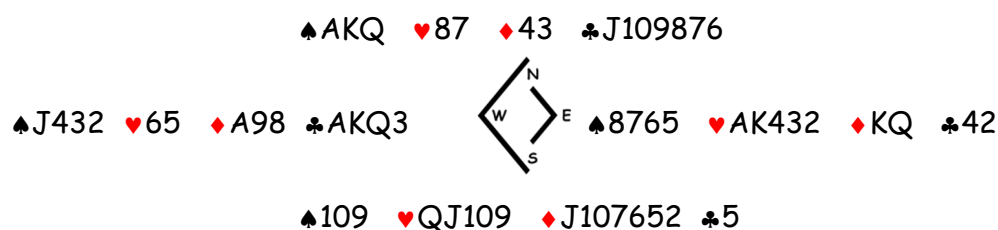
Playing Note:

Win the ♣Queen opening lead with the Ace. Cash top two Spades and ruff a ♠ high. Play a small ♥ to the ♥Jack. Ruff another ♠ high and play a trump back to the Queen. Trump are gone so pitch a Club on the 5th spade. Ruff a club and take the Diamond hook.

Board 2 Get the Kids Off of the Street

East Dealer

North South Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♠	P	4♠
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣Jack

Analysis:

West does not bid 2♣ just to put the game force on because his Clubs are not longer than his Spades. Therefore, East plays the hand with improper bidding from West.

North leads Clubs to try to give the short defensive trump hand a ruff. He has three top trump tricks and will only ruff with one of them to carry out declarer's worst nightmare, a defensive cross-ruff.

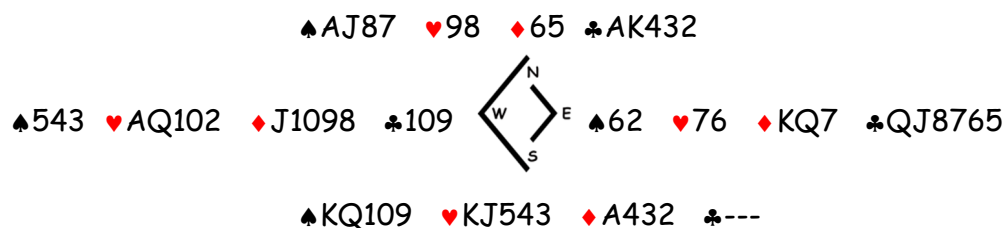
Proper defense should get 3 top trump and a club ruff. Declarer must draw trump at every chance. Proper declarer play and proper defense will amount to declarer getting nine tricks.

Result:

4♠-1 -50

Board 3 Cross Ruff

South Dealer East West Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
		1♥	P
2♣	P	2♠	P
4♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead: Trump
You do not want any of your heart values ruffed.

Analysis:

Bidding:

North will always skip a Spade suit in order to bid a longer suit at the two-level. One does not need to rush to put a game force on as long as one can find a bid forcing for one round.

North shows the Principle of fast arrival which essentially means "Never tell the same story twice." In a game forcing auction, a jump to game shows no values in addition to those already shown.


The Play:

Do not touch trump, lose a diamond right away, cash all of one's winners then cross-ruff.

Board 4: Avoid Two for One

West Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠ J1032 ♥ J109 ♦ K7 ♣ QJ97			
♠ A98 ♥ K542 ♦ AQ54 ♣ 86		♠ K6 ♥ A873 ♦ 86 ♣ AK543	
♠ Q754 ♥ Q6 ♦ J10932 ♣ 102			

W	N	E	S
1♦	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	3♥	P
4♥	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♥10

Analysis:

Draw 2 Trump Rounds

Tricks:

♠:	2
♥:	2
♦:	1
♣:	3

Ruffs:

♦:	2
♣:	2

Opp: -1

11 tricks ----> 4♥+1

Check:

Lose:

♥:	1
♦:	1

Draw 3 Trump Rounds

Tricks:

♠:	2
♥:	2
♦:	1
♣:	3

Ruffs:

♦:	1
♣:	1

Opp: 0

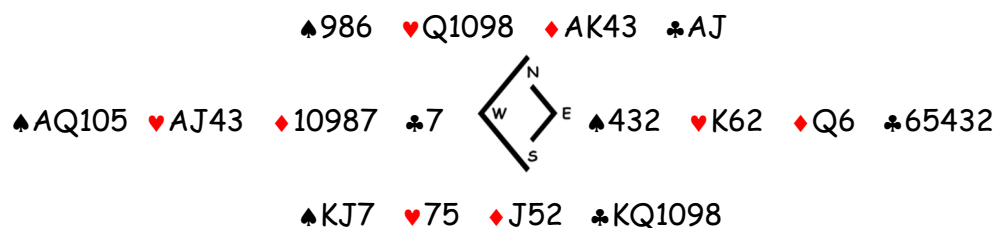
10 tricks ----> 4♥=

Lose:

♥:	1
♦:	1
♣:	1

Board 5 It's in the Lead (not declarer's Expertise)

North Dealer NS Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1♦	P	1NT	All Pass

If North shows he is distributional you may bid 2NT. An odd auction that one player can bid 1NT then 2NT.

Opening Lead:	♦10	3NTS-3	+300	1NTS+1	-120
	♠5	3NTS=	-600	1NTS+2	-150
	♥3	3NTS=	-600	1NTS+2	-150

Analysis:

Cannot bid 2♣ as that is GF. Therefore, must bid 1NT since if partner is balanced he does not have 15 to 17. If he is unbalanced he will not pass 1NT. Partner accepts with 14 or more and passes with 13 or less. So if South bids 2NT, North accepts with 3NT.

Leads from AQxx, Kxxx, Qxxx, AJxx, Axxx are all bad leads. You likely give away a trick in exchange for possibly not even setting up length winners.

Leads from AQxxx, Kxxxx, Qxxxx, AJxxx, Axxxx are all good leads against 3NT.

Assuming you have sufficient entries to cash the 4th and 5th cards.

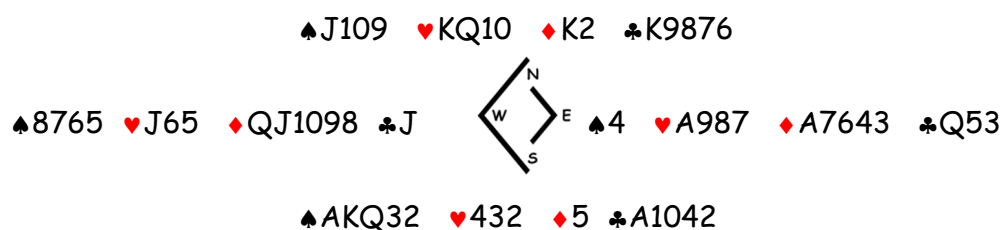
The Play:

When East gets in, he leads a spade. When declarer is in 1NT, he never ducks a diamond and so East only gets in with the ♥King. In 3NT, declarer will likely duck a diamond to his Jack and East makes a ♠ switch.

Board 6 Leading a Singleton Can Backfire Badly

East Dealer

East West Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	P	1♠	P
2♣	P	3♣	P
4♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♦ Queen

Analysis:

2♣ bid shows an opening hand and puts the game force on. South can raise clubs with four. With ♠ AKQ32 ♥ 432 ♦ 5 ♣ A102, a 2NT rebid has flaws so one might be inclined to raise Clubs with three. The flaws with 2NT is that the unbid suits are both unstopped and South does not need the lead because he has no Kx or AQ to protect.

I suspect both tables will fall into the trap of leading the ♣ Jack which will tell the declarer to win the King, draw trump and hook East by playing to the ♣ Ten.

With four trump, the forcing defense is the best and West has a natural lead of the ♦ Queen. If declarer has to ruff twice in the long trump hand, West's small 4th trump gets promoted.

If the ♦ Queen is led as it should be, declarer has lots of decisions.

- Does he ruff the second Diamond?
- Does he draw trump?
- How does he play the Clubs?
- How does he play the Hearts?

He could ruff the second diamond and if trump are 5-0 he is down. He could pitch a club but he could get a bad matchpoint score if trump are 3-2 or 4-1.

He cannot draw trump because he needs trump in the short trump hand to take care of Diamond forces will he drives out the ♣ Queen, ♣ Jack and the ♥ Ace.

If he cashes the ♣King and sees the Jack♣ fall, the Law of restricted choice says that touching honours are likely split. In other words, West was restricted to play the ♣Jack because he likely did not have the ♣Queen. So East can be finessed out of the Queen.

If the ♣Ace is cashed first, declarer can now lead a small club towards the King. If West ruffs, he is ruffing partner's winning ♣Queen in effect because East's ♣Queen will now drop under the King once trump are drawn.

Notice how many decisions are answered correctly by the incorrect lead of the ♣Jack.

To play ♥KQ10
 ♥432

Declarer plays the 2 to the King. If the Ace wins, he now has to play the ♥3 to the ten. If the ♥King wins, he has a decision. Did East hold-up with the Ace because East does not have the ♥Jack and East knows the finesse to the ten will work? or does West have the ♥Ace?

Here it does not matter because the ♥4 goes away on the long club.

Principles at work:

Short and Long trump hands:

Short trump hand:	J109
Long trump hand:	AKQ32

Ruffs in the short trump hand gain tricks while not only do ruffs in the long hand not gain a trick, they cause the contract to go down if the trump split badly.

Get the Kids off of the Street

One draws trump right away except:

- When declarer needs short hand ruffs
- When declarer needs protection from defensive forces with trump remaining in the short trump hand. (This example.)
- Declarer has to set up a winner for a pitch before he drives out a trump winner held by the defense. (Not this example.)

Defense and Declarer do not Cooperate with each other

The defense wants to FORCE declarer to ruff in the long trump hand especially when trump are 4-1 or 5-1.

The defense does not want declarer to get short-hand ruffs.

The defense wants to draw trump, if it appears declarer does not want to right away.

Opening Leads are tough

- The defender has only clues from his hand and the bidding to go from.
- Therefore, he must be honest with the opening lead to help partner with his defense.
 - Therefore, the lead of the ♣Jack places the ♣Queen in the other defensive hand.

Leads later in the auction are easier:

- Dummy is in plain view
- Defenders know what declarer did at his first chance to play
- Defenders have seen the cards played up to that point by partner.
 - If partner wins a trick with the Queen, he could still have the King but does not have the Jack because the defenders (not declarer because he does not want to give defenders any clues) win tricks as cheaply as possible.
- The honours played in conjunction with the bidding gives clues to the location of the remaining honours.

Board 7

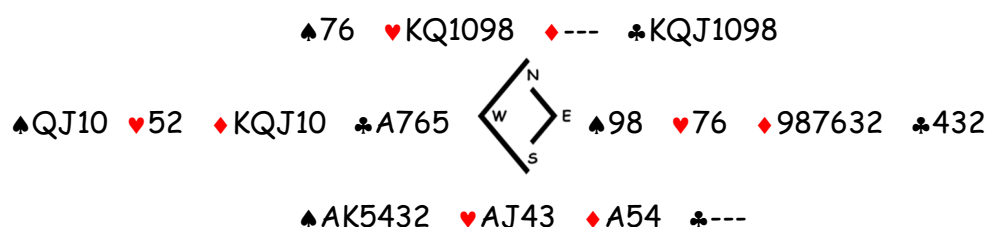
I End the Workshop with a Slam

One workshop, I told my students that I end my workshops with a slam as I handed out the last board and stood there scratching my head with a wry smile as the auction passed out in 5♣.

Some play that jumps shifts and reverses after a game forcing two-over-one response show extra values. I don't play it this way.

First of all a reverse shows extra values when partner can only have 5 to 9 points. Secondly, we will see later that jump shifts are splinters. Splinters are often the best road to a slam. Here we learn a useful slam tool called the Grand Slam Force.

South Dealer Both Vulnerable



	N	E	S	W
			1♠	P
	2♣	P	2♥	P
4♦ is a Splinter, Stay Tuned	4♦	P	5NT	P
	7♥	All Pass		

I included the above bidding to whet your appetite for Splinters. Here is the bidding without a splinter bid. Remember North's hand is a 4 loser hand and one must not get sidetracked into showing a minimum hand just because it only has 11 HCP's. South has a five loser hand.

N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
2♣	P	2♥	P
3♥	P	3♠	P
4♦	P	5NT	P
7♥	All Pass		

646

If you bid your six card suit then the four-card suit, partner knows nine cards in your hand, while if you rebid your six-card suit, partner knows six cards in your hand.

Six-Five, Come Alive

Two suiters often have a higher potential than one would expect from the number of HCP's.

Blackwood is not a slam finder.

- Usually one knows one is in the slam ball park and one just makes sure the slam is not set by two cashing keycards.
- One does not use Blackwood with a void or a worthless doubleton (actually any suit with no first or second round control) because one needs to know which keycards not the number of keycards. All is often fine if you have all the keycards, but what happens when you are missing just one.
- I teach cuebidding and Blackwood side by side because they are both needed. One is not simply the alternative for the other.

Grand Slam Force

Set the trump suit and then bid 5NT

When the trump suit has not been set, 5NT means pick a slam.

1♥	2NT	
5NT	6♣	no top honour (AKQ)
	6♥	one top honour of AKQ
	7♥	two top honours of AKQ

Opening Lead: ♦ King

Analysis:

Make the South hand good and do not touch Clubs. Ruff the opening lead, draw trump in two rounds, ruff another Diamond and ruff Spades good. One has the bad option of pitching a spade on the ♦ Ace, cashing a top ♠ and ruffing two rounds of Spades and the last Diamond while one draws trump insuring you get three ruffs before dummy's trump are depleted..

I would, however, draw trump right away. Because of the distribution you see, it is quite possible there is a Spade void. If you can see a singleton, there is a 68% chance there is another singleton. When there is wild distribution a foot, it is likely one hand is flat and the other is also distributional.

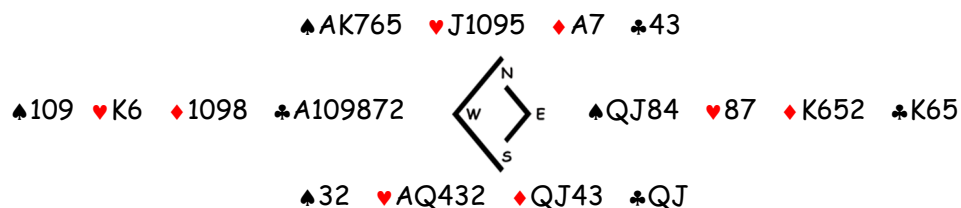
Workshop 2: Forcing No Trump

Board 1

If 11 Points were an Opener why can't this be an opener?

North Dealer

None Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1♠	P	1NT ^F	P
2♥	P	3♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♥7

You are afraid your spade winners will be ruffed in dummy.

Analysis:

South uses forcing No Trump because he does not have a full opener, something that 2♥ instead of 1NT^F would show.

♠82 ♥AK1094 ♦7643 ♣A8

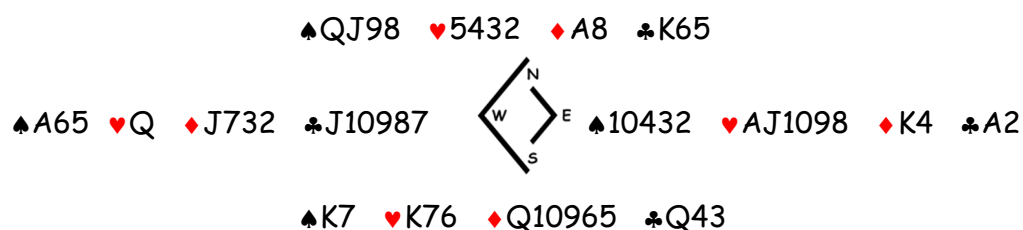
Remember this hand from 2/1 Workshop #1 which was treated as a full opener while South's hand ♠32 ♥AQ432 ♦QJ43 ♣QJ is not an opener. If it were an opener than 4♥ would make because game makes when an opener is opposite an opener. It is real tempting to end up in 4♥.

Declarer Play: Set up Spades and leave clubs and Diamonds to the last. East may get endplayed and have to lead from his ♦King. When West wins his ♣Ace, he must lead the ♦10 to take partner off of end play.

Board 2 Ruffing Finesse

East Dealer

North South Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	1NT ^F
P	2♣	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠Queen

Analysis:

East cannot rebid 2♠ because a reverse when partner can have as few as 6 points is 16+. Therefore East must rebid his longer minor and if they are the same length then 2♣.

Ruffing Finesse:


Cash the ♥A and put the ♥Jack on the table. If it is not covered then pitch a losing spade. If it is covered, ruff and go to the ♣Ace and make spade discards.

The defend must duck smoothly because declarer might decide to ruff the King out. South covers when he has to.

Even if West is the closed hand, learn to recognize when declarer is doing a ruffing finesse. If he had two hearts in West he takes the normal finesse.

Board 3 Invitational Bids

South Dealer East West Vulnerable

		♠Q2	♥J2	♦Q43	♣Q98732			
♠AJ54	♥AKQ	♦J109	♣654		♠K3	♥6543	♦87652	♣J10
		♠109876	♥10987	♦AK	♣AK			

N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
1NT ^F	P	2♥	P
2♠	All Pass		

West could overcall 1NT, but it is a double flaw situation. The flaws being the unfavourable vulnerability and two suits wide open. North is a good enough player not to lead a ♠ against 1NT. North leads ♣7. South cashes his two clubs and exits a ♥. West will lose the ♠ finesse to the ♠Queen and be down 3 for -300. If doubled, not likely with North's hand, it would be -800.

Opening Lead: ♠4 against 2♠
West does not want ♥'s ruffed.

Analysis:

North cannot show his club suit, that may be taken as invitational. North picks Spades.

If 1♠ 3♣ is invitational with a long club suit, then 3♣ after forcing No Trump is weak.

N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
3♣			shows 10-12 HCP's and 6 ♣'s
N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
1NT	P	2♥	P
3♣	P	P	P shows 6-9 HCP's and 6 ♣'s

Even if ♣'s were QJ1098x, you must choose 2♠ with the doubleton Queen. 3♣ will make as long as you ruff a ♥ not a ♠ back to your hand.

Where to park a misfit sometimes takes a bit of luck, but look at the spots.

When partner opens the bidding,
 Jumps to the two-level are weak (0-5
 with a six-card suit) and jumps to the
 three-level are invitational.

Board 4 It's a Trap

West Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠KQ654 ♥A ♦A65432 ♣J
 ♠A10987 ♥J1098 ♦--- ♣AKQ7 ♠J ♥32 ♦KQJ10987 ♣652
 ♠32 ♥KQ7654 ♦--- ♣109843

N	E	S	W
			1♠
P	1NT ^F	P	2♣
P	2♦	All Pass	

Opening Lead: If West bid ♠'s and ♣'s then lead ♥King
 If West bid ♠'s and ♥'s then lead ♣10

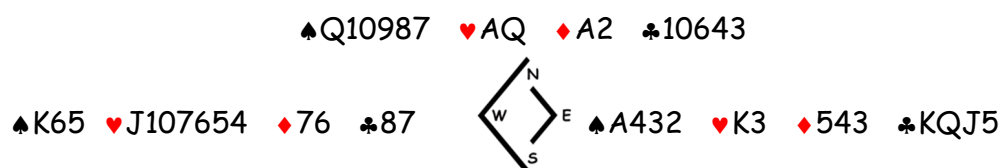
Analysis:

Careful in misfit situations. Please avoid bidding empty six card suits at the to-level. You do not want the following auction.

N	E	S	W
			1♠
2♦	P	P	DbI
All Pass			

Board 5 Another Invitational Hand

North Dealer NS Vulnerable



♠J ♥982 ♦KQJ1098 ♣A92

N	E	S	W
1♠	P	1NT ^F	P
2♣	P	3♦	P
3NT	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♣8

With outside entry lead ♥6, lead ♥Jack with three touching honours,
♥J109xx or ♥J108xx

Analysis:

2♦ would be to play. South could have bid 3♦ over 1♠, but when a complete misfit is possible then go as slow as you can by using forcing No Trump.

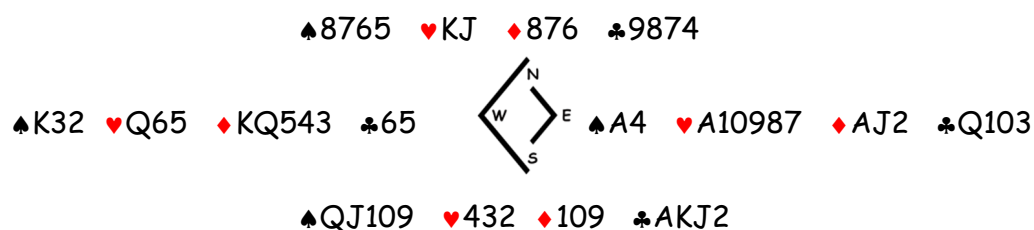
Discover quickly that East has all the points and try to end play him. Never take the Heart finesse and try to know where your ninth trick is coming from before running Diamonds and squeezing yourself. Exit J♠ and then use the ♦Ace to knock out the last Spade honour and use the ♥Ace to cash the good spades then run Diamonds.

Yes cashing a long suit is sometimes good except when you get squeeze as well as the opponents. If the opponents just get squeezed then do it.

Board 6 Three-Card Limit Raise

East Dealer

East West Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♥	P!	1NT ^F
P	2♣	P	3♥
P	4♥	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♣A (better of the two natural leads)

Analysis:

South really does not have show points every time he has them. If South doubles, forcing No Trump is off. 2/1 becomes Standard American with any competition. South could double with 11 HCP's but he should be shorter in ♥'s, the suit doubled.

East could open 1NT but he should have three in the unbid major in case partner has ♥ support (and he does not know it) and transfers to a bad 5-card spade suit and passes.

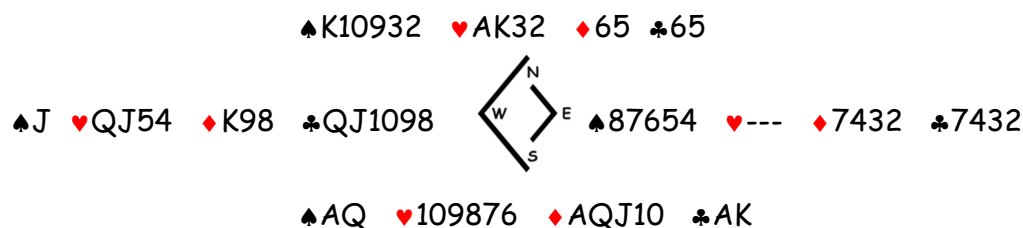
This is how one shows a three-card limit raise.

Defense will cash the two top clubs when faced by such a good diamond suit in dummy. North will encourage a club because there is absolutely no need or benefit in a switch.

Board 7 Not the Time to Lead a Stiff

South Dealer

Both Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
		1♥	P
3♥	P	4NT	P
5♥	P	6♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♣Queen, not a stiff because it looks like you have two natural trump tricks if you do not double 6♥

Analysis:

Even in Standard American, a limit raise should show four-card support. In Two-Over-One, you saw on the last board that you go through forcing No Trump with only a three-card limit raise. With a three-card limit raise in Standard American, one makes a bid of a new suit then goes to three of the major. Bidding a new suit at the two-level and then two of partner's major shows 10+ but partner may think you are just preferring the major over his second suit.

Often when in slam, it is best to play it safely. Put the ♥10 (Duck smoothly West) on the table and let it ride. You will likely lose to the Jack or Queen but now slam is guaranteed. If you are in 7♥, you will try cashing a top ♥ honour and then take the finesse when you see East out. Therefore 7♥ is down one and 6♥ makes seven.

Workshop 3 Inverted Minors

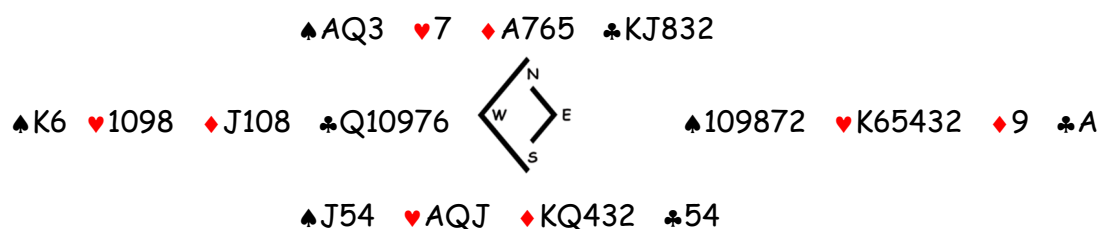
Last Revised March 26, 2016

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/InvertedMinors.pdf>

Board 1 Resist the Urge to Preempt

North Dealer

None Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1♦	P!!	2♦	P
2♠	P	3♥	P
3NT	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♥4

When you cannot beat dummy, always give count. It is not attitude because if you had a high card you would beat dummy. Partner will give count and you won't lead hearts again.

Analysis:

North must open 1♦ so he has a rebid of 2♣. He cannot rebid 1NT even if partner bids 1♥ because partner will take him for two ♥'s. He cannot rebid 2♠, because he does not have six ♣'s and it is shame to misrepresent a two-suited hand as a one-suited hand which could be done if ♦'s were poor.

East has more strength outside his suit than in his suit including a four-card major or longer. Yes 10xxxx in spades is valuable. Imagine if partner bids a ♠. This is not a weak jump overcall.

South has no four-card major so future major suit bids are just stoppers. Inverted minor bids, 1m to 2m or 1m to 3m all deny a four-card major by the responder.

After an inverted minor strong raise, No Trump promises stoppers in all suits skipped by himself and by partner. If one cannot bid No Trump, one bids stoppers up the line, skipping any unstopped suit. If one passes three of the minor, one is in a game-forcing auction. If one does not pass three of the minor, one is a minimum.


When one has enough for game and all suits stopped, one makes sure one gets to 3NT.

To play spades: small to the Queen then cash the ace. Running the ♠J is a false finesse.

Board 2 Avoid False Finesses

East Dealer

North South Vulnerable

				♠76543 ♥432 ♦-- ♣AK1065			
							
♠J98 ♥Q10 ♦AK105 ♣J987				♠K102 ♥AK5 ♦J432 ♣Q32			
				♠AQ ♥J9876 ♦Q9876 ♣4			
N	E	S	W				
	1♦	P	2♦				
P	2NT	P	3♣				
P	3♦	All Pass					

If East has a maximum then he does not have a club stopper otherwise he would have bid 3NT. When one bids No Trump, one shows a stopper in every suit skipped. If the ♣Jack is the only stopper, 3NT will have trouble, therefore assume East has a minimum.

N	E	S	W
	1♦	P	2♦
P	2NT	All Pass	

Opening Lead:

- Tough one
- East has shown both majors stopped and West has shown ♣'s
- With long trump, one tries the forcing defense but a singleton lead here may be the best against 3♦.
- Leading a trump will likely lose a trick. South must cover the ♦Jack and duck otherwise.
- Against 2NT, lead the ♥7.

Analysis:

In 3♦, when you get the bad news about trump, stop drawing trump and when South ruffs and shortens his trump and you have driven out your losers, only then should you resume drawing trump.

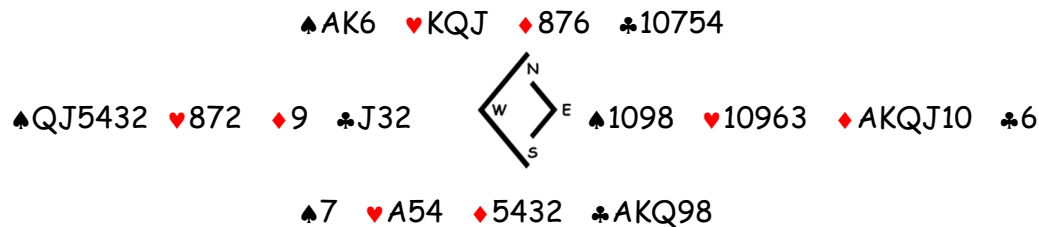
In 2NT, defenders will get two ♠'s, and 2♣'s and 2♥'s if declarer goes after ♣'s first. I would go after ♠'s not ♣'s because it is more likely the club honours are split. Wait until the opponents have to break open ♣'s.

Whatever contract, you cannot run the ♦ Jack through because it will be covered and promote the 9. Finesse to the ten, cash the Ace and hope for an endplay to get your ♦ Jack.

Board 3 No Stopper so Play 4m

South Dealer

East West Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
		1♣	P!!
2♣	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	3♣	P
3♥	P	4♣	All Pass

Opening Lead:

Lead the suit that kept the opponents out of 3NT, the ♦9

Analysis:

West cannot pre-empt, a weak suit and too weak a hand. Preempts have to describe one's hand and not make things difficult for partner if he has points.

You need only four-card support to make a strong inverted minor raise (10 or more). You need five to make a weak, 1♣ to 3♣ or 1♦ to 3♦, (less than 10) inverted minor raise.

South shows a ♥ stopper but denies a ♦ stopper with his 2♥ bid. North then shows a ♠ stopper and also denies a ♦ stopper because 2NT or 3NT would show a stopper in the suit he or his partner skipped.

North gives South one last chance to bid 3NT and he does not because they do not have a ♦ stopper.

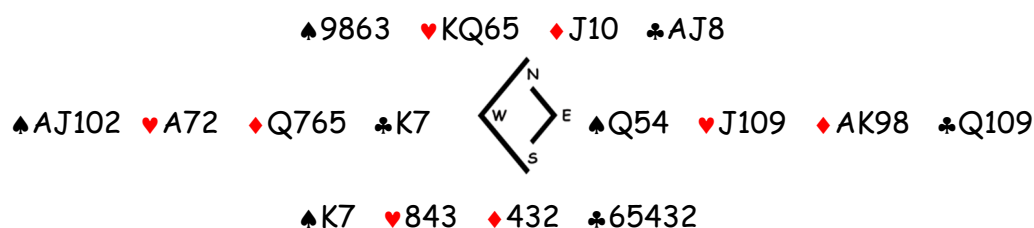
East must not double 3NT if he is on lead. Just be happy with setting them and do not let them run to 4♣.

Defense-Continue Diamonds and let partner overruff (ruff higher ahead of) dummy.

Board 4 Leads are often Costly

West Dealer

Both Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
			1♦
P	2♦	P	3NT
All Pass			

Opening Lead: North: ♦J.

I do not like the lead of the ♥5. Make it a five-card ♥ suit, then okay.
 People will likely find the lead of the ♥5, hence the title to this board.

South: ♥8

South has no entries and no strength in his longest suit

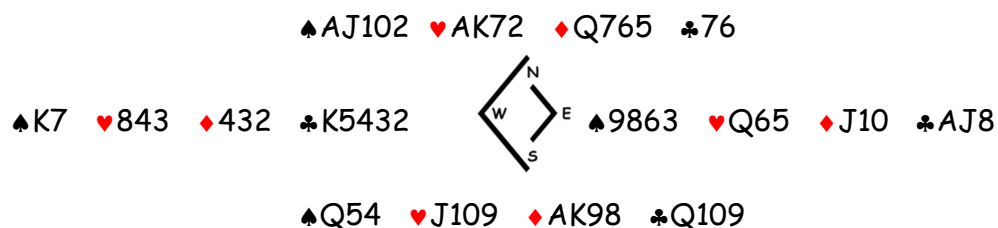
Analysis:

West has a stopper in all suits skipped (♥'s, ♠'s and ♣'s) and enough points (14+) opposite a minimum (10 to a bad 12) inverted minor forcing raise.

For the ♠ finesse, play the ♠4 to the ♠ten and then the ♠5 to the ♠Jack. If you run the Queen through, you will lose a trick.

Board 5 Need to Hear About Clubs

North Dealer NS Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1♦	P	2♦	P
2NT	P	3♣	P
3NT	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠9 or ♦Jack

Analysis:

North bids 2NT not because he is a minimum which he isn't but because he has both majors stopped and not ♣'s. Once partner bids clubs he can go to 3NT.

If a ♠ is not led by the defenders, one has to play small to the ♠Jack and then small to the ♠10.

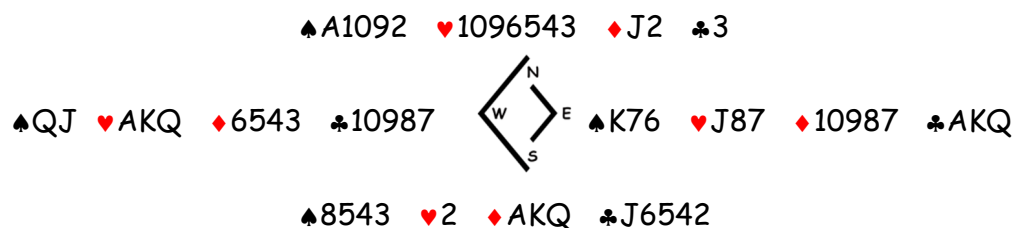
If declarer tries running the ♠Queen through, the ♠9 will be promoted.

Q103 is a full stopper Q54 is not.

Board 6 AKQ of Trump Always Good

East Dealer

East West Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
	1♦	P	2♦
P!!!	2♠	P	2NT
P	3♣	P	3♦
All Pass			

Opening Lead: 4♣

Singleton is not the lead because your AKQ are always good. Try to give partner a ruff.

Defenders want short hand ruffs too. Do not draw three rounds of trump or even one because that could very well be helping declarer.

Analysis:

If South had ♠A8543 ♥--- ♦AKQ ♣J6542, he should be reluctant to overcall with so much strength in the suit being overcalled.

West can bid 2NT because he has the suit that partner skipped stopped but not 3NT because he is a minimum and does not have ♣'s stopped.

We have seen a defense like this before. South has three trump tricks and a fourth trump trick if he gives partner a ♣ ruff. Remember, declarer will like you to draw partner's trump.

Board 7 I Thot They were Stoppers

South Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠AK4 ♥Q76 ♦AQ8 ♣J1098
♠QJ109 ♥K9852 ♦432 ♣7 N
W E S
♠8765 ♥AJ104 ♦J109 ♣65
♠32 ♥3 ♦K765 ♣AKQ432

N	E	S	W
		1♣	P
2♣	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	3♥	P
3NT	P	4♣	P
4♦	P	4♥	P
4♠	P	6♣	All Pass

Opening Lead: Normally when opponents jump to a slam one would lead ♥5, but there were just too many ♥ bids or cuebids so ♠Q is the safest lead.

Analysis:

South could have ♥'s stopped with the bid of 2♦ but he is missing either a ♥ or a ♠ stopper so he cannot bid 2NT or 3NT.

South is looking for slam not 3NT so his bids are cuebids. Bidding 4♣ over 3NT clarifies that indeed he is making slam tries. Not only is 4♣ forcing (natural too), it is a serious slam try.