



**One No Trump
By Warren Watson**

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/1NT.pdf>

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1NT is a balanced 15-17 points

A. What is balanced?

Balanced is no singletons or voids.

Hands with two strong doubletons that are not 5-4 in the majors are effectively balanced and may be opened No Trump.

If there is one doubleton, it does not need to be stopped, two doubletons do.

B. Summary of Balanced Hands

12 - 14	Open 1 of a suit and rebid 1NT.
15 - 17	Open 1NT.
18 - 19	Open 1 of a suit and jump in No Trump.
20 - 21	Open 2NT (all suits need not be stopped).
22 - 24	Open 2♣ and rebid 2NT.
25 - 27	Open 2♣ and rebid 3NT.
28+	Open 2♣ and rebid 4NT.

C. Basic System Over No Trump

1NT	Stayman	
2♣	Promises a 4-card major, (could be 5-4 in the majors also)	
	Jacoby Transfers	
2♦	Transfer to ♥'s. Partner bids 2♥ or superaccepts bidding 3♥.	
2♥	Transfer to ♠'s. Partner bids 2♠ or superaccepts bidding 3♠.	
	Minor Suit Transfer	
2♠	Weak hand (0-4 usually) and a six-card minor	
	Transfer to 3♣ which will be passed or corrected to 3♦ to be passed.	
2NT	8-9 invitational no four-card or longer major	
	Invitational Minor Bid	
3♣	6 ♣'s, 6-8 HCP's 2 of top 3 honours, no outside Ace or King	
3♦	6 ♦'s, 6-8 HCP's 2 of top 3 honours, no outside Ace or King	
3NT	10-15 no four-card or longer major	
4♣	Gerber, Ace Ask	
	Texas Transfers	
4♦	Transfer to 4♥	
4♥	Transfer to 4♠	
4NT	16-17 Quantitative	asking partner to pass with a minimum (15 to a bad 16) bid 6NT with a maximum (good 16 to 17)
6NT	18-19 Small Slam	
5NT	20-21 Grand Slam Force	asking partner to: bid 6NT with a minimum (15 to a bad 16) bid 7NT with a maximum (good 16 to 17)
7NT	22+ Grand Slam	

D. What is a Good 16?

- 16 with a five-card suit
- 16 with Ten's and nine's
- Not 4 triple 3 (a Flat Hand)

E. Points for Game and Slam:

What is the Easiest Way to Remember the Above Chart?

Game	25	Slam	33	Grand Slam	37
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Invite when you need partner to have a maximum and put him there if he has enough with a minimum and not enough for a higher milestone if a maximum.

F. Pigeon Holes

When Partner Opens 1NT, Place your hand in the following slots:

0-7 Find the safest part-score

8-9 Invitational

10-15 Game Going

16+ Slamish

G. Golden Fit

A golden fit is defined as any suit in which you and your partner have a combined 8 cards or longer. When a golden fit exists, distribution is counted.

Points = HCP's + Distribution Points

H. Distribution Points

	Long Trump Hand Points	Dummy Points
	Or 3 trump in dummy	4 trump in dummy
Doubleton	1	1
Singleton	2	3
Voids	3	5

When a golden fit exists in a major, one tends to play in the major.

When no Golden Fit exists, one tends to play in No Trump.

Furthermore, when game is sought, one often plays 3NT when a Golden Fit exists in a minor because nine tricks in No Trump are usually easier than 11 tricks in a minor which needs around 29 points.

I. Wasted Points

Wasted Points occur when an honour occurs in shortness or when an honour is opposite shortness in partner's hand. These holdings are wasted:

- Singleton King, Queen or Jack (Honour stiff, dry or frozen), Doubleton Queen or Jack (Qx or Jx), Tripleton Jack (Jxx).
- If partner has a void, the Ace, King, Queen and Jack in that suit are wasted and not worth their usual value in points. The Opponents may grab their winners in side suits before you ever get pitches (discards or sluffs) on that suit.
- If partner has a singleton, the King, Queen and Jack in that suit are wasted and worthless.
- If partner has a doubleton, the Queen and Jack in that suit are wasted and worthless.

J. Length Points

Length points are usually not counted until the suit is known to be accessible. Can partner even get to the fifth or sixth card? Counting both length and shortness points may lead to problems in re-evaluation. You may over-value your hand.

The fifth and sixth card in a long suit are worth one extra point each. The seventh and eighth cards are worth 3 points each.

K. Growth Points

Growth points are considered and your hand grows in value when you find out you have a Golden Fit and not until then. Until you know you and your partner have a Golden Fit and are going to play in that fit, you only count High Card Points (HCP). As soon as you have a Golden Fit, you re-evaluate your hand counting distribution and place the contract appropriately.

Hands are evaluated and re-evaluated at each chance to bid depending on what the opponents and partner bid.

Hands grow in value when:

- RHO (Right Hand Opponent) and not LHO have the outstanding points.
- You have good (Golden Fit or better) fits with one or all of partner's suits.
- Wasted points are opposite partner's No Trump bid or partner's suit.

Hands Decrease in Value when:

- There is a pre-empt. You will get bad breaks when an opponent pre-empts.
- Queens and Jacks are worthless in side suits when partner pre-empts.

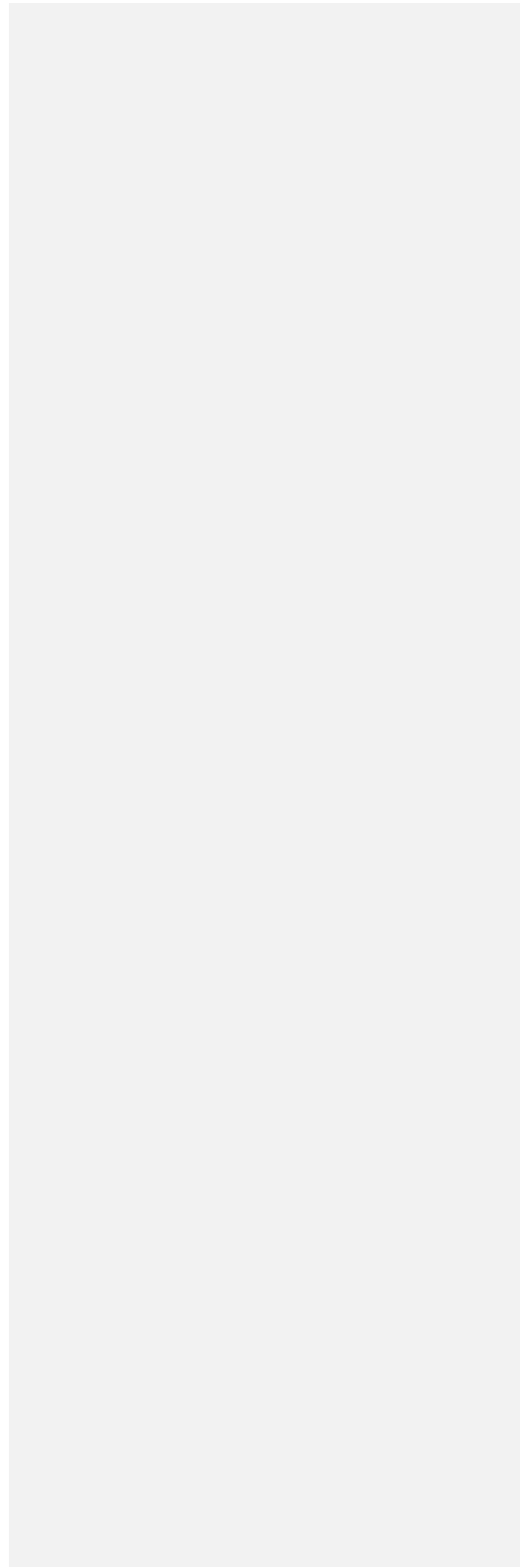
L. Stayman Responses

Stayman Bid (directly after 1NT)	Only Possible Responses		
	No 4-card Major	4 ♥'s and Maybe 4 ♠'s	4 ♠'s and No 4 ♥'s
2♣	2♦	2♥	2♠

M. Stayman Rebids

	8-9	10-15
After 2♦ response:		
Rebid Notrump	2NT	3NT
Bid a Major shows 5-4	2M	3M
New Suit is usually 5-cards	Two-Level	Three-Level
After 2♥ response:		
4 ♥'s (Golden Fit)	3♥	4♥
Less than 4 ♥'s	2NT	3NT
New Suit is usually 5-cards and denies ♥ fit	n/a	Three-Level
After 2♠ response:		
4 ♠'s (Golden Fit)	3♠	4♠
Less than 4 ♠'s	2NT	3NT
New Suit is usually 5-cards and denies ♠ fit	n/a	Three-Level

Note: "m" stands for minor, ♠'s or ♦'s and "M" stands for Major, ♥'s or ♠'s.



B. Another way to look at it

If the rebid is No Trump, you are asking partner to correct to the Major with 3 or 4 cards in that major because the Golden Fit needs 3. With a minimum, he corrects to 3M and with a maximum, he corrects to 4M.

If the rebid is the Major, the contract is set to the Major because the Golden Fit needs 2 cards from partner which is guaranteed from partner's No Trump Opening.

For Example:

1N 2♦
2♥ ??

P	5 ♥'s	0-7 HCP's (Just HCP's not distribution)
2NT	5 ♥'s	8-9 HCP's
New Suit		at the three-level
		10+
		2-suited with 5♥'s "choose game P"
		Or looking for a slam
3♥	6 ♥'s	8-9 Points (HCP's + distribution)
3NT	5 ♥'s	10-15 HCP's
4♥	6 ♥'s	10-15 Points (HCP's + distribution)

Q. Gerber

1. ONTO Over No Trump Openings or
2. DONT Directly over No Trump (first or last bid is no trump then 4♣ is Gerber)

I prefer 1. But either works. One must just agree with partner which one.

1NT	4♣	
4♦		0 or 4 Aces
4♥		1 Ace
4♠		2 Aces
4NT		3 Aces

After you ask for Aces, 5♣ asks for Kings but you always must ask for Aces first.

Asking for Kings does not promise that the partnership has all the Aces because one can still sign off in 5NT.

1NT	4♣	
4♣	5♣	
5♦		0 or 4 Kings
5♥		1 King
5♠		2 Kings
5NT		3 Kings

R. Higher Notrumps

Stayman:

2NT 3♣	2♣ 2♦	2♣ 2♦
	2NT 3♣	3NT 4♣

Transfer to ♥'s:

2NT 3♦	2♣ 2♦	2♣ 2♦
	2NT 3♦	3NT 4♦

2NT 4♦	2♣ 2♦
	2NT 4♦

Transfer to ♠'s:

2NT 3♥	2♣ 2♦	2♣ 2♦
	2NT 3♥	3NT 4♥

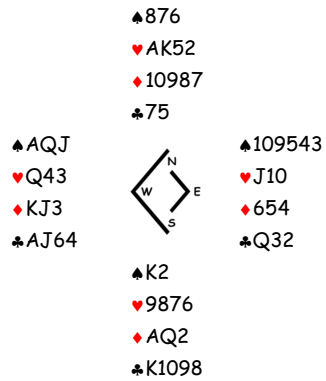
2NT 4♥	2♣ 2♦
	2NT 4♥

Gerber:

2NT 4♣	2♣ 2♦	2♣ 2♦	2♣ 2♦
	2NT 4♣	3NT 5♣	4NT 5♣

S. Examples

Example 1: Flat 18-Count and a Weak Hand (0-7) With a Five-Card Major
 North Dealer None Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: A♥

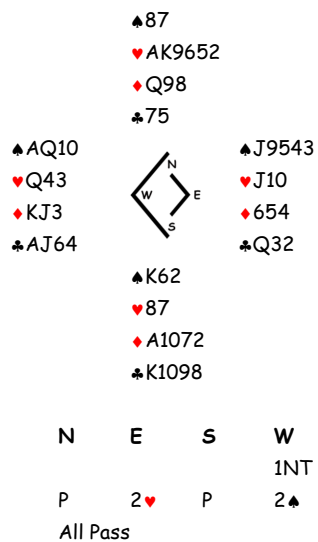
Results: 2♠= +110 or 1NW-2 -100

Notes:

- Typically one tries to avoid opening one No Trump with 18 points but one exception occurs with a flat (4triple3) hand and no intermediates.
- Nevertheless, 1NT will still not go so well.
- When weak 0-7HCP, transfer to a five-card major and pass.

Example 2: Weak Hand (0-7) with a Five-Card Major

West Dealer None Vulnerable



Opening Lead: A♥

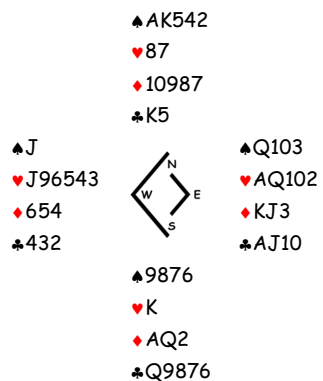
Results: 2♠= +110
1NW-1 -50 Opening lead 6♥

Notes:

- 1NT will not go as well as 2♠ because declarer cannot get to the ♠'s in dummy. Defender with Kxx will hold up once and then declarer does not get to his good ♠'s.
- When weak 0-7HCP, transfer to a five-card major and pass.

Example 3: Weak Hand (0-7) with a Six-card Major

East Dealer North South Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
		1NT	P
2♦	P	2♥	All Pass

Texas transfers are not meant to be used when very weak. Just use Jacoby and try for a positive.

Not:

W	N	E	S
		1NT	P
4♦	P	4♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: 9♠ to the King♠ then 10♦

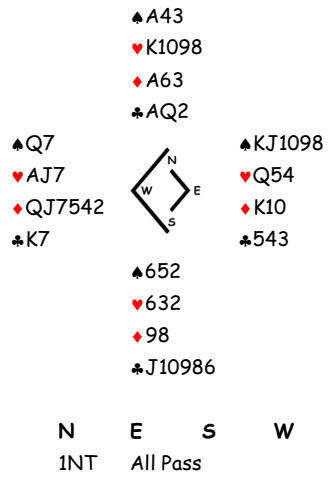
Result: 2♥E-1 -50

Notes:

- Old school states one should jump to 4♥ and stop the opponents from getting in the auction and finding their fit. That would be down 3 doubled for -500.
- New school states one should just try for a positive and compete if opponents get involved.
- The lead of the 10♦ shows the 9 and South show win Queen and switch so that partner can get in and continue with the 9♦.
- Declarer should ruff a ♠ and take the heart finesse and then trump as two more entries to take two ♣ finesses.

Example 4: Weak Hand (0-7) with a Five-card Minor

South Dealer East West Vulnerable



Opening Lead: J♠

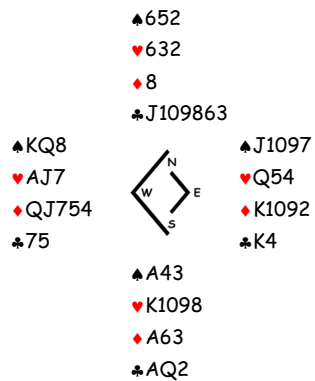
Results: 1NT= +90 or 3♣N-2 -100

Notes:

- Declarer will duck spades twice to break communication
- Declarer will play the Ace then the Queen of ♣'s.
- West exits a small ♥ and declarer must go up with the King. East will always get in with the Ace of ♥'s but he should not be allowed to get in with the Jack or Queen.

Example 5: Weak Hand (0-7) with a Six-card Minor

West Dealer Both Vulnerable



E	S	W	N
P	1NT	P	2♠
P	3♣	All Pass	

Opening Lead: K♠ against 3♣ and 5♦ against 1NT

Results: 3♣S= +110 or 1NS-1 -100

Notes:

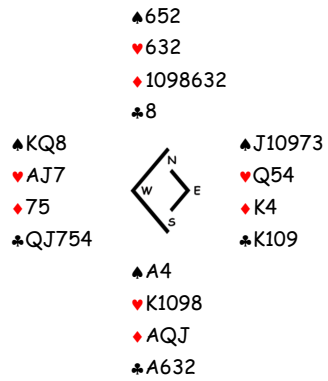
In 1NT, declarer will lose 4 ♦'s, 1♠ and 2 ♥'s.

In 3♣, ♦'s are transportation to take the trump finesse.

Finesse the ♥'s to the Ten then to the 9.

Example 6: Weak Hand (0-7) with a Six-card Minor

North Dealer North South Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: J♠

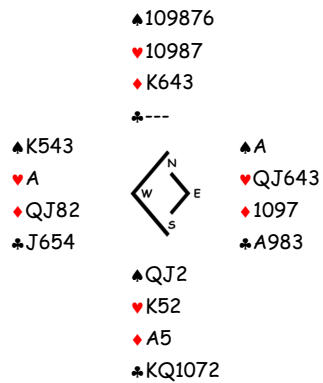
Results: 1NT-3 -300 or 3♦N+1 +130

Notes:

- In 1NT, declarer has no entries to dummy, but in ♦'s, declarer can ruff ♣'s to take the ♦ and ♥ finesses.
- Finesse to the Ten♥ and then the 9♥

Example 7: Weak Hand with 5-4 in the Majors

East Dealer East West Vulnerable



E	S	W	N
P	1NT	P	2♥
P	2♠	All Pass	

Opening Lead: 4♣

Result: 2♠+1 +140 or +170

Notes:

- Transfer to the five-card major and pass.
- Look what happens if one uses Trash Stayman. One ends up in an inferior 2♦ contract.
- Pitch a ♥ on the opening lead. Now you have two more ♥ pitches on the K♣ and Q♣.
- Ruff two ♦'s with Q♠ and J♠.
- After two ♦ are ruffed, play the 5♠ towards dummy and hope the spade honours crash.

Example 8: Weak Hand with 5-5 in the Majors

South Dealer Both Vulnerable

♠K543	♠109876	♠A
♥A	♥65432	♥QJ87
♦QJ10	♦K64	♦98732
♣J6543	♣---	♣A98
♠QJ2	♠QJ2	♠QJ2
♥K109	♥K109	♥K109
♦A5	♦A5	♦A5
♣KQ1072	♣KQ1072	♣KQ1072

E	S	W	N
P	2♠	All Pass	2♥

Opening Lead: Q♦

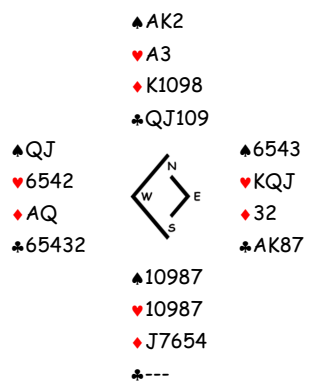
Result: 2♠= +110 or +140 if defenders have not learnt about crashing honours.

Notes:

- Pick the better major. Transfer to it and pass.
- Ruff a ♦ high and put the Q♠ on the table. Hopefully the King and Ace crash but the defenders probably learnt the lesson from the last example.
- East will win Ace♠ and exit a ♦. A sluff and a ruff does not help declarer but declarer must ruff in the short trump hand.
- Draw trump and lead a small ♥ to the 10.
- East can split his honours with the Jack♥ or duck smoothly.

Example 9: Trash Stayman: Weak Hand with Short ♣'s

West Dealer None Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
P	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♦	All Pass	

Opening Lead: K♥

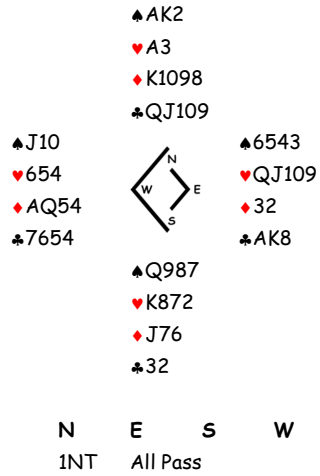
Result: 2♦+3 +150

Notes:

- Rule of 22: You need 22 points, on average, either to set opponent's 1NT or to make your own 1NT. That amounts to 7 tricks in either case. You could have 16 to 18 points total and poor communication. So trash Stayman saves partner from a doomed 1NT.
- 0-4 points and short ♣'s.
- Ideally 4-4-5-0 or 4-4-4-1, but usually 4-3-4-2 or 3-4-4-2 or 4-4-3-2.
- Bid 2♣ as Stayman and pass whatever partner bids.
- Did you notice the Queen and Jack♠ fall. Of course you did. One keeps track of the 16 honour cards and 13 trump at the very least.

Example 10: No Trash Stayman When Not Weak

North Dealer East West Vulnerable



Opening Lead: Q♥

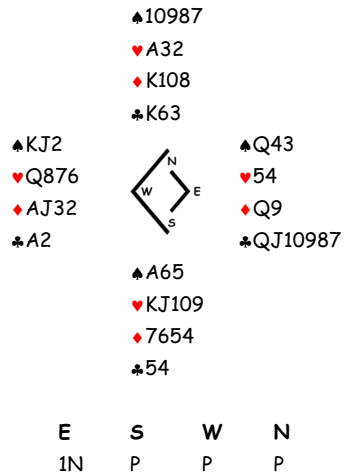
Result: 1NT+2 +150

Notes:

- Trash Stayman must be weak (0-4)
- With 5-7 just let partner play 1NT, he is likely to make and you do not want to risk a bad diamond fit.
- Attack diamonds because you need three ♥ stoppers to set up ♣'s.
- Run J♦ through.
- Did you notice the Ten♠ fall?

Example 11: Seven Points: Weak 6 card minor

East Dealer Both Vulnerable



E	S	W	N
1N	P	P	P

Opening Lead: 10♠

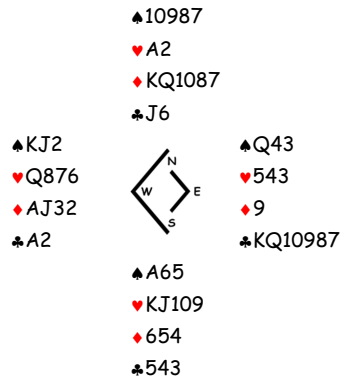
Results: 1NTE= +90 or 3♣-1 -100

Notes:

- Rule of 22: One needs 22 HCP's to make 1NT or to set 1NT (7 tricks) on average.
- With side suit values, 1NT may be more successful than three of a minor
- South will keep the Ace♠ for dummy's Q♠.
- North will duck twice with the King♣.
- West will get to the ♣'s in dummy with the Q♦.
- North will continue ♠'s and South will win Ace and put Jack♥ on the table. Declarer must duck twice.
- Declarer will win two ♠'s, 0♥'s, 2♦'s and whatever ♣'s are left once the defenders take their 6 winners.

Example 12: Seven Points: Good 6 card minor

South Dealer None Vulnerable



S	W	N	E
P	1NT	P	3♣
P	3NT	All Pass	

Opening Lead: K♦

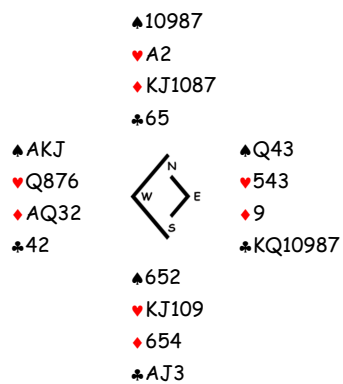
Result: 3NTW= +400

Notes:

- K♦ is the top of a broken sequence. Declarer holds up (Bath coup) and North switches to 10♠.
- East invites partner with 3 of a minor showing:
 - 6-8 HCP's
 - Two of the top three honours
- Partner will bid 3NT or pass three of the minor
- Once declarer plays 3♦ under the King♦ and South discourages with the 4♦, if North continues with a ♦, declarer will succeed with the Bath coup and make +460.

Example 13: Seven Points: Good 6 card minor

South Dealer None Vulnerable



S	W	N	E
P	1NT	P	3♣

All Pass

Opening Lead: J♥, top of an interior sequence. Usually a lead only at No Trump but RHO is weak.

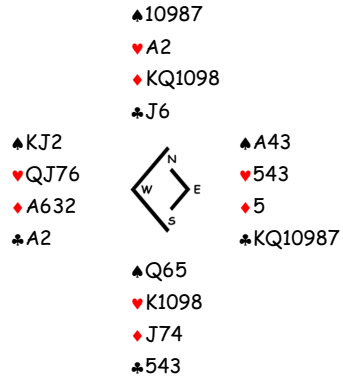
Result: 3♣E= +110

Notes:

- J♥ is the top of an interior sequence. Usually a lead only at No Trump except when RHO is weak. Usually not done on the opening lead against a trump contract. It is a good lead in the middle of the play when the hands are known, however.
- East invites partner with 3 of a minor showing:
 - 6-8 HCP's
 - Two of the top three honours
- Partner will pass three of the minor without the other honour and only a doubleton.
- Declarer will duck the ♥ lead twice.

Example 14: Nine Points: Good 6 card minor

West Dealer North South Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
1NT	P	3NT	All Pass

Opening Lead: Q♦

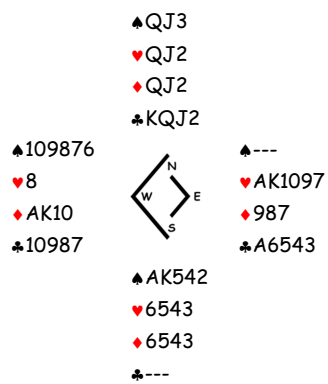
Result: 3NT+1 +430

Notes:

- Q♦ shows a long honour sequence just missing the Jack. Declarer holds up (Bath coup) and North continues a ♦.
- Just bid 3NT with a good minor with 2/3 top honours and an outside entry.
- We see potential for the Bath Coup again, but this time South plays the Jack and North continues.

Example 15: Seven HCP's: Five-card Major and Shape

North Dealer Both Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2♥	P
2♠	All Pass		

All Pass

Opening Lead: A♥ then K♥ then 9♥ saying nothing gets back into East's hand.

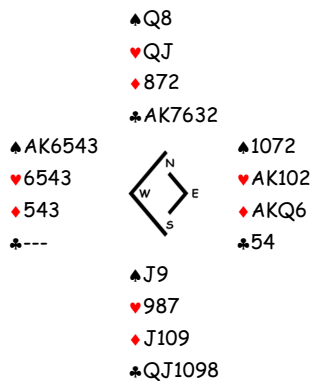
Result: 2♠N= +110

Notes:

- Transfer to the Major and unless partner superaccepts, pass.
- Do not try the lottery and gamble partner has three, do not count distribution.
- One does not count distribution until an eight-card or Golden fit has been found.
- North has a Quackish (Queens and Jacks) hand and six wasted ♣ points.
- Quackish hands are better at No Trump than a trump suit.

Example 16: Seven HCP's: Six-card Major and Shape

East Dealer None Vulnerable



E	S	W	N
1NT	P	4♥	P
4♠	All Pass		

Advanced Bidding:

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

Opening Lead: Q♣, top of touching honours is a very natural lead

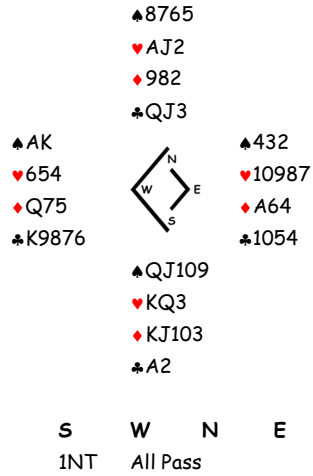
Result: 4♠E+3 +510

Notes:

- You have a Golden eight-card fit because partner guarantees two of your suit to open 1NT
- Count distribution and bid appropriately
- Note the differences from the last example where game is not made and now grand slam is made (not bid of course)
 - Point Swallowing: When points are wasted such as QJ doubleton, whoever has the AK gets an additional three points.
 - Equal splits such as 3-3 in diamonds are less likely than unequal splits 4-2.
 - In a nine-card ♠ fit when the trump split 2-2, the QJ are unnecessary.
 - Note: All points opposite a void are wasted. There are no wasted points here.

Example 17: Flat 8 Points

South Dealer North South Vulnerable



Opening Lead: 7♣ 4th best from broken or single honours.

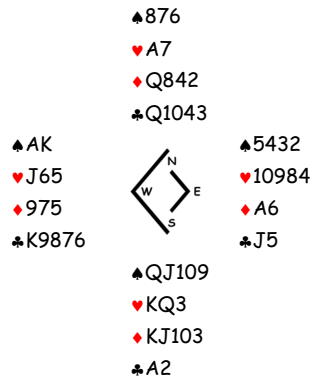
Results: 1NT= +90 or 3NT-2 -200

Notes:

- Flat means 4triple3.
- Just pass.
- South accepts an invite, if given, with this good 16.
- A good 16 either has a five card suit or a couple of touching Tens.
- North cannot tell but the J♥ is wasted.

Example 18: Invitational 2NT

West Dealer East West Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: 7♣, 4th best.

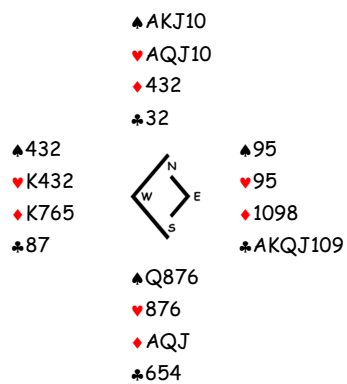
Result: 3NT= +400

Notes:

- 2NT shows 8-9 HCP and no major longer than three cards.
- Rule of 11:
 - When a player leads his 4th best card declarer subtracts the spot from 11 to determine how to play the suit.
 - Declarer knows there are 4 cards (11-7=4) higher than the 7♣ in North, East and his own hand.
 - He can see three so he ducks and takes East's Jack with his Ace. He can now finesse to the 10♣ with 100% confidence.
- Partner will accept with a good 16 or any 17.
- Look at the difference of not being 4triple3 does compared with the flat 8-point hand.

Example 19: Invitational Stayman

North Dealer None Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: A♣


Result: 3♠+1 +170

Notes:

- 1NT only promises that two doubletons are both stopped unless you do not have a rebid
- Some say do not use Stayman when 4triple3.
 - That is incorrect. Look at what happens in ♣'s in 2NT or 3NT.
 - One passes with a 4triple3 8-count but this is 9.
- On declarer play, use entries wisely.

Example 20: Invitational Stayman

East Dealer North South Vulnerable

	♠109	
	♥A2	
	♦1098765	
	♣A76	
♠QJ65		♠K432
♥K76		♥QJ54
♦43		♦AKJ
♣K532		♣Q4
	♠A87	
	♥10983	
	♦Q2	
	♣J1098	

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

Opening Lead: J♣

Result: 4♠= +420


Notes:

- East has a bad 16 because of the small cards and the doubleton Q of clubs (wasted honour)
- Q♣ is wasted because East will ruff the third round and the Queen is usually a third-round card.
- West is originally 8-9 HCP's but once ♠'s are trump, he can count distribution and has 10 points.
- North will keep the Ace♣ to cover the King so declarer will win the opening lead with the Queen and start drawing trump.
- Play 6♥ to the Queen♥ and cross to dummy and play the 7♥ to the Jack♥

Example 21: Invitational with a Five Card Major

South Dealer

East West Vulnerable

♠KQ1098		♠54
♥432		♥10987
♦K32		♦QJ6
♣32		♣AKQJ
♠J763		♠A2
♥QJ6		♥AK5
♦1098		♦A754
♣654		♣10987

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2♥	P
2♣	P	2NT	All Pass

Opening Lead: Queen♥ then Jack♥ next time ♥'s are played

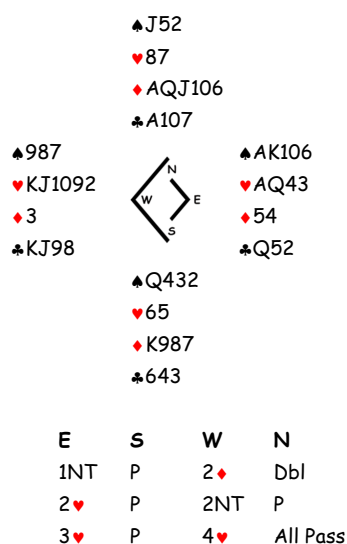
Result: 2NS+1 +150

Notes:

- West has no entries, ♥'s is best lead
- The ♠'s must be finessed. Cash Ace then play to the Ten.

Example 22: Invitational (8 to 9 HCP) With a Five-Card Major and Shape

West Dealer Both Vulnerable



Opening Lead: 7♦ (4th best from an honour)

Result: 4♥= +620

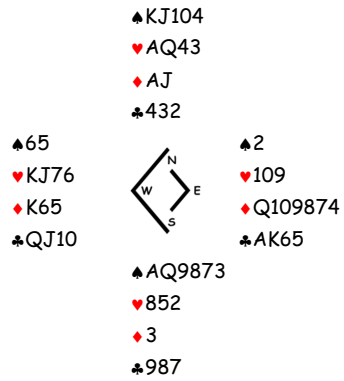
Notes:

- North doubles an artificial bid for a diamond lead.
- East signs off in 3♥ and West counts distribution with a *Golden fit* (8 card fit or longer) and his hand grows from an invitational hand to a game going hand. He bids 4♥.
- South leads in partner's suit:
 - High from any doubleton
 - Top of any touching honour QJx: lead the Queen
 - Low from a nontouching honour, three cards or longer (4th best)
 - Top of nothing: 972: lead the 9 and play the 7 next or partner will think it a doubleton.

Example 23: Invitational with a Six-Card Major

North Dealer

North South Vulnerable



N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	3♠	All Pass

Opening Lead: A♣

Result: 3♠N= +140

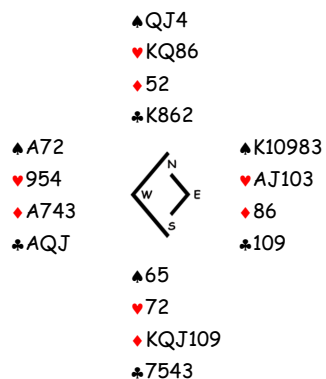
Notes:

- There is a Golden Fit in ♠'s so South can count 2 points for the singleton
- West will play the top of the sequence under partner's Ace♣

Example 24: Invitational with 5-4 in the Majors

East Dealer

East West Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: K♦, top of an honour sequence

Result: 2♠+1 +140

Notes:

- With 0-7, East transfers to ♠'s and passes.
- With 8+, East uses Stayman. With 8-9, he invites after West's response and with 10+, he gets the partnership to game.
 - Stayman was invented independently by George Rapee of New York and Jack Marx of England. George's Partner, Samuel Stayman published and promoted the bid and got his name on the convention.
- West was not thrilled with his flat 15-count and passes. Had he liked his minimum, he would have raised to 3♠. If he had a maximum, he would have raised to 4♠. East probably would raise 3♠ to 4♠ and be down one.

Example 25: Invitational with 5-5 in the majors

South Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠AQJ4		♠K10983
♥KQ8		♥AJ1063
♦52		♦86
♣K9862		♣10
♠A72		♠K10983
♥954		♥AJ1063
♦A743		♦86
♣AQJ		♣10
♠65		♠65
♥72		♥72
♦KQJ109		♦KQJ109
♣7543		♣7543

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

Opening Lead: 5♦

Result: 4♥W+1 +650

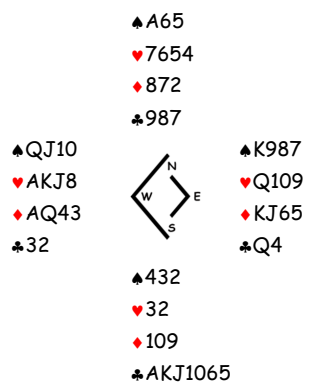
Notes:

- When 5-4 in the majors, one uses Stayman, but with 5-5, one transfers to one major and rebids the other. A rebid at the two-level shows 8-9 and a rebid at the three-level shows 10+.
- With equal length in both majors, West will choose the major which keeps the strong hand hidden.
- Declarer wins the Ace♦ and cashes the Ace♣ and puts the Q♣ on the table. If North covers, dummy ruffs and then goes back to Ace♠ to pitch a diamond on the good J♣. However, North ducks smoothly and West pitches dummy's last ♦.
- Hearts must be finessed twice but once is only necessary with the cards the way they are.

Example 26: Game Forcing Stayman

West Dealer

None Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♣	Dbl
2♥	P	4♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: 9♣

Results: 4♥W=+420 or 3NT-3 -150

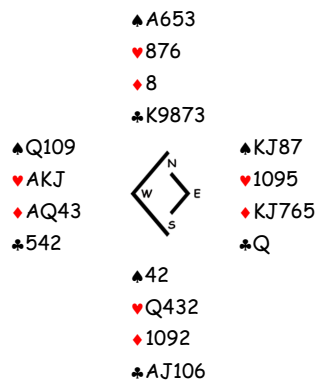
Notes:

- South doubles for a ♣ lead.
 - Any double of an artificial bid asks for that suit to be led either on opening lead or at partner's first chance on lead.
 - Lead top of nothing in partner's suit (♣'s) or low from honour third or longer.
- If West had a club stopper, he passes asking East to Redouble to repeat Stayman. West would then bid 2♥ showing four♥'s and a ♣ stopper. However West does not have a stopper so he uses FADS.
- Fast Action Denies Stopper. West directly bids 2♥ showing no ♣ stopper and four♥'s.
- Moysian Play
 - Alphonse Moysé suggested a 4-3 fit as an alternative to 3NT without a suit stopped or 5 of a minor when 4 only makes.
 - Never ruff in the long trump hand
 - Kick out the spade Ace before touching trump so the short hand can take care of ♣ forces.

Example 27: Two-Suited Game Forcing Stayman

West Dealer

East West Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: 7♣

Results: 5♦ = +600 or 3NT-2 -200

Notes:

- West denies a four-card major with 2♦ and shows ♥ stoppers with 3♥.
- East's bid of 3♦ shows five (usually) ♦'s and a four-card major with unstopped side suits.
- Always lead the suit that kept the opponents out of 3NT.
- Top of interior sequence leads only apply when the interior sequence is headed by the Ten or higher (K10953). Lead fourth best otherwise.

Example 28: Game Forcing Stayman with Long Minor

North Dealer East West Vulnerable

♠A653				
♥AQ86				
♦K4				
♣K73				
♠K4		♠987		
♥K75		♥J10932		
♦632		♦A		
♣AQ542		♣J1098		
♠QJ102				
♥4				
♦QJ109875				
♣6				
S	W	N	E	
P!*	P	1NT	P	
2♣	P	2♥	P	
3♦	P	3♠	P	
4♠	All Pass			

Opening Lead: J♣

Result: 4♠N= +420

Notes:

- South cannot pre-empt in first or second seat with a four-card major.
- Two-Suited hands are powerful. A seven-card suit adds three points.
- Leading Ace♦ in opponents side suit is not a good idea without a trump control and a way to get to partner's hand.
- Use long trump to get to the diamonds and not to finesse ♠'s which could lose.
- Cash Ace♠ and out a ♠.
- Draw trump and then play King♦.

Example 29: Game Forcing With a Five Card Major

East Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠KQ87
♥5
♦AQ108
♣9873

♠1095 ♥AQ1098 ♦97 ♣AK10		♠AJ43 ♥KJ ♦KJ32 ♣QJ2	
----------------------------------	--	-------------------------------	--

♠62
♥76432
♦654
♣654

E	S	W	N
1NT	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	3NT	All Pass

Opening Lead: 6♠

Result: 3NTE+2 +660

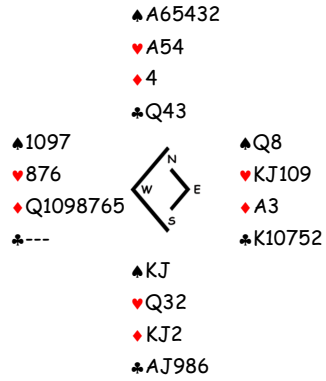
Notes:

- West has 10-15 HCP's and a five card major.
- West transfers to the major and rebid 3NT.
- South has no intention in leading opponent's suit, ♥'s and has no strength of his own so he leads the unbid major.

Example 30: Game Forcing with a Six-Card Major

South Dealer

None Vulnerable



S	W	N	E
1NT	P	4♥	P
4♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead: 10♦

Result: 4♠+1 +450

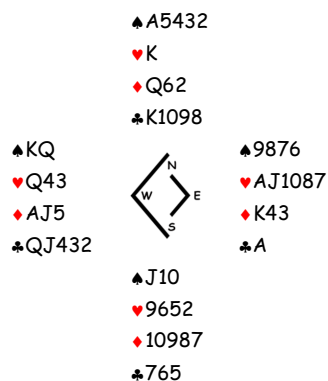
Notes:

- Top of an interior sequence is a rare lead at a trump contract
- West is too weak to pre-empt. Need at least 5 points and with only 5 points, they will all be in ♦'s.
- Finesse J♠ in the only direction it can be finessed: 2♠ to the Jack♠
- Finesse with the Q♣ first to pick up King fifth

Example 31: Game Forcing with 5-4 in the Majors

West Dealer

North South Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: 10♦

Result: 4♥+1 +450

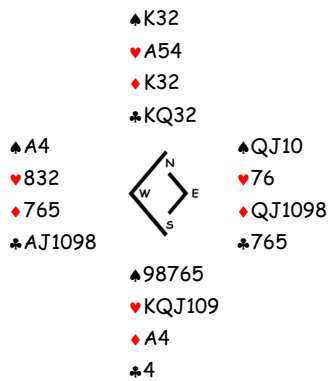
Notes:

- Cover the Ten with the Ace♦ since at a trump contract, interior sequence leads are not done so North has the Queen♦. North will win A♠ and cannot continue diamonds. He will exit a ♠.
- One has short hand ruffs to take care of before drawing trump.
- Ruff ♠'s and come back with ♣'s.
- You will not draw trump. Opponent's (South) likely will. If you did draw trump, you should finesse with the 3♥ first.
- Do the ruffing Finesse in Clubs
- Cash Ace♣ then put the Q♣ on the table. If it is covered ruff, otherwise throw a ♦.

Example 32: Game Forcing with 5-5 in the majors

North Dealer

Both Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: Q♦

Result: 4♥N= +650

Notes:

- When 5-5 and with enough points for game, transfer to the better major first, ♥'s, and then bid the other one at the three-level.
- When 5-5 and invitational, one had to transfer to ♥'s first.
- Avoid leading any of opponent's suit like the plague.
- There are no short-hand ruffs so draw trump right away.
- Declarer will lose two ♠'s and a ♣.

Example 33: Game Forcing with 5-5 in the majors

North Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠754		♠A
♥AK3		♥QJ1094
♦K32		♦QJ1098
♣KQ32		♣65
♠8632		♠A
♥---		♥QJ1094
♦765		♦QJ1098
♣AJ10987		♣65
	♠KQJ109	
	♥87652	
	♦A4	
	♣4	

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

Opening Lead: Q♥

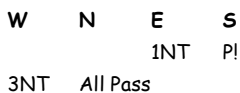
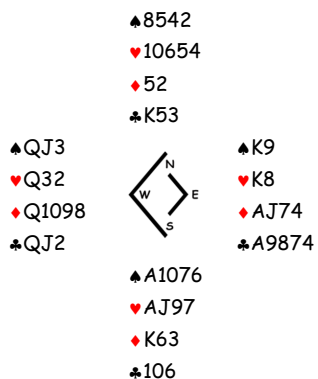
Result: 4♠-1 -100

Notes:

- When 5-5 and with enough points for game, transfer to the better major, ♠'s, first and then bid the other one at the three-level.
- With Ace of trump and length in ♥'s, try to give partner a couple of ♥ ruffs.

Example 34: Jump to 3NT (10-15)

East Dealer None Vulnerable



Opening Lead: 7♥

Result: 3NTE = +400

No Trump Checklist

What Pigeon Hole is my hand?

0-7 8-9 10-15 16+

Do I have a five-card or longer Major? Transfer to it. Rebid shows specific Pigeon Hole.

Am I really weak (0-4)?

Trash Stayman

Transfer to a six-card minor.

Pass

Am I moderately weak (5-7)?

Pass

Do I have a 4-card major or 5-4 in the majors?

Use Stayman

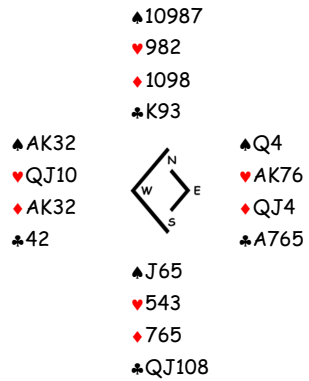
With no major:

2NT 8-9 invitational

3NT 10-15 game going

Example 35: Quantitative

South Dealer North South Vulnerable



S	W	N	E
P	1NT	P	4NT
P	6NT	All Pass	

Opening Lead: 10♠

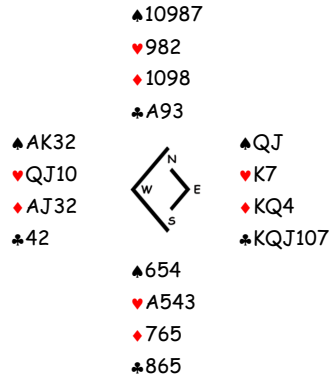
Result: 6NTW= +990

Notes:

- 4NT is not Blackwood asking for Aces. We have Gerber (4♣) for that.
- 4NT is quantitative. If opener has a maximum (good quantity of points), he bids 6NT, otherwise he passes. Some give Aces if accepting to make sure the partnership is not off two Aces, but it is not Ace asking.
- One rarely leads from solitary honours against a slam.
- Declarer will play the suit that benefits from opponent's discarding in that suit to the very end. This suit is ♠'s.
- Declarer can count twelve tricks and could be 13 if both opponent's discard a ♠. Give them a chance to do so.

Example 36: Gerber

West Dealer East West Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
1NT	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4NT	All Pass

Opening Lead: 10♠

Results: 4NT+2 +690 or 4NT+1 if ♥ switch found.

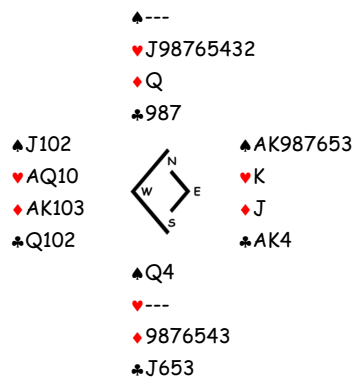
Notes:

Declarer will win the opening lead with the Q♠ and knock out the ♣ Ace. North has to find a heart switch or declarer makes 12 tricks.

South will play the 8♣ first so partner will switch to the higher ranking suit of the two suits not played (♥'s and ♦'s).

Example 37: Single-Suited Slam

South Dealer Both Vulnerable



S	W	N	E
P	1NT	P	4♣
P	4♠	P	5♣
P	5♥	P	7NT

All Pass

Opening Lead: 7♥

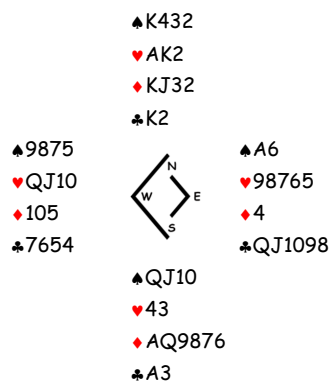
Results: 7NTW= +2220 or 7♠W-1 -100 or 7♥x-7 -2000

Notes:

- North and South do not have suitable hands with which to pre-empt.
- Gerber is all East needs to find 7.
- East can count 14 winners so he should always play 7NT. Why risk an opening lead ruff in a 7♠ contract? Whenever one can count 13 winners, one plays in 7NT,
- The lead from top of nothing hopes to not give declarer an undeserved trick.
- The lead from a long suit is also less likely to set up declarer's long suit and partner may get a ruff.

Example 38: Minor Suit Slam

West Dealer None Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
P	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	3♦
P	3♥	P	4♣
P	4NT	P	5♠
P	6♦	All Pass	

Opening Lead: Q♥

Result: 6♦S= +920 6NN= +990

Notes:

- After Stayman, a suit at the three-level is forcing to game.
- It is showing one of two hands:
 - Five of the minor and a 4-card major or
 - Six of the minor, no 4-card major and a slam interest.
- North has two options and 4 of a minor is not an option.
- With no slam interest:
 - Lots of Queens and Jacks
 - Poor support for partner's minor
 - If he has stoppers in the other minor, he bids 3NT. If he does not have all the suits stopped, he cuebids stoppers up the line.
- With slam interest:
 - Lots of Aces and Kings.
 - Doubleton not in partner's suit.
 - 3 card support (not too necessary) in partner's suit.
 - He cuebids an Ace up the line, skipping any suit he does not have an Ace in.

Example 39: Two-Suited Slam

North Dealer East West Vulnerable

	♠K432		
	♥AK2		
	♦KJ32		
	♣K2		
♠9875	♠AQJ6		
♥QJ10	♥98765		
♦105	♦64		
♣7654	♣98		
	♠10		
	♥43		
	♦AQ987		
	♣AQJ103		

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

Opening Lead: Q♥

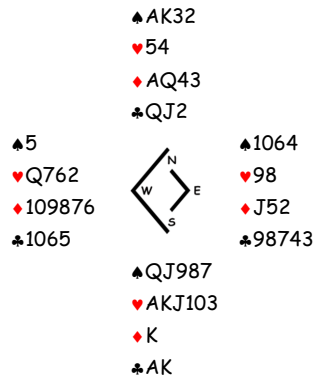
Result: 6♦S= +920

Notes:

- We go through Stayman for any minor suit slam.
- Advanced bidding uses 2♠ as minor suit Stayman asking for a four-card minor. This works well but is beyond the scope of this text.
- 4♣ is not Gerber. Gerber is a jump to 4♣ after a No Trump opening.

Example 40: Slamish 5-5

North Dealer None Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: 10♦

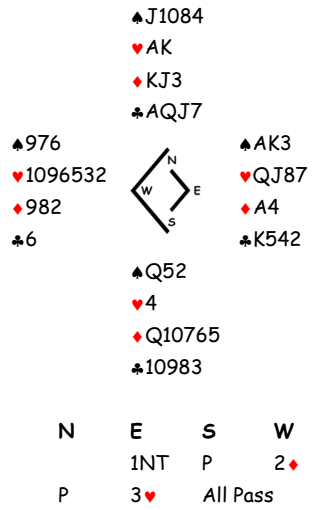
Result: 7♠S= +1510

Notes:

- South transfers to his better major and then bids the other one at the three-level.
- There are 13 tricks available in No Trump, but the possession of Queens cannot be known so 7♠ is the safest.

Example 41: Superacceptance

East Dealer North South Vulnerable



Opening Lead: 10♣

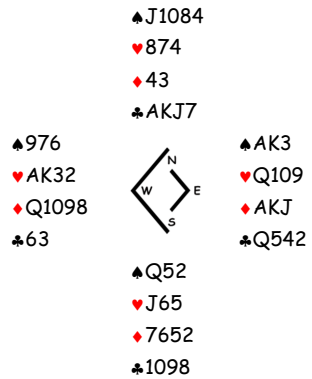
Result: 3♥E= +140

Notes:

- Even if West is bust, the three-level should be safe.
- A spade lead is very unlikely from South's holding.
- East will play one round of trump and then let North ruff in with his trump winner.

Example 42: 18-19 No Trump

East Dealer North South Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: 2♠

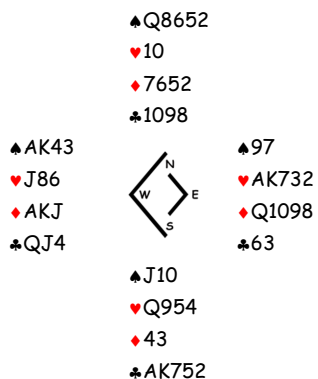
Result: 3NTE+1 +430

Notes:

- If East had only 2 ♥'s he could have gone right to 3NT.
- If East had 4 ♥'s, he would have raised partner to game.
- East is showing 18-19 HCP, balanced distribution, three or fewer ♥'s and 4 or fewer ♠'s.
- South should lead the unbid major trying to find spades in his partner's hand. South is bust and will never set up his ♦'s.

Example 43: 18-19 and New Minor Forcing

South Dealer East West Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: A♣

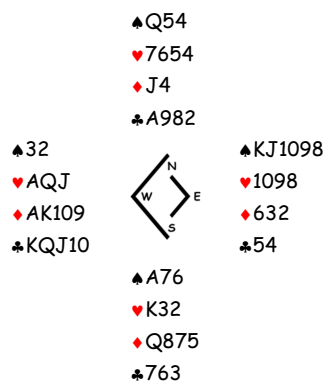
Result: 4♥W= +620

Notes:

- With 3-3 in the minors, one always opens 1♣.
- West has 18-19 balanced and skips his four-card ♠ suit to jump to 2NT to ensure he plays the No Trump contract and to tell partner his range.
- East bids the other minor (New Minor Forcing) that partner did not open in asking about the major holdings.
 - East must have either 5 ♥'s or 4 ♠'s to do this.
 - 3♥ shows three ♥'s (since 2NT denies 4 ♥'s) and denies 4 ♠'s
 - 3♠ shows a four-card ♠ suit and partner may have three ♥'s.
- Declarer Play: Cash Ace♥ and then play a small ♥ to the Jack.

Example 44: 20-21 No Stopper

West Dealer Both Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
2NT	P	3♥	P
3♣	P	3NT	All Pass

Or:

W	N	E	S
1♦	All Pass		

Opening Lead: 8♣

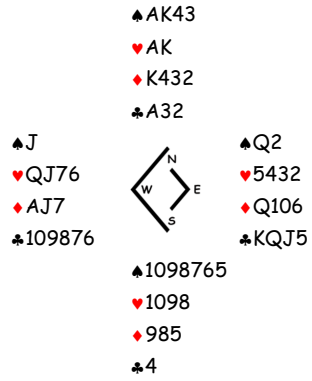
Result: 3NT= +600

Notes:

- Old school states that one does not bid 2NT with a suit unstopped especially a ♠ doubleton.
- This is no longer done.
 - Partner could have the suit you are missing
 - The opponents may not lead that suit
 - You may miss a good game if you open one of a minor because partner will pass with most 5 point hands and 4 points is all that is needed for game.
- West will finesse to the Ten♠ and South will hold up once. Take the ♥ finesse each time you are allowed to get to dummy. South may hold up in ♠'s twice.
- Cash AK♦ and then the 10♦.

Example 45: 20-21 Superacceptance

North Dealer None Vulnerable



W	N	E	S
	2NT	P	3♥
P	4♠	All Pass	

Opening Lead: K♣

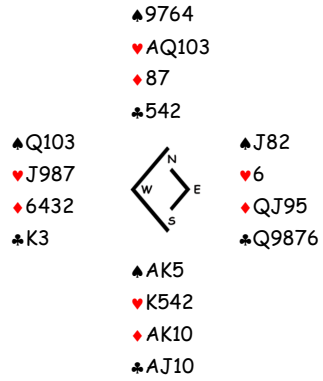
Result: 4♠N+1 +450

Notes:

- This is a rare bid but North's hand grows outside the 20-12 2NT range.
- With 5 ♠'s and a doubleton club. 4♠ is cold.

Example 46: 22-24

East Dealer North South Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: 6♦

Result: 4♥S+1 +650

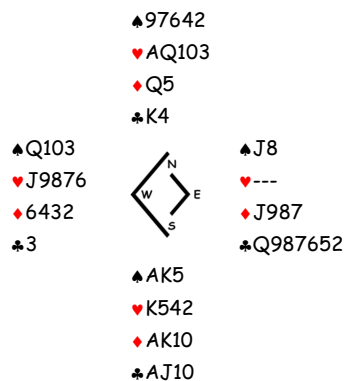
Notes:

- South has shown 22-24 HCP's so North knows they have enough for game (25), but not enough for slam (33).
- North has at least one four-card major so he bids 3♣, Stayman.
- Declarer has roughly a 75% chance at making 2 tricks in ♣'s.
- He must play to the 10♣ and then the J♣.

Example 47:22-24

South Dealer East West Vulnerable

2014.04.07.HandsForHolly



N	E	S	W
		2♣	P
2♦	P	2NT	P
3♣	P	3♥	P
4NT	P	5♦	P
6NT	All Pass		

Opening Lead: 6♦ top of nothing

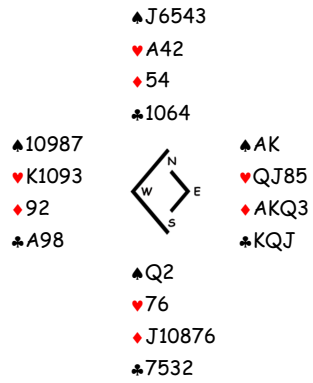
Result: 6NT= +990

Notes:

- 2♣ is strong, 22+ HCP or 8.5 Quick Tricks
- 2♦ is waiting
- 2NT shows 22-24
 - 3♣ is Stayman
- 4NT is Roman KeycardBlavkwood
 - 5♣ is 0 or 3 keycards (Ace or King of trump)
 - 5♦ is 1 or 4 (the case here)
 - 5♥ is 2 without the Queen of trump
 - 5♠ is 2 with the Queen of trump
- Must play 6NT and not be at the mercy of a bad ♥ break

Example 48: 25-27 Stayman

West Dealer Both Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: J♦, top of a broken sequence

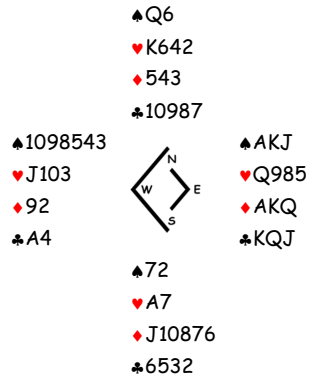
Result: 4♥+2 +680 3N+2 +660

Notes:

- Stayman is very important because the heart fit allows declarer to make six.
- One should not be there but in matchpoints, a good board is nice.

Example 50: 25-27 Transfers

North Dealer North South Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: A♥ and then the 7♥

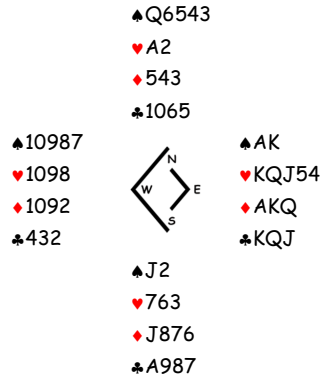
Result: 4♠E= +420

Notes:

- The lead of the Ace doubleton is a somewhat desperate attempt to get a ruff.
- This type of lead gets led too often, but it works here, otherwise declarer makes +450.
- Typically Aces are led when the King is held as well. Aces are meant to take an honour not air.

Example 51: 28+

East Dealer East West Vulnerable



E	S	W	N
2♣	P	2♦	P
4NT	P	All Pass	

Opening Lead: 7♣

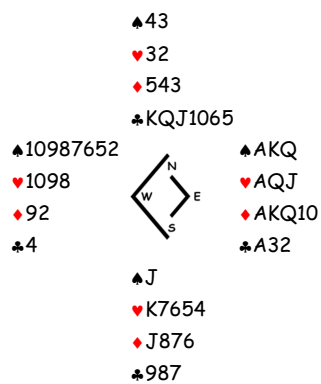
Result: 4NT= +630

Notes:

- Lead 4th best. Top of interior sequences are usually only led when the top of the interior sequence is a Ten or higher, an honour.
- With the strong hand to one's right, one tries not to leading from a King, Queen or Jack. A top ♥ is the second choice of a lead to try not to give declarer an undeserved trick.

Example 52: 28+ Super Gerber

East Dealer East West Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: K♣

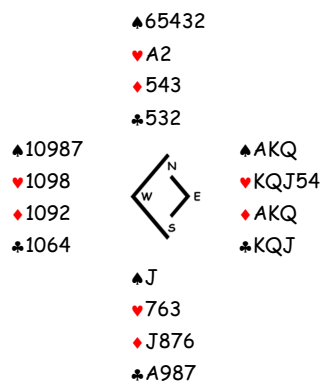
Result: 7♠W= +2210

Notes:

- After 4NT, 5♣ is Super Gerber asking for Aces, 5♦ is a transfer to ♥'s and 5♥ is a transfer to ♠'s. This bid occurs so infrequently that I would probably not make the transfer bids because partner might think 5♦ is a request to play the ♦ game. Let partner play No Trump is the safest course. However, playing 4NT or 6♦ is usually better than 5♦.
- No Trump is likely the best spot if responding only has a five-card suit and slam may be possible with a six-card suit.
- 5♦ is 0 or 4 Aces. With 28+ points, East must have 4. Impossible otherwise.
- **Squeeze Play-Single Squeeze, Vienna Coup Variety:**
 - Win Ace♣. Cash AKQ♠, A♥ and A♦. West must have one ♦ for an entry to East's hand.
 - Since the contract is 7♠, the count is automatically rectified.
 - Ruff a ♣ and now run every single ♠.
 - Pitch Q♥ and J♥ and ♣.
 - Watch discards because South is Squeezed. If he releases the King♥, the 10♥ in West's hand is good and if he pitches a ♦, East's ♦'s run.
 - The best way to see this is to get a deck of cards and play with all four hands face up.

Example 53: 28+ 4NT Ace-Ask

East Dealer East West Vulnerable



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

Opening Lead: 7♣

Result: 4NT +1 +660

Notes:

- 2♦ is waiting. Some play a 2♥ response to 2♣ as either 0-3 or no Ace, no Queen and at most one Queen.
- East has the same hand as one previously except with the Q♠.
- East only needs to know how many Aces West has, so he takes charge.
- 2♥ is 100% forcing.
- If East jumped to 3♥, it would show a self-sufficient suit and ask partner to start cuebidding.
- 4NT, in this sequence, is Ace-asking and 5♠ (any previously unbid suit) asks partner to sign off in 5NT.