

# U3ABC Compendium Two: Bidding Commentary

## Introduction

This is a summary of Hands 1-24 from Compendium Two, complete with Bidding Commentary to help explain the recommended bidding. As always, your mileage might vary when you play these hands.

### Advanced topics

Advanced topics are in green. These are included for completeness; you can ignore them for now or dive in if you want *more*.

## The Hands

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ A986		
	♥ J3		
	♦ A954		
	♣ A42		
♠ J42		♠ T73	
♥ KQT872		♥ A94	
♦		♦ QJT86	
♣ K865		♣ 97	
	♠ KQ5		
	♥ 65		
	♦ K732		
	♣ QJT3		

### Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q #136

North has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

South has 11 HCP and a balanced hand. This isn't quite enough to be sure of making 3NT, as that requires 25 HCP. They bid 2NT to tell partner they have 11-12 HCP, asking them to bid 3NT if they have the maximum 14 HCP.

North does not have the maximum 14 HCP, so they pass 2NT.

### ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

Notice that the 1NT and 2NT point counts are not precise, they are ranges (12-14 and 11-12) so if you opened 1NT with 13 points and partner replied 2NT, you might have 24 points or 25 points in total; if you're feeling optimistic you might try your luck with 3NT!

25 points does NOT guarantee that you'll make 3NT, but you probably will. That's what makes Bridge a game, not a science.

East	South	West	North
4♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ A		
	♥ J87		
	♦ J932		
	♣ QJT43		
♠ J2		♠ KQ987654	
♥ A52		♥ 96	
♦ AK5		♦ T6	
♣ AK952		♣ 7	
	♠ T3		
	♥ KQT43		
	♦ Q874		
	♣ 86		

### Board: 2 Dealer: East Lead: ♥K #885

East has 8 Spades and just 5 HCP; one point short of the normal range for a 4S pre-empt, but still acceptable, especially as the points are all in the Spade suit, so this hand would be worthless in defence.

The 4S pre-empt suggests 8+ Spades and 6-9 HCP.

West has 19 HCP and 2 Spades, so the partnership has 25+ HCP and 10+ Spades. Is that enough for a slam? East thinks so, and raises to 6S.

Once again, the opposition isn't strong enough to bid over the pre-empt.

### ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

The 6S bid looks rather optimistic with just 25 HCP, but South has three Aces so there's no chance the opposition can cash AK right away, except in Spades (!). South has five instant winners (A, AK and AK) so they just need to make seven of East's eight Spades, which is highly likely. (You can go down if East is missing two of the top three honours or forgets to discard the losing Heart before drawing trumps.)

South	West	North	East
2♥	Dbl	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠AT2		
	♥A94		
	♦6532		
	♣A92		
♠KJ3		♠Q986	
♥K8		♥75	
♦QJ94		♦AT8	
♣KQJT		♣7543	
	♠754		
	♥QJT632		
	♦K7		
	♣86		

**Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♣K #671**

South has 6 HCP and 6 Hearts (with two Honours), an ideal Weak Two in first seat.

This Weak Two opening suggests 6 Hearts and 5-10 HCP, and no (other) 4-card major.

West has 16 HCP, a shortage in Hearts, and good support for the other 3 suits, so doubles for take out.

This double of a Weak Two promises 13 HCP, less than 3 cards in the doubled suits, and at least 3 cards in each of the other suits.

North has 3-card support for partner's Hearts, and 12 HCP. They don't have enough points to raise to game, so they raise to 3H, to the level of fit, to extend the pre-empt.

If you look at the cards, 3H ought to make, as the key cards in the places you want them!

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠942		
	♥QT84		
	♦T		
	♣QJT72		
♠AKQ65		♠3	
♥A976		♥532	
♦642		♦AK53	
♣3		♣AK865	
	♠JT87		
	♥KJ		
	♦QJ987		
	♣94		

**Board: 4 Dealer: West Lead: ♦Q #2957**

West has 14 HCP, in an unbalanced two-suited hand. They open their longer suit, 1S, planning to rebid Hearts.

This 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points. It denies a longer Heart suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

East has 14 HCP with two biddable minors but poor support for partner's Spades. Game is likely, with at least 26 HCP. They respond 2C, their longer suit, planning to rebid NT on the second round as they aren't strong enough to rebid their second suit, Diamonds, as that would be above the barrier (promising 16-19 HCP). This bid is forcing for one round.

West now rebids 2H as planned, showing 5+ Spades, 4+ Hearts and 12-15 points.

East can't support partner's majors (option 1), but with a stopper in the unbid suit (Diamonds) they can bid NT (option 2); they can see 26-29 HCP so they are strong enough to bid 3NT as planned.

West could "correct" the bid to 5C or 5D if their hand is unsuitable for NT, but 3NT is usually a better contract!

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

What would East do if partner hadn't rebid Hearts? They don't have a stop in Hearts, so couldn't bid NT. Tricky. If the bidding went:

1S 2C 3C... East could try for game in Clubs with 4C or 5C

1S 2C 2D... East could try for game in Diamonds with 4D or 5D

1S 2C 2S... East should probably pass, as 4S and 3NT look risky

1S 2C 2NT... East can happily raise to 3NT

I think the most likely game in all cases is 3NT, but it's hardly certain. None of West's rebids is forcing – perhaps you should pass; hard to tell!

**North East South West**

1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass  
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

♠ A95  
♥ AKJT2  
♦ A76  
♣ K3

♠ 432  
♥ 73  
♦ 532  
♣ AT982

♠ QJT7  
♥ 94  
♦ KQJT8  
♣ J4

♠ K86  
♥ Q865  
♦ 94  
♣ Q765

**East South West North**

1NT Pass 2♦ Pass  
2♥ Pass 3NT Pass  
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

♠ A6  
♥ JT32  
♦ J987  
♣ 763

♠ JT3  
♥ A9876  
♦ 2  
♣ AKJ8

♠ Q874  
♥ KQ4  
♦ A43  
♣ Q42

♠ K952  
♥ 5  
♦ KQT65  
♣ T95

**Board: 5 Dealer: North #346**

North has 19 HCP, unbalanced, and a 5-card Heart suit.

Their 1H opening bid shows 4 Hearts and 12-19 HCP (but see the discussion for Hand 1).

South has 7 HCP and 4-card support for partner's Hearts, and can add another point for their Doubleton. They bid 2H, a simple raise that shows 6-9 HCP and 4 Hearts.

North now knows they have more than enough Hearts (9+) to play in a Heart contract. They can add one point for their Doubleton Club, making at least 26 points – more than enough to bid 4H.

**Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♦K #1641**

West has 5 Hearts and 13 HCP, so they start by bidding 2D, asking partner to transfer 2H.

East bids 2H as requested, what does West bid next?

They have 13 HCP, and partner has 12-14, so the partnership has 25-27. You need 25 points for 3NT or 4H, but which is the better contract? West bids 3NT to tell partner:

- I have exactly 5 Hearts
- We have enough points for game in NT or Hearts
- You decide!

Yes, it's a proper dialogue. East can pass to play in 3NT or bid 4H to play in 4H. With just two Hearts, they'd pass 3NT, as they've only got a 5-2 fit, not enough. With three Hearts, they would probably bid 4H unless they hate the idea; with four or more Hearts, they would bid 4H.

With three good Hearts, East is happy to bid 4H, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

East only has three Hearts, so could pass 3NT, especially as they have a 4333 hand, but they have two good Honours in Hearts, so they decided on 4H.

I wonder which you chose - some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer No Trumps

South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ 7653		
	♥ 7542		
	♦ K95		
	♣ K2		
♠ T9		♠ QJ4	
♥ 6		♥ AJ983	
♦ T6432		♦ QJ8	
♣ Q9874		♣ T6	
	♠ AK82		
	♥ KQT		
	♦ A7		
	♣ AJ53		

**Board: 7 Dealer: South #894**

South has 21 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 2NT.

A 2NT opening shows 20-22 HCP and a balanced hand.

North has 7 HCP, so knows they have enough points for game (27-29) but not enough for a Slam. They could bid 3NT, but with two 4-card Majors they bid 3C, Stayman, to check if there's a 4-4 fit in a Major. 4H/4S would probably be easier than 3NT with a fit.

Notice that North just needs 4 cards in a Major to try Stayman, they don't have to be 4 good cards!

South responds 3S to show they have 4 Spades and deny 4 Hearts.

With a 4-4 fit in Spades and at least 26 HCP, North is strong enough to bid 4S

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ QJT		
	♥ A9		
	♦ T8762		
	♣ T63		
♠ A863		♠ K42	
♥ KQJT87		♥ 54	
♦ Q		♦ AJ	
♣ AK		♣ QJ9852	
	♠ 975		
	♥ 632		
	♦ K9543		
	♣ 74		

**Board: 8 Dealer: West #3056**

West has 19 HCP and a good 6-card Major, so opens with 1H, planning to show their strength with their rebid.

A 1-level suit bid promises 12-19 HCP and a 4-card suit.

East has 11 HCP and 6-card Club suit, so they respond with 2C.

This change of suit at the 2-level shows 9+ HCP and a 5-card suit. It's forcing for 1 round.

West responds with 2S, a Reverse or "Bid above the barrier". A Reverse (bidding a second suit that's ranked higher than your first) shows 16-19 HCP and a 4-card second suit.

Both partners can see that they've got enough points for game now – and maybe a Small Slam.

East has already shown their points, so rebids 3C to show they've got six Clubs.

West bids 3H to show they have at least five Hearts, probably six.

East could in principle bid 3NT as they have a stop in the unbid suit, but chooses to raise partner's Hearts instead, as they can see 7-8.

West can see they have 8+ Hearts and 28+ HCP. They've got 8 obvious tricks in Hearts, with partner's help they're strong enough to try for a Small Slam. They bid 4NT, Blackwood, to check they're not kissing two Aces.

East has a single Ace, so responds with 5D. West knows they're missing just one Ace, so can bid 6H.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

The general advice is that you need 31+ HCP to make a Small Slam in a suit. West bid the Slam even though they're only sure of 28 HCP; their strong Heart suit, good support for partner's Club suit, and abundant controls all improved their odds, but it was still a bit risky.

**North East South West**

1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass  
 2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ T94  
 ♥ KJ9752  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ AK6

♠ AQ5  
 ♥ A83  
 ♦ KT52  
 ♣ 732

♠ 732  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ J843  
 ♣ Q985

♠ KJ86  
 ♥ QT  
 ♦ AQ96  
 ♣ JT4

**Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♣5 #2702**

North has 11 HCP and a decent 6-card heart suit in an unbalanced hand. This is just enough to open 1H, but it's a bit aggressive, as it promises 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts. They're single-suited and weak, so plan to rebid 2H.

South has 13 HCP and only 2 Hearts, so can't raise partner's suit. Game is very likely, they need to make a forcing bid. They bid 1S to show their 4-card major at the lowest level, indicating 6-15 HCP, 4 Spades, and less than 4 Hearts. It's forcing for one round, so they can show their points on the next bid.

North still has a weak hand, but South's bid is forcing; they must bid. They can't support partner's Spades with 3 cards, but their Heart suit is long enough to bid again. So they rebid 2H bid as planned, showing 5+ Hearts and 12-15 points.

South thinks that game ought to be on with 25+ HCP, but hasn't found a fit. 3NT is a bit tempting but with a minimum of 7 Hearts, 4H seems safer, so that's the bid they chose.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

I'd prefer to play this hand in 3NT, even without seeing all the cards. What do you think?

**East South West North**

1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass  
 2♣ Pass 3♥ Pass  
 4♥ Pass Pass Dbl  
 Pass Pass Pass

♠ J7  
 ♥ AKJ63  
 ♦ QT4  
 ♣ Q96

♠ KQ9653  
 ♥ T98  
 ♦ KJ65  
 ♣

♠ A  
 ♥ Q7542  
 ♦ A9  
 ♣ KT754

♠ T842  
 ♥  
 ♦ 8732  
 ♣ AJ832

**Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♦7 1252**

After a protracted auction, East reaches 4H and North doubles for penalties, as they expect to make at least 4 tricks in Hearts.

A double of a suit bid at the 4 level (or above) is always for penalties.

This double may help Declarer a little, as it indicates where the missing Heart Honours are – but the contract will still go down!

**South West North East**

1♠ 2♦ 4♠ 5♦

Pass Pass Pass

♠QT753  
♥A83  
♦6  
♣9832♠4  
♥QJ  
♦QJT8743  
♣AQ7♠AKJ92  
♥765  
♦2  
♣KJ64♠86  
♥KT942  
♦AK95  
♣T5**Board: 11 Dealer: South #1531**

West has 12 HCP and a nice 6-card Diamond suit, so they overcall with 2D. They have enough Diamonds for a 4D jump overcall, but they are too strong; a double-jump is a pre-emptive overcall, a limit bid showing 6-9 HCP.

This 2-level 2D overcall shows 11-15 HCP and a 5-card suit.

North raises partner's 1S to 4S based on their 5-card Spade suit, 6 HCP and two Shortage Points. That's rather aggressive – or maybe optimistic – based on 20-27 points. 3S would be more sensible, leaving partner to decide.

East has four good Diamonds, 10 HCP, and two Shortage Points - so they can see 21-26 points. Most of their points are in Diamonds, so it's not a good hand for defending. With the 4S bid, there's no room left for subtlety, so they bid 5D as a sacrifice, with some chance of making it.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

It looks like both sides bid quite – erm – adventurously. Who's pre-empting and who's sacrificing? I think they both are! The 4S bid was, at best a bluff, hoping to make the opposition make an even riskier bid to stop them making 4S. Which they would not do!

People can get a bit carried away in a competitive auction. Did you?

**West North East South**

1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

4♠ Pass Pass Pass

♠5  
♥QJT83  
♦QT4  
♣KJT8♠KQJ64  
♥954  
♦AJ  
♣A96♠732  
♥K  
♦K982  
♣Q7432♠AT98  
♥A762  
♦7653  
♣5**Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♥Q #1341**

West has 15 HCP and a nice 5-card major in a balanced hand, so opens 1S intending to rebid 1NT to show their points and shape.

East has just 8 HCP, but good 4-card support plus two Shortage Points for the singleton Club – making 10 points. Just enough to raise to 3S.

Remember that a jump raise of a suit promises 10-12 points and 4+ trumps.

West can see a total of 25+ points, so raises to 4S for game.

**North East South West**

2NT Pass 6NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ KQJT  
 ♥ Q64  
 ♦ AKQ  
 ♣ K75

♠ 5432  
 ♥ T95  
 ♦ T93  
 ♣ T63

♠ A  
 ♥ J872  
 ♦ J754  
 ♣ J982

♠ 9876  
 ♥ AK3  
 ♦ 862  
 ♣ AQ4

**East South West North**

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass  
 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass  
 3NT Pass Pass Pass

♠ QT82  
 ♥ QJ96  
 ♦ 82  
 ♣ 842

♠ K53  
 ♥ AK74  
 ♦ J95  
 ♣ J53

♠ A96  
 ♥ T53  
 ♦ KQT76  
 ♣ A7

♠ J74  
 ♥ 82  
 ♦ A43  
 ♣ KQT96

**Board: 13 Dealer: North #93**

North has 20 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 2NT.

The 2NT opening bid promises 20-22 HCP in a balanced hand.

South has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so can see a total of 33-35 HCP. 33 points is just enough for a Small Slam in NT, so they bid 6NT without hesitation.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

33 HCP is usually enough for a Small Slam in No Trumps, but it's not certain. Missing 7 points, the opening lead could even be the Ace from AK, taking you down immediately. Life, eh?

**Board: 14 Dealer: East Lead: ♣K #1539**

East does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

West knows there's no major fit, but with 12 HCP they can count 24-26 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

East has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

	♠ Q83		
	♥ A832		
	♦ AKQ9		
	♣ 75		
♠ T976		♠	
♥ 7654		♥ JT	
♦ J		♦ T865432	
♣ KJ32		♣ AQT9	
	♠ AKJ542		
	♥ KQ9		
	♦ 7		
	♣ 864		

**Board: 15 Dealer: South Lead: ♦J #1780**

South has 13 HCP in an unbalanced hand with a 6-card Spade suit, so they open 1S intending to rebid 2S to show their shape and point count.

This 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points.

North has 15 HCP in a balanced hand. They can't support Spades, so bid the lower of their two 4-card suits, 2D, as that leaves more bidding space.

This 2D response shows 10+ HCP and 4+ Diamonds. It denies 4-card support for Spades and is forcing for one round. Partner opened, so must have 12-19 HCP. North can see at least 27 HCP, so expects to reach game, but in Spades? Or maybe No Trumps?

South rebids 2S as planned. This bid shows a one-suited hand (probably 6+ Spades) and 12-15 HCP. (It doesn't deny support for Diamonds, as you don't usually support a minor if there's any other bid available!)

Now that North can see 6+3 Spades, they can support partner's suit (option 1); they can see 27+ HCP, so can raise 2S straight to 4S.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠ QJ86		
	♥ QJ72		
	♦ KT6		
	♣ 87		
♠ A73		♠ K542	
♥ 953		♥ T864	
♦ A743		♦ Q8	
♣ AK6		♣ Q54	
	♠ T9		
	♥ AK		
	♦ J952		
	♣ JT932		

**Board: 16 Dealer: West Lead: ♠6 #133**

West has 15 points and a balanced hand, with one 4-card suit, so they open that suit (1D) intending to rebid 1NT to show their points and shape.

East has just 7 points, a balanced hand, and a modest 4-card major. While they might be tempted to bid 1NT to show their points and shape, that runs the risk of missing a fit in Hearts or Spades, so they bid 1H instead. Always bid a 4+ card major suit if you can, rather than NT. If you have four Hearts and four Spades, bid Hearts – to allow partner to raise to 2H or bid 1S and find a 4-4 fit.

The 1H bid shows 6+ points and 4+ Hearts. It's a change of suit, so it's forcing for one round.

West can't support partner's Major with just 3 Hearts, so they rebid 1NT as planned. This gives East a chance to bid again, to describe their hand more fully, if appropriate.

East is too weak to bid again, so passes. They know that they have just 22-23 points between them, not enough for game. While it might be enough for 2NT, there's no point bidding it; 1NT+1 scores the same as 2NT, while 1NT scores a lot better than 2NT-1!



North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ KQ542		
	♥ AK7		
	♦ 643		
	♣ 85		
♠ 9		♠ T87	
♥ Q8643		♥ T95	
♦ T9		♦ QJ875	
♣ QJT96		♣ AK	
	♠ AJ63		
	♥ J2		
	♦ AK2		
	♣ 7432		

**Board: 17 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q #529**

North has 12 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT. This shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand. South has 13 HCP and a 4-card major, so responds with 2C, Stayman.

North doesn't have four Hearts but does have four (actually five) Spades, so responds with 2S. This response promises four Spades and denies four Hearts.

South can count 25-27 HCP and 8 Spades, so bids 4S.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

The Stayman 2C bid is sometimes called an **Asking Bid**, because it asks a question: have you got a four card major?

East	South	West	North
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ K98743		
	♥ J3		
	♦ 97		
	♣ QT8		
♠ A5		♠ JT	
♥ T87642		♥ KQ	
♦		♦ AKQJ5	
♣ J9642		♣ AK75	
	♠ Q62		
	♥ A95		
	♦ T86432		
	♣ 3		

**Board: 18 Dealer: East #3351**

East has 23 HCP and a semi-balanced hand with a 5-card Major. Too strong for a 2NT opening bid (20-22 HCP) or 1D, they open 2C.

An opening bid of 2C shows 21+ HCP (with a 5-card Major) or 23+ HCP in a balanced hand, or 9+ playing tricks. This is a Game Force unless opener rebids 2NT.

West has 5 HCP, so must make the negative response, 2D.

The 2D response to the 2C opening bid shows 0-7 HCP; a negative response indicating a Slam is unlikely.

East rebids 2NT to show they have 23-24 HCP and a balanced hand. Partner can pass now if they have a very weak hand (less than 2 HCP) i.e. this rebid "cancels" the presumed Game Force.

West has more than 2 HCP so decides to bid on; they have a poor 6-card Heart suit and a void, so Hearts seem like a much better contract than NT. Their 3D bid is a transfer request to Hearts.

East bids 3H as requested.

West could pass 3H, but they can see at least 6+2 Hearts and at least 5+23 HCP, so they're happy to bid 4H.

**South West North East**

1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ 865  
♥ AJ94  
♦ KQ3  
♣ AQ5

♠ Q974  
♥ T5  
♦ T98542  
♣ 6

♠ JT2  
♥ Q872  
♦ 6  
♣ J9432

♠ AK3  
♥ K63  
♦ AJ7  
♣ KT87

**Board: 19 Dealer: South #1901**

South has 18 HCP and a balanced hand. They open 1C planning to rebid 2NT to show their points and distribution.

An opening bid of 1C promises 4 clubs and 12-19 HCP.

North has 16 HCP and a balanced hand, so knows that game is on and slam is possible. They bid their longest suit, 1H.

A change of suit at the one level promises 6-15+ HCP and a 4-card suit. It is forcing for one round – so North will get another bid to show their strength.

South's 2NT jump rebid shows 17-18 HCP and a balanced hand.

North now knows they have 33-34 HCP, enough for a Small Slam. Since both hands are balanced, 6NT is the best contract.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

There are few guarantees. If South has 17 HCP, you could go down quite quickly, as you could be missing AK in a suit. But most people would just bid 6NT and hope.

Sometimes you need some luck.

**West North East South**

1♦	Dbl	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ KT5  
♥ KJ93  
♦ K3  
♣ AT42

♠ A74  
♥ T65  
♦ AQJ854  
♣ 6

♠ J986  
♥ 2  
♦ T762  
♣ K853

♠ Q32  
♥ AQ874  
♦ 9  
♣ QJ97

**Board: 20 Dealer: West #2628**

North has 14 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit, so doubles for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a **Takeout Double**. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit – see the [Discussion](#) for Board #1.

This double is forcing.

South has 11 HCP and a 5-card major, so bids a slightly optimistic 4H over the 1S intervention.

**North East South West**

1NT	Dbl	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ AQT  
♥ AJ8  
♦ QJ  
♣ 96542

♠ J  
♥ QT97652  
♦ 986  
♣ 87

♠ K7632  
♥ K3  
♦ AT  
♣ KQT3

♠ 9854  
♥ 4  
♦ K75432  
♣ AJ

**Board: 21 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q #3144**

East has 15 HCP and a poor 5-card Spade suit which doesn't pass the Suit Quality Test for overcalls, so decides to double 1NT for penalties instead – even though they're slightly too weak for this bid. Hmm.

A double of 1NT is always for penalties and promises 16+ HCP.

South has 8 HCP and a poor 6-card Diamond suit. They're not strong enough to redouble, so they rescue into 2D.

This rescue bid (after partner's 1NT is doubled) shows a 5-card suit and 0-10 HCP. It's weak and will usually be passed by partner.

West has just 3 HCP and a moderate 7-card Heart suit. They don't have enough points (or Diamonds) to double South's bid, so they choose to overcall with their own suit, 2H. They're relying on partner's 16+ HCP!

East	South	West	North
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ T62  
♥ A9642  
♦ 863  
♣ K9

♠ AK93  
♥ K3  
♦ Q542  
♣ J62

♠ Q874  
♥ QJT7  
♦ AK  
♣ T75

♠ J5  
♥ 85  
♦ JT97  
♣ AQ843

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ KQ5  
♥ 65  
♦ K732  
♣ QJT3

♠ T73  
♥ A94  
♦ QJT86  
♣ 97

♠ J42  
♥ KQT872  
♦  
♣ K865

♠ A986  
♥ J3  
♦ A954  
♣ A42

**Board: 22 Dealer: East Lead: ♦J #3109**

East has four Hearts and four Spades, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades. Notice that you don't choose your best or longest major, if you have both; you must bid Hearts.

West doesn't have four Hearts but does have 13 HCP so they can count 25-27 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

East now knows that West has four Spades (not four Hearts). As they have four Spades of their own, they correct the 3NT bid to 4S for the 4-4 fit.

**Board: 23 Dealer: South Lead: ♦Q #136**

South has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

North has 11 HCP and a balanced hand. This isn't quite enough to be sure of making 3NT, as that requires 25 HCP. They bid 2NT to tell partner they have 11-12 HCP, asking them to bid 3NT if they have the maximum 14 HCP.

South does not have the maximum 14 HCP, so they cannot raise to 3NT and must pass 2NT.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

Notice that the 1NT and 2NT point counts are not precise, they are ranges (12-14 and 11-12) so if you opened 1NT with 13 points and partner replied 2NT, you might have 24 points or 25 points in total; if you're feeling optimistic you might try your luck with 3NT!

25 points does NOT guarantee that you'll make 3NT, but you probably will. Bridge is a game, not a science.

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ T62		
	♥ T642		
	♦ KQJ9		
	♣ Q2		
♠ KQ95		♠ AJ84	
♥ KJ9		♥ 3	
♦ A4		♦ 762	
♣ AK74		♣ JT965	
	♠ 73		
	♥ AQ875		
	♦ T853		
	♣ 83		

**Board: 24 Dealer: West #2516**

West has 21 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 2NT.

A 2NT opening shows 20-22 HCP and a balanced hand.

East has 6 HCP, so knows they have enough points for game (26-28) but not enough for a Slam. They could bid 3NT, but with a 4-card Major they bid 3C, Stayman, to check if there's a 4-4 fit. 4S would probably be easier than 3NT with a fit.

The singleton Heart would also be a worry in NT – and an asset in Spades.

West responds 3S to show they have 4 Spades and deny 4 Hearts.

With a 4-4 fit in Spades and at least 26 HCP, East is strong enough to bid 4S.