

Strong 1 NT Opener: Game-Going or Better Response

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 9 2		♠ K 7
♥ K 7 2		♥ J 6 5 4
♦ A K 8 6		♦ J 7 4 2
♣ 6 5		♣ J 3 2
♠ J 5 4 3	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
♥ A 10 3		
♦ 10 9 5		
♣ 10 9 7		
♠ 10 8 6		
♥ Q 9 8		
♦ Q 3		
♣ A K Q 8 4		

NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 4♦; Par +460: NS 3N+2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	3 N

All pass

South, with a game going hand and not enough for slam, simply bids 3 NT.

If the partnership plays puppet stayman, the bidding will go:

W	N	E	S
	1N	P	3♣
P	3♦	P	3N

3♣: partner, do you have a 4 or 5 card major?

3♦: has 1 or both 4 card majors

3N: does not have a 4 card major

Notes on the play: East could lead 4th best heart or diamond. If a diamond, duck in dummy to keep your sure entry, win with the ♦ A then try the clubs. When they split 3-3 leave the good ones in dummy (remember you still have a dummy entry with ♦ Q) and try running the ♠ 10 to set up overtricks. Or lead a low ♥ to guarantee a 10th trick.

What if clubs split 5-1? Your plan...?

What if they split 4-2? Your plan...?

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Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

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

N
W E
S

♠ Q 9 5 2
♥ 10 8 5
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ 7 6

EW 5♥; EW 4N; EW 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; Par -450; EW 4♥+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

West tries to find a fit for hearts but settles for 3 N when the partner denies a 4 card major

Puppet auction:

W	N	E	S
		1N	P
3 ♣	P	3N	P
P	P		

3 ♣: partner do you have a 4 or 5 card major?

3N: neither

Note on the play: South is on lead. What is the likely lead? ♠ 2 Why? East has denied a 4 or 5 card major. Best plan is to attack a major suit.

What can East learn from the lead?. If the ♠ 2 is the lead, East can expect the spades are split 4-4 (assuming normal leads). Then it will be safe to try the diamond finesse right away. If it wins they have 10 tricks. If it loses the opps can only take 3 spade tricks , and East will still have 9 tricks

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Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A 10 6 5 3	♠ K J 9	♠ 7 2									
♥ K 4 3	♥ Q 6 5 2	♥ 10 8									
♦ Q 6 4	♦ A 7 5	♦ 10 3 2									
♣ Q 3	♣ 10 5 2	♣ K J 9 8 7 6									
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ Q 8 4										
	♥ A J 9 7										
	♦ K J 9 8										
	♣ A 4										

NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 2♠; EW 1♣; Par +430: NS 3N+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1 NT
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	2 ♥

Puppet auction:

W	N	E	S
			1N
P	3 ♣	P	3 ♦
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♥
all pass			

3 ♣: partner do you have a 4 or 5 card major?

3 ♦: I have one of both 4 card majors

3 ♠: I have 4 hearts

4 ♥: so do I!

Note: some people with the North hand (3-4-3-3) will just bid 3 NT because it has no ruffing potential. It's a matter for partnership agreement.

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Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

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

♠ J 10 4	♠ J 10 4
♥ 10 6 5 2	♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ Q 7	♦ Q 7
♣ K 8 7 6	♣ K 8 7 6

W 5N; W 5♠; E 4♠; E 3N; W 5♦; EW 3♥; E 4♦; EW 1♣;
Par -660: W 3N+2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

Puppet doesn't apply with this hand

After the transfer, East bids 3 N to give partner the choice of games. With 3 card support West bids the spade game.

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Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 6 5	♠ K Q 8	♠ J 10 7									
♥ 10 5	♥ K 9 6	♥ 7 4 3 2									
♦ J 9 7 6 4 3	♦ K 8	♦ Q 5 2									
♣ 8 5 3	♣ A 10 7 4 2	♣ K Q 6									
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A 9 4 3 2											
♥ A Q J 8											
♦ A 10											
♣ J 9											

NS 6N; NS 6♠; NS 6♥; NS 5♣; NS 1♦; Par +1440: NS 6N=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 N
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
All pass			

Puppet would not apply here

3 ♥; I have 4 hearts and 5 spades, game going hand

4 ♠: I have 3 card spade support (option: bid 3 ♠, South will bid 4 ♠ or 4 N if interested in slam)

4 N: keycard for spades (yes you have a useless doubleton, but partner has a strong hand)

5 ♠: 2 keycards plus the trump Q. South can bid 6 with confidence

Can they get to 6N? Over 5 ♠ South can bid 5 N to ask for Kings. North will show two and South can bid 6 N

Will cue bidding help here? Yes if your cue bids show 1st or 2nd round control.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

Strong 1 NT Opener: Weak 5 - 5 Response

♠ A 8		♠ K 10 3
♥ Q 4		♥ A J 7
♦ K 8 7		♦ A Q J 10 2
♣ J 10 7 6 4 3		♣ 5 2
♠ Q J 7 5 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	
♥ 10 9 8 5 3		
♦ 4		
♣ Q 9		
♠ 9 6 2		
♥ K 6 2		
♦ 9 6 5 3		
♣ A K 8		


EW 2♠; EW 2♥; NS 1N; NS 2♣; EW 1♦;
 Par -100: NS 2N×-1; NS 3♣×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	All pass

West, with 5-5 in the majors and a weak hand, transfers to their best major and passes

Strong 1 NT Opener: 5 - 5 invitational Response

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 2N; NS 2♣; Par +620: NS 4♥=; NS 4♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

Maybe this hand is semi-invitational :)

With 15 points South would pass 2 spades

Board 8
 West Deals
 None Vul

Strong 1 NT Opener: Texas transfer

♠ A 7 2	♠ Q 9 8	♠ K J 5
♥ A J	♥ 3	♥ Q 10 7 6 5 4
♦ K 8 6 5 2	♦ A 10 9 7 4	♦ 3
♣ K 3 2	♣ 9 7 6 4	♣ Q J 8
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ 10 6 4 3	
	♥ K 9 8 2	
	♦ Q J	
	♣ A 10 5	

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 2♠; EW 1♦; EW 1♣; Par -420; EW 4♥=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

If you play Texas transfers, the above auction applies. Even with 9 HCPs your distribution makes game in hearts the best place to play

If you don't play Texas:

W	N	E	S
1N	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	4♥	P
P	P		

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Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

♠ Q J 7 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; font-size: 10px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 4 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A 6		♥ 8 7 5									
♦ 10 8 7		♦ A 9 6 5 3									
♣ K 8 5 2		♣ A 6									

NS 4♠; NS 2N; NS 2♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♦; Par +420; NS 4♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 N
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

South bids 2 ♣ Stayman, North, with 4 cards in each major, bids 2 ♥. South bids 3 NT. Now North, knowing that South has 4 spades, bids the spade game

Puppet Stayman:

W	N	E	S
	1N	P	3 ♣
P	3 ♦	P	3 ♥
P	4 ♠	P	P
P			

3 ♦: I have one or both 4 card majors

3 ♥: I have 4 spades

4 ♠: so do I!