

Beginners' Lesson 2 (Option B): Opening 1 NT

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 9 7
 ♥ J 6 5
 ♦ A K 8
 ♣ A 9 8 4 3

♠ Q 10 4 2
 ♥ K 9 8 2
 ♦ 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 2

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

♠ A J 5 3
 ♥ Q 4 3
 ♦ 9 4 3
 ♣ K 7 6

West North East South
 Pass 1 NT Pass Pass

Lead: ♦ Q

North's 1 NT shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand. South has 10 HCP which is not enough for game so should pass (South needs 11-12 HCP to invite game).

The Q♦ lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer plays on the club suit by leading towards K♣ then a small club back to the Ace. Now lose a club to set up the last two clubs.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ K Q
 ♥ K Q 8 3
 ♦ J 8 4 2
 ♣ Q J 2

♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ 10 6 4
 ♦ Q 9 7
 ♣ K 10 6 4

♠ A 9 4
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ 6 5 3
 ♣ A 9 7 5

♠ J 10 8 7 2
 ♥ A J 9
 ♦ A K 10
 ♣ 8 3

West North East South
 Pass 1 NT Pass 3♠

Lead: ♣ 5

North opens 1 NT and South bids 3♠ showing a 5-card spade suit and a choice of being in game in either 3 NT or 4♠. With only a doubleton spade, North bids 3 NT.

Lead is from longest suit.

Declarer should play spades to set up four spade tricks.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ K J 7 4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 8 6 4 3
 ♣ J 5 3 2

♠ 8 2
 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 5
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ K 8 6

♠ A 9 6 5
 ♥ A 4 2
 ♦ J 7 5
 ♣ A 9 7

♠ Q 10 3
 ♥ J 9 6
 ♦ A 10 9 2
 ♣ Q 10 4

West North East South
 4♥ All pass 1 NT Pass

Lead: ♠ 4

East's 1 NT promises a balanced hand with 12-14 HCP. West knows that East has at least two hearts and therefore they have a heart fit so should bid 4♥.

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer draws trumps then plays the K♦ which promotes the Q and J. This means a club can be discarded on the J♦.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 10 7 6
 ♥ Q 7 6 5
 ♦ A 9 8 5
 ♣ 10 9

♠ K J
 ♥ K J 2
 ♦ Q J 4 3
 ♣ J 6 5 4

♠ A Q 8 4
 ♥ A 9 4 3
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ Q 3 2

♠ 9 5 3 2
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ K 7 6
 ♣ A K 8 7

West North East South
 2 NT All pass 1 NT Pass

Lead: ♣ 7

East opens 1 NT. West invites game with 12 HCP but East declines the invitation as they have a minimum hand.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 8 6 5
 ♥ A 10 5
 ♦ A 6 4
 ♣ K 5 4 3

♠ A J 4
 ♥ K 9 8 3
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ 10 9 6

♠ K 7
 ♥ Q J 7 4 2
 ♦ J 5 3 2
 ♣ A Q

♠ Q 10 9 3 2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 10 9 7
 ♣ J 8 7 2

West North East South
 1 NT Pass 3♥ Pass Pass

Lead: ♠ 3

West opens 1 NT. East bids 3♥ showing exactly a 5-card suit. This is forcing and West, with 4 hearts, knows they have a very good fit so bids 4♥.

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer should draw trumps, then lead a small club to the AQ in East's hand. When North plays low, play the Q♣ hoping the K♣ is in North's hand..

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A 10 7
 ♥ K 7 4 2
 ♦ 8 7 6
 ♣ A K 5

♠ 5 3 2
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ K Q 3 2
 ♣ 9 8 4 3

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

♠ J 8 4
 ♥ Q J 10 6 3
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ Q 6 2

West North East South
 Pass 1 NT Pass 2♥

Lead: ♦ K

North opens 1 NT and South bids 2♥ as a weakness takeout. North must pass.

Declarer should draw trumps first before playing on the clubs and spades.

Board 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 10 7
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ K 8 7 6 2
 ♣ A K 5

♠ 6 3 2
 ♥ K Q J 10 2
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ J 9 7

♠ K 9 5
 ♥ 9 8 4 3
 ♦ A 10 5
 ♣ Q 6 4

♠ A Q J 8 4
 ♥ 7
 ♦ Q 4 3
 ♣ 10 8 3 2

West North East South
 Pass 1 NT Pass 2♠

Lead: ♥ K

South does not like being in notrumps due to their singleton, so bids 2♠ to be in a better contract. North must pass as South's bid is a weakness takeout.

Lead is top of a sequence. After North wins the Ace♥, play a small spade towards the AQ♠. If East plays low, play the Q♠. When this holds, play the A♠ then target the diamonds. Start with A♦, then K♦ then a small diamond.

Board 8
 West Deals
 None Vul

♠ 10 4 3
 ♥ 10 4 3 2
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ 8 7 6 3

♠ K 7 2
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ 9 7 6
 ♣ A Q 9 5 4

♠ Q 9 8 6
 ♥ K J 8
 ♦ A K 5 2
 ♣ K J

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

West North East South
 1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Lead: ♥ 2

West opens 1 NT and East bids straight to game, as they know they have enough points.

Lead is a small heart from the longest and strongest suit!

Declarer wins ♥ K (keeping the ♥ A as an entry) then plays ♣ K and ♣ J. Now declarer can cross to the ♥ A and play the rest of the club suit.