

Improvers' Lesson 9: Minimum, Invitational & GF Bids

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 3 2
♥ 8 7 5
♦ K Q J
♣ 8 6 2

♠ 9 5
♥ A K 9 6 2
♦ A 8 5 4
♣ K 7

♠ A 8 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ 10 9 2
♣ 10 9 4 3

♠ K 10 7 6
♥ 4 3
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A Q J 5

West North East South
1 ♥ Pass Pass
2 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass
All pass

Lead: ♠ Q

West's rebid of 2 ♦ shows a minimum opening hand with five hearts and at least four diamonds.

East selects 2 ♥, which is their preferred fit at the lowest level.

Declarer must lead a club towards the ♣ K for any chance to lose only one club.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K J 7 6 2
♥ K Q
♦ K 7
♣ A J 8 4

♠ 10 9
♥ 9 6 4 2
♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ 10 9 7

♠ 8 5 3
♥ A 3
♦ Q J 10 8
♣ 6 5 3 2

♠ A Q 4
♥ J 10 8 7 5
♦ A 5 4
♣ K Q

West North East South
1 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass
5 ♦ Pass
All pass

Lead : ♥ J

A new suit at the 3-level is forcing to game. As South has shown 10+ in this auction, 3 ♣ shows 15+ and confirms partner has five spades and four clubs. With fewer points, North would just have to bid 2 ♠.

(South's 2 ♥ bid promises a 5-card suit).

South is interested in a spade slam so checks they are not missing 2 aces.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A 8 6
♥ K 10 7 5
♦ Q J 10
♣ A Q 8

♠ 7 4 3 2
♥ Q 6
♦ A K 3
♣ 10 7 4 3

♠ 9 5
♥ A 9 8 4
♦ 8 5 2
♣ J 9 6 5

♠ K Q J 10
♥ J 3 2
♦ 9 7 6 4
♣ K 2

West North East South
Pass 1 ♥ Pass
Pass 1 NT Pass
All pass

Lead: ♥ 4

North's 1 NT rebid shows 15-17.

South has a balanced hand, no 5-card suit and enough points for game, so bids to 3 NT.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 10 9
♥ A K 10 7 5 4
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 6 5

♠ K J 6 5
♥ J 9 2
♦ Q 9 7
♣ K 7 4

♠ Q 4 2
♥ 8 6 3
♦ A K J 5
♣ J 10 9

♠ A 8 7 3
♥ Q
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A Q 8 3 2

West North East South
Pass 1 ♥ Pass
Pass 2 ♥ All pass

Lead: ♦ A

North rebids 2 ♥ showing 6-9 and at least 6 hearts. Opener also has a minimum hand with shape. (With a balanced hand, South would have bid 1 NT).

Opener should pass 2 ♥ even if they have none! If you have a misfit, it is best to bail out as soon as possible.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J 7
♥ J 9 8 2
♦ 10 9 7
♣ A Q 10 6

♠ K 10
♥ A K Q 7
♦ K Q 6 4 2
♣ 9 2

♠ A 4 3 2
♥ 5 4 3
♦ J 8 5
♣ K J 8

♠ Q 9 8 6 5
♥ 10 6
♦ A 3
♣ 7 5 4 3

West North East South
1 ♦ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 1 ♠
All pass

Lead: ♣ 7

2 ♥ by West is a reverse bid. Hearts is a higher ranked suit than the opening suit, diamonds. 2 ♥ shows 16+ and forces partner to bid again.

East now knows that there is enough to go to game. 3 NT is the best game, with clubs held by East.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ A J 7
♥ 10 9 8 4 3
♦ 6
♣ A K J 6

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 2
♦ K Q 10 9 5
♣ Q 10 8 3

♠ 10 9 5 4
♥ A K 7 6
♦ 7 3 2
♣ 9 4

♠ K Q 6 3
♥ J 5
♦ A J 8 4
♣ 7 5 2

West North East South
Pass 1 ♥ Pass
Pass 2 ♣ Pass

All pass after 2 NT

Lead ♦ K

North opens with the longest suit first, then bids the second suit. South, with 11 points, no support for either of partner's suits and a good hold in the unbid suit of diamonds, so invites with 2 NT (11-12 HCP).

Opener passes with a minimum hand.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ J 10 5 4
♥ K 6 5
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ 6 2

♠ A 9
♥ A J 7 3 2
♦ 9 2
♣ K J 9 3

♠ Q 8 7
♥ Q 9 4
♦ 8 4 3
♣ A Q 5 4

♠ K 6 3 2
♥ 10 8
♦ A K 7 5
♣ 10 8 7

West North East South
1 ♥ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 2 ♣
All pass

Lead: ♦ Q

West's 3 ♣ shows a minimum opening hand with 5 hearts and 4-card support for partner. East does not have enough for game but has a 3-card support for hearts and an invitational hand.

West has a minimum hand, so passes

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 5
♥ A J 6
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 9 8 7 6 5

♠ K Q 7 4
♥ K Q 8 3 2
♦ J 6
♣ J 3

♠ A J 9 2
♥ 5
♦ K Q 10 7 4 3
♣ A 4

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 10 9 7 4
♦ A 8
♣ K Q 10 2

West North East South
1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 2 ♦
All pass

Lead: ♣ K

West rebids 2 ♥ to show a minimum hand. They cannot bid 2 ♠ as that would be a reverse (showing 16+ HCP as Opener)

East can reverse to show enough for game, so bids 2 ♠. EW finally settle in 4 ♠