

Successful Slam Bidding: Week 2

Board 1 ♠ J 8 7 2
 North Deals ♥ 8
 None Vul ♦ 10 9 7 4
 ♣ K 9 6 3

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

♠ Q 5 3
 ♥ 7 6 4 2
 ♦ Q 6 2
 ♣ J 8 5

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦!	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
6 ♥	All pass		

West begins with 2 NT and gets transferred to ♥s. West does not "Super Accept" as Partner may have nothing. East rebids 3 NT and West naturally returns to ♥. With a combined 31+HE, East issues a *Slam Invite* with 4 ♠. West has a fabulous hand opposite a *Slam Invite*. Holding all the KeyCards and the Q, West bids slam.

HE: 21+13=34 (♥)

Lesson: (i) With a combined 30+HE plus a fit, issue a *Slam Invite*; (ii) Do not Super Accept without 4+cards; (iii) A source of tricks in a square hand is often an issue.

Questions: (a) If East's black suits were switched, how would you bid the hand? (b) Why doesn't West bid 5 NT showing all the KeyCards? (c) As West, why not begin with 2 ♣?

Board 2 ♠ K J 5
 East Deals ♥ A K 6
 N-S Vul ♦ K 3
 ♣ A K 8 7 6

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

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

With 2 ♣ opening values and all outside suits stopped, North can proceed directly to *KeyCard Ask*. If South has none, North will stop in 5 ♥. Here North settles for slam, missing one KeyCard.

HE: 22+14=36 (♥)

Lesson: (i) After a 3-level preempt by Partner, an immediate 4 NT is *KeyCard Ask* for Partner's suit; (ii) With 10+cards, you don't need to ask about the trump Q.

Questions: (a) At matchpoints, should North bid 6 NT?

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Board 3

South Deals ♠ Q 4 3
 E-W Vul ♥ 3
 ♦ A K Q 7 4
 ♣ A J 9 4

♠ 8	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N E</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ J 9 7 5	
♥ 9 7 5		♥ A Q 10 8 4 2	
♦ 6 5 3 2		♦ 9	
♣ Q 10 6 3 2		♣ K 7	

♠ A K 10 6 2
 ♥ K J 6
 ♦ J 10 8
 ♣ 8 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	All pass	

South opens a R20 hand, Passes over interference and jumps to game emphasizing a minimum opening bid. North however recognizes the partnership is in the *Slam Zone* with an HE 19. Having a good source of tricks and outside controls, North uses *KeyCard Ask* and bids the slam missing only one.

HE: 19+13=32 (♠)

Lesson: (i) An outside 5+card suit with good trick-taking potential is an encouraging sign in the *Slam Zone*; (ii) Interference doesn't "negate" a 2/1 auction; (iii) Raising a major rather than jumping to game is a *Slam Invite*.

Questions: (a) Should South bid 2 NT over 2 ♥? (b) Should South raise North's ♦ suit over 2 ♥? (c) Without the 2 ♥ overcall, what would South rebid?

Board 4

West Deals ♠ 10 9 5
 Both Vul ♥ 2
 ♦ 7 6 5 4 3
 ♣ Q 8 6 4

♠ Q J 4 3 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">N E</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	♠ 8 7	
♥ A Q 10 9 8		♥ K J 7 6 5	
♦ K J		♦ A Q 9	
♣ J		♣ A K 10	

♠ A K 6
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ 10 8 2
 ♣ 9 7 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

This hand has a trap: West issues a *Slam Invite* with 3 ♥, East responds with a *Control Bid* and West shows a ♦ control. East could bid 5 ♣ rather than 4 ♥ to show 1st and 2nd round control of ♣ and a ♠ problem. When East does no more than 4 ♥, announcing a ♠ problem, West respects Partner's decision.

HE: 15+18=33 (♥)

Lesson: (i) Avoid using *KeyCard Ask* with a worthless suit, even when Partner has opened that suit; (ii) After making a *Slam Invite* and having nothing more to communicate, return to the agreed suit.

Questions: (a) Does East's 4 ♣ *Control Bid* show extra values, i.e., HE 15+? (b) Should East try *KeyCard Ask*, planning to stop in 5 ♥ if West only shows 1 KeyCard but going to slam if West shows 2 KeyCards?