

1	QJ74
North	8
None	K753
	Q732
82	T
Q52	KJT963
QJT86	A92
J95	AT6
	AK9653
	A74
	4
	K84

East will get the ball rolling with 1♥ and South will overcall 1♠. West is likely to bid 2♥ and North will show his ♠ raise. This could be 2NT to show four card support or a cue bid of 3♥ to show three card support. South now has easy raise to 4♠ but East may spoil the party with a bid to the five level only going two down in 5♥ doubled.

2	AQ4
East	A84
NS	KT86
	AK4
T962	875
5	KQ762
J752	AQ93
QJT6	5
	KJ3
	JT93
	4
	98732

Three passes to North who will open 2NT. South is likely to look for a major, be disappointed and play in 3NT. He will be disappointed again with the end result. If South is known to hold four ♥s (3♣ enquiry for 5 card majors will tell you) East's best lead is a ♠.

3	AK86
South	954
EW	T985
	T6
J753	42
AT3	KJ72
K43	J762
A32	K97
	QT9
	Q86
	AQ
	QJ854

When South's opening is 1NT it is almost certain to become the final contract. On a ♠ lead South will pick up four tricks there. If four ♠s are cashed East will find difficulties in making two discards. When a ♣ is played by North, East does well to rise with the K♣, then a ♥ through now should bring about a two trick defeat.

4	3
West	KQJ843
All	74
	6543
T876	KQJ954
6	9
QJ9862	AK5
K8	T97
	A2
	AT752
	T3
	AQJ2

Pass - 2♥ - 2♠ - 4♥ will be a popular sequence. But what now? Bidding 4♠ is clear cut for West but who will come out on top in this bidding battle? Bidding one more is right for NS but not for EW. Who said 'the five level belongs to the opponents'?

5	Q972
North	KJ3
NS	9
	AQJT7
KJ83	64
62	AQT954
Q72	T63
6543	K2
	AT5
	87
	AKJ854
	98

1♣ from North will see East overcall with 1♥ or a jump overcall of 2♥. Either way South will bid his ♦s and North will reach 3NT. Providing East does not lead another ♥ when in with ♣K he will go down. Some East's may lead the ♥A and even if he doesn't continue a grateful North will be successful.

6	A
East	Q542
EW	A8643
	J63
KJ72	9865
T6	A973
K9	QT7
AQT72	K4
	QT43
	KJ8
	J52
	985

Two passes to West who should open 1♣. Anyone for 1NT with two doubletons? Please No! North may overcall 1♦ and many East's will double to show both majors. The frequency of holding both majors is not high and a better use is to double to show four ♠s. This leaves the 'natural' bid of 1♠ to show five. After all you can bid 1♥ and will not miss a 4:4 fit in ♠s if you have one. A ♠ part score looks set to make 8 or 9 tricks played carefully! If EW get to NT they should do well also with ♣s giving 5 tricks.

7	T3
South	8753
All	87
	AKT94
4	KQ9865
Q94	AK2
K942	AJ3
Q8632	7
	AJ72
	JT6
	QT65
	J5

Three passes to East who opens 1♠. All West can do is bid 1NT. Those bidding 4♠ (optimistic?, dreadful?) probably, will regret it (unless they get a ♦ lead!) while those that chose the invitational bid of 3♠ will be well rewarded when partner passes.

8	Q9872
West	KJ93
None	A
	AJT
A6	54
74	Q862
985	KJT32
Q87652	K9
	KJT3
	AT5
	Q764
	43

A flat Board? Probably not but difficult to see any other auction than 1♠-3♠-4♠ by North- South which should make with an overtrick.

9	A
North	AK7
EW	JT873
	K942
T752	KJ964
98	J64
KQ96	A5
AQ5	T87
	Q83
	QT532
	42
	J63

North to open 1♦ and the majority of East players will overcall 1♠. Most are taught these days to raise to the level of the fit. Here EW will have a negative score and East may be criticized for his bid but not by me.

10	T
East	K74
All	T643
	KQJ65
Q874	6532
A862	QJT953
K8	7
A94	87
	AKJ9
	AQJ952
	T32

A pass by East will see South open 1♦ and West has a sound double. How to develop the North hand? Options are redouble - not suitable although holding 9+ points since you have a trump fit. You could jump to 3♦ but you are too strong. You have two better options: 2NT to show 10-11pts and four ♦'s or depending on methods 3♣, a fit jump, promising four ♦s and a sound five card ♣ suit. Either way the final contract of 5♦ will be reached, the only danger is NS getting too high. For EW East may sacrifice in 5♥ and will certainly regret it when he writes -1400 in the minus column!

11	QJ
South	Q732
None	QT8
	J742
762	A85
K986	AT4
65	97432
KQ63	T5
	KT943
	J5
	AKJ
	A98

1♠ by South will see North respond 1NT. This will be the final contract at many tables but some ambitious South's will try 2NT where 3NT will be reached. Deep Finesse limits the hand to eight tricks but nine will be made in many cases. Declarer has eight top tricks by means of four ♠s, three ♦s and one ♣. If the defence start with a passive defence these are all declarer will make but a busy defence, either in ♥s or ♣s is likely to concede the vital ninth trick. West will want to know why East did not lead the 'obvious' ♦ suit.

12	85
West	642
NS	K87642
	62
	AK763
Q853	AJ7
AJ953	Q
AK87	JT95
	QJT942
	KT9
	T
	Q43

A sequence of 1♦-1♠-2♣-2♥ with 2♥ the fourth suit forcing bid will see West respond 3♥. This completes the picture of his 0-4-5-4 hand although 1-4-4-4 is a possibility. The practical bid of 3NT by East looks preferable to five or six ♣s.

13	JT52
North	Q6
All	K4
	AKJ65
9743	AKQ6
AJ53	T74
52	J973
974	Q3
	8
	K982
	AQT86
	T82

North to open 1♣. 1NT with two doubletons is not to be recommended. East could bid 1♠ but most will double. South should redouble to show 9+ points. Some partnerships have the added proviso that this also shows a willingness to double two of the other suits. West will bid 1♥ and North should pass to show more than a minimum or sub-minimum opener. When this comes round to South, knowing partner holds a "sound" opener there is the opportunity for a penalty double. I feel the rewards from this are likely to exceed those obtained by stretching to 3NT. Those reaching 3NT will do well to finesse the ten of ♦s, almost certainly trying for five ♦ tricks and even if they drop the ♣Q being some tricks short.

14	2
East	AT
None	K6543
	A9865
KJ63	AQT985
9654	J873
T2	98
432	T
	74
	KQ2
	AQJ7
	KQJ7

A lively board. Many East's will ignore the four card ♥ suit and open a weak 2♠. South will double and West should raise the anti with 3 or 4♠. Over 4♠ North can only bid 4NT requesting a minor from South. South may go quietly with 5♣ or 5♦ looking at his two small ♠s but may 'read' partner for a singleton and bid six. Over 3♠ this is not so clear.

15	A84
South	KJ7
NS	JT872
	AT
QJ5	K73
T8	54
543	AKQ96
KQJ73	985
	T962
	AQ9632
	642

Another weak two opener with another four card major. Do you or don't you? Where 2♥ is opened North is likely to bid 4♥ to set the final contract. Making should not pose a problem. When South passes so will West and North will open 1NT. A transfer by South of 2♦ will bring 2♥ from North with an optimistic South now bidding 2♠. 3♥ from North over 2♦ may encourage South to try four.

16	JT4
West	KQJ43
EW	86
	J96
K976	852
85	A962
Q9543	72
Q2	T875
	AQ3
	T7
	AKJT
	AK43

The usual contract will be 3NT via a strong 2NT by the particular methods employed, a transfer to ♥s and 3NT ending the auction. With the ♠Q sitting in front of the jack eleven tricks can be made but only if you play for the drop.

17	KQ954
North	KJ
None	T8
	9874
T8	A7632
T974	A2
K743	J6
T52	AKJ3
	J
	Q8653
	AQ952
	Q6

East will start the ball rolling with 1♠. South will have a two suited gadget (Michaels, Ghestem, Quantum, Wenble etc..) and will regret using it when they get out of their depth, those using the cue bid of 2♠ to show ♥s and another having to play at the three level.

18	Q
East	AT75
NS	AQT92
	J32
T876	KJ943
432	KQ
54	K86
KQ95	T84
	A52
	J986
	J73
	A76

Most will choose 1♠ as the opening bid. Others will prefer 1NT. Where 1♠ is bid South passes and West makes a courtesy raise of 2♠ which North should (always?) double. A number of auctions though will see North pass and this will become the final contract. Where North joins the auction with double it will see NS bid to a comfortable 3♥ contract but to no avail as East will bid 3♠, an easy make with the favourable lie of the cards. Where 1NT is opened this will be passed round to North and if NS are playing Asptro, anchoring to four cards in the major, 2♣ will be bid and this might see NS get to 4♥ as the final contract which may just make!

19	A972
South	JT7654
EW	A6
	T
T643	K5
K9	A8
K7532	Q84
J9	Q87652
	QJ8
	Q32
	JT9
	AK43

1NT from South sees North with decisions to make. Stayman may be chosen with the hand bidding 2♥ following the 2♦ response showing 5:4 in the majors. This is almost certain to become the final contract.

Another approach is to transfer to 2♥ and then bid 2♠, forcing. When South bids 3♥ knowing that partner holds three cards in the suit North may well try 4♥. Some play a jump to the three level is invitational in all four suits. So 3♥ after 1NT will encourage South to raise to four.

20	KQT874
West	A8
All	532
	T8
AJ6	92
732	QJT6
AQ98	KJ7
A94	KQ53
	53
	K954
	T64
	J762

1♦ from West and North will overcall either 1 or 2♠. A double by East will bring NT's from West with 3NT being bid. North will lead the ♠K which West will duck. When the ♣s do not bring four tricks declarer has to turn to ♥s. It is best to lead one of the top ♥s from dummy. This makes life hard for South as it is not usual to cover the top card of a three card run. If South does duck it is too late and although the print out says 8 tricks only I predict many 3NT contracts coming home. North may have made a signal, showing a ♥ honour on the third ♣. So best for declarer is to tackle ♥s as soon as possible.

21	8
North	KQ32
NS	JT84
	AKT2
QJT72	964
AJ7	96
K32	AQ765
43	987
	AK53
	T854
	9
	QJ65

1♦ will be the general opener with 1-4-4-4 hand. South will respond 1♥ and North is good enough for 3♥ with four card support and a singleton. Game is easily reached with South raising to four. Should North open 1♥ South raises to the three level and North again values his singleton and bids on to Game. Where North quietly raises 1♥ to the two level South may be discouraged by his poor trump suit and no real support for partner and decide to pass.

22	KQJ86543
East	6
EW	KQ
	32
T7	92
KJ985	Q732
83	J94
AK87	QJT5
	A
	AT4
	AT7652
	964

1♦ by South will be overcalled with 1♥. North bids the obvious 4♠. Should East press on to the five level if South doubles and North refrains from bidding again, 800pts will be coming their way. Who said 'What do you call an eight suit?. Trumps!

23	QT92
South	J6532
All	AK
	T6
KJ6	874
AQT4	K8
T53	J9862
952	AKJ
	A53
	97
	Q74
	Q8743

Anyone opening third in hand?. Do you really want a ♥ lead? However some will not be able to resist and NS, if left to their own devices, should get no higher than 1NT. After 1♥ from North, East will probably double. South will bid 1NT and West is likely to apply a penalty double. North's optimistic opener has found success if three passes come round to South, passing it out will be a reasonable score.

24	8
West	Q
None	AKQ753
	T9432
T9542	AKJ76
AK63	T974
T8	42
A7	KQ
	Q3
	J852
	J96
	J865

A probable 1♠ from West should see North overcall 2♦. This is better than your favourite 2-suiter as you will always press on with ♣s over game in a major and indicates your ♦s as the better suit. 4♠ from East quickly follows as does the 5♣ from North. South can pass but with equal length would bid ♦s. Should EW bid on they will have a negative score.

25	643
North	AJ63
EW	2
	A9742
QT75	AK98
K94	QT852
KT93	A74
65	8
	J2
	7
	QJ865
	KQJT3

Pass from North, 1♥ from East and 2NT from South sets West a problem. Should he bid or not? He may wish to double. If so what does it mean? Is it just points? Does it show ♠s? Does it say I can double one (or both?) of their suits? The latter is my choice so double it is. North bids 3 (or 4?) ♣ which should be passed round to West. Well partner will say 'You started us on this route, decide). A pass brings a poor score, four ♠s is simply a shot in the dark so 4♥ it has to be. If North doubles it will be helpful but not essential as the distribution is marked. South may well make the right choice and bid 5♣.

26	2
East	J976
All	K7542
	Q97
AK87543	Q
4	AQT53
T3	Q98
A85	JT43
	JT96
	K82
	AJ6
	K62

Most will open with the East hand with 1♥. Should South double? Many will as 'They have four ♠s'. With this 4-3-3-3 shape double is not for me. West should now go carefully, warned as to a probable bad break in ♠s. Left to his own devices he will be more out of his depth than he will be if opponents have shown the likely distribution

27	A976
South	A2
None	AT74
	875
Q8	KT53
QT863	J94
K9832	5
2	KJT43
	J42
	K75
	QJ6
	AQ96

A straightforward 1NT, major suit enquiry finding none and then 2 or 3NT depending on whether your glass is half full or half empty. On a ♥ lead declarer wins the second round in dummy and takes a ♣ finesse. If it loses you win the ♥ return and finesse into the 'safe' hand to show good technique.

28	
West	AKJT43
NS	QJ74
	J95
A9642	J753
85	962
T865	932
62	T83
	KQT8
	Q7
	AK
	AKQ74

The small slam will be bid many times but how about the Grand? After 1♥ from North South should move forward slowly with 2♣. Does North now bid 2♦ or 2♥? Your hand is now looking better with your support for ♣s and with the ♠ void 3♥ looks the value bid. 4NT by South will pose North a problem. What do you do with a void? One Key Card and a void bid 5NT. With two Key Cards and a void bid the void at the six level if below the agreed suit, bid the suit agreed if is above. Here North bids 6♥. South can 'see' the ♠ void and bids the Grand. An alternative sequence for North would see North respond 2♦. 2♠ from South and 3♣ from North will 'pattern out' North's almost exact shape. At pairs now South may well settle for 6NT.

29	KQ5
North	KQJT975
All	AQJ
AJT9	862
A3	84
T932	64
JT2	AK9843
	743
	62
	K875
	Q765

Those opening 1♥ run the risk of having the hand passed out. It does qualify for a 'Strong' hand opening and should result in game in ♥s being reached.

30	A5
East	872
None	AJ8
	AT653
K984	JT6
5	K9643
K65432	Q7
KJ	Q82
	Q732
	AQJT
	T9
	974

Following two passes West is likely to open 1♦. North should not double, 2♣ is risky so pass is best. 1♥ from East brings a rebid of 1♠. Now 2♣ is somewhat safer and NS will win the battle of the part scores.