



Volume 6 No. 3 March 2005

## A Very Simple Explanation

Most bridge players have been bombarded over the years by teachers who only want them to learn correctly. The concept that when a suit is rebid it means that the player has at least six of them seems simple, but we all know that there are times when we don't follow the guideline simply because we are unable to conjure up a better bid.

The first order of business is to establish the exceptions; that right, let's discuss those rare times when repeating a 5-card suit is acceptable.

### When It is OK to Repeat your 5-Card Suit

1. Responder (South) may repeat his 5-card suit when he has a weak hand with a very strong suit.

South (A)	South (B)	South (C)
♠ KQJT3	♠ 32	♠ 2
♥ 543	♥ 432	♥ AKJT5
♦ 432	♦ AQJT8	♦ 543
♣ 32	♣ 532	♣ 5432

Open	Resp	Open	Resp	Open	Resp
1♣	1♠	1♣	1♦	1♦	1♥
1N	2♠	1♠	2♦	1♠	2♥

In A, B and C above, South has a 5-card suit that truly LOOKS like a 6-card suit. It is further noted that despite his good suit, South has a very weak hand. No other bid remotely makes sense. South may rebid his suit as shown.

2. Opener may repeat his 5-card suit in the situation where his partner has made a 2/1 response and most rebids would not make sense. The most common example of this phenomena is when opener is unable to rebid 2N because he doesn't have a stopper in an unbid suit.

South (D)	South North	South can't bid 2N without the semblance of a heart stopper. He is "forced" into bidding 2♠.
♠ AKJ96	1♠ 2♦	
♥ 432	?	
♦ Q3		
♣ AT6		

South (E)	South North	South can't raise clubs or rebid 2N. He is "forced" into bidding 2♦.
♠ T62	1♦ 2♣	
♥ KQ4	?	
♦ AQT93		
♣ K2		

South (F)	South North	South can't bid 2N without the semblance of a diamond stopper. He is "forced" into bidding 2♥.
♠ AQ4	1♥ 2♣	
♥ KQT95	?	
♦ 432		
♣ A4		

These exceptions, having been pointed out, make common sense. Now that we recognize them for what they are (exceptions), we can go on to discuss the rest of those situations where rebidding a suit does show six.

### Showing or Asking

Virtually every bid in bridge falls into one of two categories, showing or asking. [Editors note: some bids are both showing and asking at the same time, such as Stayman which simultaneously shows a 4-card major and asks for a 4-card major.] Generally speaking, when you make a bid you are showing (or you might prefer telling) your partner something. If you asked people what their partner's 1♣ opening means, most would respond that it shows three or more clubs and an opening bid (13+ points). That explanation is "right on" in the vernacular of the 60's.

However, a small group of players would answer that the 1♣ opening asks for a major. It sounds good and on the surface it appears to be what we actually do when responding to 1♣ openings. We do respond in majors but NOT BECAUSE THE OPENING BID ASKS FOR A MAJOR. We respond in majors because we are telling (showing) our partner what we have in much the same way his 1♣ showed what it showed. It seems to be that it depends on your point of view; opener is asking and responder is showing versus opener is showing and responder is also showing. It seems that way, but now some expert intervention. The way bridge works is simple and here is the "very simple explanation" promised at the top of the left column.

Bids in bridge are showing (telling) bids except for a select few which are asking bids. Asking bids are ALWAYS conventional and have a special name. Check out the next column on page two for a partial list of showing (regular) bids and asking (conventional) bids.

Some Showing Bids

Opening bids at the 1-level show 13 points and the required length in the suit named.  
 1NT openings show 15 - 17 with the proper distribution.  
 2♠ weak 2-bid; shows 5-11 with a decent suit  
 2♥ weak 2-bid; shows 5-11 with a decent suit  
 2♦ weak 2-bid; shows 5-11 with a decent suit  
 2♣ opening shows a very strong hand

Obviously we could go on and on. The point is simple. When a player makes a natural bid he is telling (showing) his partner what his hand looks like. If you are thinking that your partner's natural bid asks you something, you are NOT approaching the game from the correct point of view! Here are some bids that do ask a question rather than tell.

- 1N 4N asks opener to bid 6N with a maximum
- 2N 5N asks opener to bid 7N with a maximum
- 1 suit 4N asks how many aces opener has
- 1♦ 1♥  
1♠ 2♣ 4th suit forcing; asks for 3 hearts
- 1♦ 1♥  
1N 2♣ new minor suit forcing; asks for 3 hearts
- 1♠ 5N grand slam force; asks partner to bid 7♠ with two of the top three honors
- 1♥ 2♥  
3♦ help suit game try; asks responder to bid game with help in diamonds

**Bid-Em-Ups:** Bid these with your partner. North is the dealer. Our auctions are on page 7. South's hands are on page 4.

North 1	North 2	North 3
♠ AT932	♠ JT952	♠
♥ KT3	♥ 93	♥ AKT952
♦ KQ86	♦ 53	♦ J98
♣ 8	♣ A976	♣ QJT6
North 4	North 5	North 6
♠ KT653	♠ AKJT4	♠ A9753
♥ KQJT5	♥ 8	♥ AT
♦ 3	♦ AT865	♦ KJT65
♣ K9	♣ K7	♣ 7

Some Bids That Ask and Tell Simultaneously

- 1N 2♣ shows and asks for a 4-card major
- 1♠ 2N Jacoby; shows 13+ with spades and asks for hand description.
- 1N 2♥ transfer; shows ♠'s, asks partner to bid ♠'s
- 2♥ 2N asks for a feature; shows invitational hand

negative doubles  
takeout doubles  
responsive doubles

These doubles show the unbid suits and ask partner to show his hand as best as he can.

Michael's cuebids  
Unusual NT

These bids show 5-5 or longer in the appropriate suits and ask partner to act accordingly.

Let's Get Back to the Point

The point as described at the top of the left hand column on page 1 is that rebidding a suit shows a 6-card suit. We said it a bit differently this time, in light of the discussion on showing versus asking that we just went through. Once we are in agreement that rebidding a suit SHOWS partner that we have a 6-card suit, it becomes rather simple to understand that we can never rebid a 5-card suit because we would be showing partner a 6-card suit. Notice that the exceptions discussed on page 1 always used suits that LOOKED like 6-card suits.

Repeated and rephrased for emphasis

When deciding what to bid with a 5-card suit we now know that rebidding it is incorrect because the message you are sending is that you are showing your 6-card suit.

What then are we to do when we have a 5-card suit as responder? How can we determine whether or not partner has 3-card support? Before we answer, CLEARLY WE WON'T FIND OUT BY REBIDDING OUR SUIT. Such a bid would SHOW a 6-bagger and wouldn't help us find out if partner has three card support. The answer is unbelievably simple! We will find out if partner has 3-card support by asking, "Partner, do you have 3-card support for my first suit?" We are not kidding. Obviously you may NOT ask that question using spoken English. The rest of this issue will deal with how to ask the question!

**Do you have 3-card support for my first suit?**

We've determined that you can't ask this question in English lest they call the director. The way to ask this question is to make a special bid. Here is the way you should go about asking the question.

Responder, at his second turn to bid, ASKS his partner for 3-card support for his first suit by bidding the lowest unnamed suit at the lowest possible level.

Let's see some hands and some auctions. South's last bid in each auction asks his partner for 3-card support for South's first suit. It is an artificial, conventional bid. It should be noted that North must answer South's "question". The right hand column of this page will deal with North's response.

South G ♠ KJ865 ♥ A76 ♦ T6 ♣ KT6	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Auction G</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">E</td> <td style="width: 15%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1N</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Auction G						W	N	E	S			1♣	P	1♠		P	1N	P	2♦		P	?		
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South H ♠ KJ8 ♥ A7652 ♦ T6 ♣ KT6	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Auction H</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">E</td> <td style="width: 15%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Auction H						W	N	E	S			1♦	P	1♥		P	1♠	P	2♣		P	?		
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South I ♠ 54 ♥ AQ754 ♦ K65 ♣ A32	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Auction I</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">E</td> <td style="width: 15%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Auction I						W	N	E	S			1♦	P	1♥		P	2♣	P	2♠		P	?		
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South J ♠ KJT43 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 43 ♣ K54	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Auction J</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">E</td> <td style="width: 15%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Auction J						W	N	E	S			1♣	P	1♠		P	2♣	P	2♦		P	?		
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South K ♠ K4 ♥ AQT6 ♦ AQT95 ♣ Q3	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Auction K</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">E</td> <td style="width: 15%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Auction K						W	N	E	S			1♣	P	1♦		P	1♠	P	2♥		P	?		
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	P	1♠	P	2♥																						
	P	?																								

The North hands below correspond to the North hands being bid in the left column. The discussion alongside each North hand involves what North should bid in response to South's last bid which asked North for 3-card support of South's first suit.

**\* Special notice: In order to "ask the question" by bidding the lowest unbid suit, the bidder (South in the examples on this and the previous page) MUST HAVE 10 POINTS OR MORE. In other words his hand must be at least invitational opposite his partner's opener. When North answers the question, he must always stay aware that South is inviting. Therefore, North must jump with extra values.**

See the top of the next page for a discussion of what to do with less than 10 points when you would like to ask for 3-card support.

North G North's answer to the question about having 3-card spade support is no. What does he bid to say no? His most natural bid. In this case NT. He should bid 3N, since he has a maximum for his bidding.

♠ T9  
♥ KQ9  
♦ AQ5  
♣ QJ982

North H This North hand is similar to G above except that this time North has 3-card support for South first suit. However, North bids only 2♥ and does not jump because he has a minimum.

♠ QT76  
♥ Q83  
♦ AJ  
♣ A987

North I This one is easy. Despite the stiff heart, North should bid 2N. He has a minimum with a stopper in the "unbid" suit, spades. It is "unbid" since when it was named by South, it was a conventional bid.

♠ KQT  
♥ 6  
♦ QJ943  
♣ KQ54

North J Despite his maximum, North could only muster a 2♣ bid at his second turn. Once South "asks" with 2♦, North should jump to 3♠. Slam is on and the jump might get you there.

♠ Q82  
♥ 4  
♦ AQ8  
♣ AQT987

North K North has a good 18 point hand. All he can do is jump to 3N, showing his heart stopper and extra values. It shows extra values since South's ask shows only 10+ points. South will go on to slam.

♠ AQJ8  
♥ K5  
♦ K4  
♣ AJT76

**What to do With a 5-card Suit  
With Less Than 10 Points?**

The answer to the above question will become apparent once we review which bids we will **NOT** make.

We will **NOT** rebid our 5-card suit since that would be showing (telling) partner that we have a 6-card suit.

We will **NOT** bid the lowest unbid suit because that would show 10+ HCP as well as asking partner for 3-card support of our first suit.

**We will bid something else!!!!**

The reality of bidding something else is this: you may not like what you are choosing to bid but you must remember your bid is constrained by your “rules” (agreements) which do not allow you to repeat a 5-card suit nor do they allow the bid of the lowest missing suit without at least 10 points. You will often find yourself choosing from a group of unappealing choices. Let’s see.

South L ♠ T6 ♥ KJ732 ♦ QJ5 ♣ 765	Auction L <table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♣	P	1♥	P	1♠	P	?
W	N	E	S										
	1♣	P	1♥										
P	1♠	P	?										

Since South does not have the required 10 points to bid 2♦ asking North for 3-card heart support, South must bid something else. He shouldn’t pass with only two spades. He might bid 1N (looks good) or he might choose to go back to opener’s first suit, clubs. Fear not, if North has only 3 clubs he must have 3 hearts and should go to 2♥, even though he wasn’t “asked”. If North had opened

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South 1 ♠ K6 ♥ J96542 ♦ J ♣ JT43	South 2 ♠ A43 ♥ AK62 ♦ AKJ64 ♣ K	South 3 ♠ 9842 ♥ 3 ♦ AQT ♣ AK872
South 4 ♠ QJ42 ♥ 32 ♦ A976 ♣ A72	South 5 ♠ Q72 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ9 ♣ AJ952	South 6 ♠ 4 ♥ J9842 ♦ AQ974 ♣ 93

1♦ instead of 1♣, South would choose between 1N and 2♦ as his 2nd bid. Returning to 2♦ is more appealing since South has ♦QJx.

South M ♠ T6 ♥ KJ732 ♦ QJ5 ♣ 765	Auction M <table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1N</td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♣	P	1♥	P	1N	P	?
W	N	E	S										
	1♣	P	1♥										
P	1N	P	?										

Same hand for South as in ‘L’ but North rebids 1N. South should **pass** since he can’t rebid his hearts nor can he ask for 3-card support. Had North opened 1♦, South might choose 2♦ as his second bid.

South N ♠ KQ532 ♥ J32 ♦ JT76 ♣ J	Auction N <table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♣	P	1♠	P	2♣	P	?
W	N	E	S										
	1♣	P	1♠										
P	2♣	P	?										

South should **pass** and leave North in his 6-1 fit.

South O ♠ 32 ♥ AQ754 ♦ J65 ♣ T62	Auction O <table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♦	P	1♥	P	2♣	P	?
W	N	E	S										
	1♦	P	1♥										
P	2♣	P	?										

Little choice for South here. He must preference diamonds with a 2♦ bid.

It should be a bit clearer now what we meant by:  
**We will bid something else!!!!**

You are finding out that bidding something else really means choosing the best bid from a group of bids where it is possible that you dislike all choices. Most of the time you will find yourself bidding NT, preferring partner’s first suit or even passing.

On page five you will find a quiz testing you on all we have discussed in this issue. You will choose between showing your 6-card suit (make sure to include your strength when making that bid), asking for 3-card support when you have enough strength (10+) or, with less than 10 points and a 5-card suit, choosing from a ‘list’ of not perfect bids. The answers and a brief discussion will be on page 8.

You are South. What is your bid at the “?” for #1 and #2

Answers on page 8.

South (A)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ JT5	1♣		1♥	1♣		1♥
♥ KJ965	1♠		?	3♣		?
♦ JT5						
♣ 43						
	1.			2.		

South (H)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ 32	1♣		1♥	1♦		1♥
♥ AT854	1N		?	1N		?
♦ 65						
♣ Q984						
	1.			2.		

South (B)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ 43	1♣		1♦	1♣		1♦
♥ 653	1N		?	2N		?
♦ AQJT6						
♣ 754						
	1.			2.		

South (I)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ 87	1♣		1♥	1♣		1♥
♥ QJ854	1♠		?	1N		?
♦ K54						
♣ Q54						
	1.			2.		

South (C)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ KQ9865	1♦		1♠	1♦		1♠
♥ JT5	2♣		?	2♦		?
♦ 76						
♣ J6						
	1.			2.		

South (J)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ A543	1♥		1♦	1♥		1♦
♥ K87	2♣		?	2♦		?
♦ AK543						
♣ 2						
	1.			2.		

South (D)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ K8	1♣		1♥	1♣		1♥
♥ QJ965	1♠		?	2♣		?
♦ AJ8						
♣ J54						
	1.			2.		

South (K)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ 7	1♠		1♦	1♠		1♦
♥ AQ8	2♠		?	2♥		?
♦ KQT65						
♣ AJT4						
	1.			2.		

South (E)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ AJ642	1♣		1♠	1♦		1♠
♥ Q54	1N		?	2♣		?
♦ T6						
♣ QT6						
	1.			2.		

South (L)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ 7	1♠		1♦	1♠		1♦
♥ QJ8	2♠		?	2♥		?
♦ KQT65						
♣ AJT4						
	1.			2.		

South (F)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ AJ642	1♣		1♠	1♦		1♠
♥ KQ4	1N		?	2♣		?
♦ T6						
♣ QT6						
	1.			2.		

South (M)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ 2	1♣		1♥	1♣		1♥
♥ KT653	1N		?	1♠		?
♦ 7654						
♣ K54						
	1.			2.		

South (G)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ AQ986	1♥		1♠	1♥		1♠
♥ 6	1N		?	2♣		?
♦ AKJ54						
♣ Q2						
	1.			2.		

South (N)

	North	1	South	North	2	South
♠ AQ65	1♥		1♦	1♥		1♦
♥ 4	2♥		?	3♣		?
♦ AKJ8						
♣ KT97						
	1.			2.		

Experts have a secret to which anyone can become privy. *They count.* They count suit length, distribution, and HCP. It's not easy. Keep at it...it's worth it.

		Auction			
North		W	N	E	S
♠ KT64					1♠
♥ 85			2♠	3♦	x*
♦ 53		P	4♠	All pass	
♣ KJ754		* Balanced game try in spades			

South playing in a matchpoint game. His double of East's 3♦ bid indicated to his partner that he had a strong balanced hand with interest in bidding game, not that he was interested in penalizing the bidder because he had tricks in their trump suit. The double could be left in by his partner should it turn out that his partner has diamonds. His partner, knowing that the opener had a good balanced hand, could now make an intelligent decision. North, with good offense and poor defense, correctly judged to jump to game in spades.

West was a good partner. He led the 4♦, his partner's suit. The declarer noted that the East-West pair were playing special spot card leads where the lead of the lowest card shows an odd number of cards in the suit, while with an even number of cards in a suit, the third best card is led. Later in the hand this will take on added significance.

The play and the defense started rather mundanely. East cashed two diamond tricks and then shifted to a heart. The declarer took the heart finesse which lost to West who continued with a heart which South won in hand. So far things do not look good. The defense has book and the declarer must hold his trump losers to none by locating the queen of trump and then he must guess which opponent has the queen of clubs.

The ace of trump was cashed. South had in mind to possibly finesse West for the queen of spades since East had overcalled and perhaps was short in spades. Lo and behold, West played the queen of spades under the ace. South drew two more rounds of trump while West discarded two hearts on those two tricks. Now just to get a further count (after all, this is the COUNTER's CORNER), South cashed his last good heart trick and each opponent followed.

South now reviewed the situation. He knew that East had started with exactly three spades (since West had a stiff queen); exactly three hearts since each opponent had followed to three rounds of hearts and West had discarded two hearts when South drew the last two rounds of trump. Also, since East had overcalled with 3♦, South knew that East had five or six diamonds. At the top of the next

This month's hand was first published years ago. Bernie held the South hand and was

		North			
		♠ KT64			
		♥ 85			
		♦ 53			
		♣ KJ754			
			N		East
					♠ 753
			W	E	♥ 764?
					♦ AKQxxx
			S		♣ ?
			South		
			♠ AJ982		
			♥ AQJ		
			♦ J2		
			♣ AT2		

column you will find a snapshot diagram of the hand at this "moment". It shows the North-South hands and uses an "x" to indicate any known card from an East-West hand and a "?" to indicate possible cards. The purpose of such a diagram is to make the "counting" as simple as is possible.

An examination of the East and West hands reveals the fact that most of the distribution is known. It seems that each hand has 14 cards but that is not quite the case. One of them has the last heart. Look at East's hand. If it turns out that East has the last heart then he can't also have any clubs at all since the fourth heart is his thirteenth card. If on the other hand, it turns out that West has the fourth heart than East's last card would be a club and West would have only five clubs. In other words, right now there is an extra heart or an extra club in each of the East-West hands. Once you determine the exact count, then you must "remove" the extra card.

Remember the opening lead. It was the 4♦. Since East-West play 3rd best from even and low from odd, South could tell that the 4♦ was West's lowest one because South had the 2♦ and dummy had the 3♦. Now that South knows that West had three diamonds, East must have a 6-card and not a 5-card suit for the overcall.

South is now certain that East had a stiff club (three spades, three hearts, six diamonds and therefore one club) or a void in clubs (three spades, four hearts, six diamonds and therefore no clubs). He took appropriate action and cashed the ace of clubs and "witnessed" (known winning finesse) West for the queen of clubs.

Keep counting! Do not give up! It gets easier, and easier, and easier, and easier, and easier, and easier, and easier.

North 1 ♠ AT932 ♥ KT3 ♦ KQ86 ♣ 8	Auction 1 W    N    E    S 1♠   P    1N P    2♦   P    2♥ All pass All pass	South 1 ♠ K6 ♥ J96542 ♦ J ♣ JT43
--	---	--

The auction on this hand should be the same whether you were playing Standard American or 2/1 game forcing. North's bids are pre-programmed. South has a choice after North's 2♦. South could say 2♥ or preference spades by going back to 2♠. It's easy when you see North's hand but not so easy without seeing it. We prefer 2♥ on the basic theory that opener's high card points can supply tricks for South but South's hand is almost worthless for North. As a general rule, the responder's weak suit should be trump since opener's hand has aces + for responder but not vice versa.

North 2 ♠ JT952 ♥ 93 ♦ 53 ♣ A976	Auction 2 W    N    E    S P    P    P    1♦ P    1♠   P    2♥ P    2N   P    3♠ P    4♠   All pass	South 2 ♠ A43 ♥ AK62 ♦ AKJ64 ♣ K
--	--	--

It took a while, but North and South should eventually arrived in 4♠. South's opening bid was tough with 22 HCP, including a stiff king. Some would open 2N or even 2♣ (and rebid 2N or 3♦). We much prefer the auction shown. It is important to reiterate that when South reverses (the 2♥ bid on this hand) such a bid shows the same strength as a jump shift. North's 2N was a bit better bid than rebidding his spades even though you must sometimes rebid a 5-card suit after a reverse because you find yourself trapped.

North 3 ♠ AKT952 ♥ J98 ♦ QJT6 ♣	Auction 3 W    N    E    S 1♥   P    2♣ P    3♠*   P    4♦ P    4♠   P    6♣	South 3 ♠ 9842 ♥ 3 ♦ AQT ♣ AK872
---	--	--

It really took a great bid to get North-South to a slam on these cards. Many pairs were not even in game. North's jump to 3♠ at his second turn showed short spades (splinter) and support for clubs. After South's 4♦ cue bid, North showed his absolute control of spades (stiff ace or void) by bidding 4♠. It was a cinch for South to bid the slam now. Sometimes it is amazing when you realize how important the placement of the high cards is what really determines what you can make. Change North's spades and diamonds to see what we mean.

North 4 ♠ KT653 ♥ KQJT5 ♦ 3 ♣ K9	Auction 4 W    N    E    S 1♠   P    3♠ P    ?	South 4 ♠ QJ42 ♥ 32 ♦ A976 ♣ A72
--	---	--

With two 5-card majors, we certainly would not even consider passing with this particular 12 point hand. The question arises as to what North should bid after South makes a limit raise? It sure is easy looking at both hands but how can North know what to do? The answer is simple: one rarely "knows" what to do. Follow the guidelines you have been taught over the years: whenever partner makes a game invitational bid **and you have a singleton in a side suit**, you are supposed to carry on to game, all the time. Even with minimums. Don't out think yourself. Just bid game! It works.

North 5 ♠ AKJT4 ♥ 8 ♦ AT865 ♣ K7	Auction 5 W    N    E    S 1♠   P    2♣ P    2♦   P    2♠ P    3♦   P    4♠ P    4N   P    etc to 6♠	South 5 ♠ Q72 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ9 ♣ AJ952
--	---	--

This North-South pair were not only playing 2/1 but they also had an agreement that South's jump to 4♠ should be a good fit for opener's second suit. Without such agreements it seems that bidding a slam (**knowing you could make it**) would be out of the question. Notice how Standard American pairs could not bid only 2♠ at their second turn as this South did because they would be afraid North might pass with a minimum hand. So they would jump to 3♠. Now bidding slam is guesswork.

North 6 ♠ A9753 ♥ AT ♦ KJT65 ♣ 7	Auction 6 W    N    E    S 1♠   P    1N P    2♦   P    3♦ P    3♥   P    5♦	South 6 ♠ 4 ♥ J9842 ♦ AQ974 ♣ 93
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We are sad to report that most players would not bid 3♦ with the South hand. They would make up some excuse like they only had 7 points and they didn't like the singleton in their partner's opening suit, etc. In point of fact they think it might turn out right to pass and remain safely in 2♦. It might be but failing to raise partner just one level to 3♦ (we didn't say to raise to 6♦!) when your diamonds are so strong is abhorrent. Show your diamond support and listen to what partner says. Remember: bid your own hand and leave partner's hand to him.

Answers to Page 5 Quiz

- |  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>A. 1. Pass and play the 4-3 fit.<br/>2. Pass.</p> <p>B. 1. 2♦; obvious exception<br/>2. 3N</p> <p>C. 1. 2♠<br/>2. 2♠ or pass. We prefer 2♠.</p> <p>D. 1. 2♦, asking for 3-card heart support<br/>2. 2♦, same as D1</p> <p>E. 1. Pass<br/>2. 2♦; not enough for 2♥ or 2N</p> <p>F. 1. 2♦, see D1 above<br/>2. 2♥, see D1</p> <p>G. 1. 3♦, natural, game forcing 5-5<br/>2. 3♦, natural, game forcing 5-5<br/>2♦ would have been the convention</p> | <p>♠</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦</p> <p>♣</p> | <p>H. 1. 2♣ is better than pass<br/>2. Pass, no choice</p> <p>I. 1. 1N or 2♣<br/>2. Pass or 2♣</p> <p>J. 1. 3♥, partner has 10+<br/>2. 2♥, partner has less than 10 and maybe a 4 card heart suit.</p> <p>K. 1. 2N, you might have game<br/>2. 3N, partner has 10+</p> <p>L. 1. Pass, not enough for 2N like in K1<br/>2. 2N</p> <p>M. 1. 2♣ because of the stiff spade<br/>2. 2♣ because there is nothing else to bid</p> <p>N. 1. 2N, see K1 and L1<br/>2. 4♣, I'm sure we have slam. Maybe a grand.</p> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|

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