

- 2. 8+ HCP and 5+ good spades
- 3. Blackwood
- 4. One ace
- 5. All four aces. Once trumps are drawn, hearts will take care of North's losers.
- $7 \bigstar$ by North

Made 7

North has enough for a positive $2 \bigstar$ showing at least five spades and 8+ points. South knows that a spade slam is likely as once trumps are drawn, hearts will take care of North's losers. South asks about aces and when North has one, South bids the grand slam. North can draw all the trumps and then set up the hearts with a ruff.



After East's 2 * opening, West knows it's a slam hand. But there is no need to rush. 2 NT is game forcing and 3 NT shows a balanced hand with 23-24 points. West's 6 NT is enough.



- 1. 20 HCP opposite an opening hid but no need to rush. A non-jump new suit response is 100% forcing.
- 2. Shows at least five spades.
- 3. Blackwood, knowing that there is an 8+ spade fit.
- 4. One ace.
- 5. Just one missing ace

$6 \bigstar$ by South

Lead: ♥ A

Made 6

Holding 20 points North knows that, with 32+ points in the two hands, a slam is likely. North just bids 2 ♦ which is forcing. South's 2 ♥ rebid confirms that South has at least five spades so North asks for aces, to check that there are not two quick losers. 5 ♦ shows one ace and North bids 6 ♠.



7 NT by West Lead: • 8 Made 7

Since East has 18 points opposite a 2 NT opening he knows that West must have the two missing aces and kings without using Blackwood.



North's $3 \blacklozenge$ shows 16-18 HCP and 6+ diamonds.

South knows they have 32- 33 HCP between them and uses Blackwood to check they are not missing two aces. 6 NT scores better than $6 \blacklozenge$.

Declarer wins with \checkmark A, and has 12 tricks.



East's rebid of 1 NT shows 15-16. West bids their second suit. East's 3 ♥ shows 3 card heart support. West has 15 HCP and 3 shortage points opposite partner's 15+ HCP so has the values for slam. West uses Blackwood to check they are not missing 2 aces.

Declarer should win ♦ A and play ♣ A and ♣ K. Now ruff a club with the ♥ J then draws trumps starting with the ♥ K.



South's rebid of 4 ♥ shows 4-card heart support and 19+ points including shortage. This is a straightforward hand to play. Draw trumps immediately.

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East has 9 HCP. If partner has 24 HCP then a combined 23 HCP is just enough for 6 NT to have good chances.



North's rebid of $3 \blacktriangle$ shows 16-18 with 6+ spades. Although South has all 4 aces they must

still use Blackwood asking for aces before they can use 5 NT to ask for kings.

Because South has all the aces, North must have all the kings with their 6 + response. South can count 13 tricks so can bid 7 NT



Declarer has nine top tricks. Two more tricks can be made in clubs (by force). Declarer must finesse in hearts by leading to dummy's ♥ J. Fortunately South holds the ♥ K.

If North held the ♥ K then declarer would have to hope that North will not lead a club, which would defeat the contract. Any other lead would allow declarer to make three heart tricks.





Bad luck!! 33 combined points, usually enough to make 6 NT. Here East is on lead and will take two heart tricks off the top. On any other lead North can take 12 tricks off the top.

Declarer can count 8 top tricks. Two more tricks will come in hearts once the ♥ A is driven out.