

♣ prepared hands **weak twos, and defence to weak twos**

Hand 1
Dealer North

♠ 87		♠ KQ43
♥ AJ10843		♥ 765
♦ 65		♦ KJ943
♣ KJ4		♣ 6
♠ J1092	□	
♥ 9		
♦ AQ108		
♣ 10987		
♠ A65		
♥ KQ2		
♦ 72		
♣ AQ532		

N	E	S	W
2H	NB	2NT	NB
3C	NB	4H	

Despite 15pts, South is not sure that there is game on, so he responds 2NT to enquire about partner's hand. North's rebid of 3C shows a maximum Weak 2, without two of the top three heart honours, but with outside values in clubs. When South hears this - values opposite his longest suit, he can bid 4H with confidence.

Hand 2
Dealer East

♠ 432		♠ AQ10876
♥ A1096		♥ 54
♦ Q1085		♦ 63
♣ 83		♣ QJ2
♠ KJ5	□	
♥ KQ8		
♦ AKJ		
♣ 10954		
♠ 9		
♥ J732		
♦ 9742		
♣ AK76		

N	E	S	W
-	2S	NB	2NT
NB	3NT	NB	?

West makes a forcing enquiry with 2NT, and East re-bids 3NT, indicating two of the top three spade honours with a maximum hand (8/9pts). Should West now pass or, with a 9-card spade fit, bid 4S? Because she is so balanced, it looks likely that 4S will not be advantage, since East cannot trump anything in the West hand. So, West should pass. 3NT makes, but 4S fails after ♣AK7 led, North ruffs and takes A♥.

Hand 3
Dealer South

♠ 76543		♠ Q98
♥ 8		♥ Q32
♦ AKQ8		♦ 10762
♣ AKQ		♣ 642
♠ 2	□	
♥ AKJ1094		
♦ 943		
♣ 853		
♠ AKJ10		
♥ 765		
♦ J5		
♣ J1097		

N	E	S	W
-	-	NB	2H
Dbl	NB	3S	NB
4NT	NB	5H	NB
6S			

North's spades are too poor to call, so double is correct. Providing South jumps to 3S, North should use RKCB and find the slam. All South's points are working and she has great spades. West leads A♥ and may well lead another at trick 2 (no other suit looks like a good switch). Assuming that West holds ♥AK, means it is more likely that East holds Q♠, with length. Instead of playing for drop, South should lay down A♠, cross to dummy and lead a low spade, playing 10♠ when East follows low.

Hand 4
Dealer West

♠ K98		♠ J1076
♥ J4		♥ Q9
♦ AK8		♦ J1065
♣ AQ853		♣ J72
♠ 5432	□	
♥ AK10876		
♦ 43		
♣ 10		
♠ AQ		
♥ 532		
♦ Q972		
♣ K964		

N	E	S	W
-	-	-	2H
Dbl	NB	3H*	NB
5C			*UCB

When North doubles, although minimum for such an action, South should use an Unassuming Cue-bid to show both minors and ask partner which one she prefers (if South had spades, she would have bid them). Not only does North clearly prefer clubs, she is stronger than she might be and, therefore, she should jump to 5C.