

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Dbl	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

**Auction Commentary:** South's 2 ♣ bid is "New Minor Forcing" (NMF). This is an artificial bid (must be alerted). South is asking North to further define their major suit holdings. Using NMF requires at least invitational values.

With four hearts, North should bid 2 ♥. If North doesn't have four hearts, but does have three spades, North should bid 2 ♠. In either of these cases, with a maximum (14 HCP), North should jump to either 3 ♥ or 3 ♠. Without four hearts or three spades, North should jump to 3 NT with a maximum OR bid 2 NT with a minimum (OR bid 2 ♦ with five diamonds).

South's jump to 3 ♠ shows a six-card suit and is FORCING. With an invitational hand and a six-card suit, South would have jumped to 3 ♠ on the previous round. South used NMF so that the later 3 ♠ bid would be forcing, rather than invitational.

**Opening Lead:** ♣ 6.

**Play Commentary:** With the spade suit breaking 3-2, South will always come to at least 10 tricks. The key to an overtrick comes from correctly playing the diamond suit. It would be wrong to lead the ♦ Q from hand, because you don't also have the ♦ JT between the two hands. Lead a small diamond to the ♦ J. When that wins, play the ♦ A. When the ♦ K drops, you have eleven tricks.

**Takeaway:** Remember, an immediate jump in an old suit is an invitational bid. Use NMF to establish a game force if you want to show a six-card suit.

**Board 4**

West Deals  
Both Vul

		♠ Q 10 7		
		♥ 10 8 7		
		♦ Q 6		
		♣ K 10 7 6 4		
♠ K 5			♠ A 9 8 6 4	
♥ A J 6 2			♥ K Q 9 3	
♦ A 9 8 5			♦ K 7 4	
♣ Q 8 5			♣ 2	
		♠ J 3 2		
		♥ 5 4		
		♦ J 10 3 2		
		♣ A J 9 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	
1 N	Pass	2 ♣	Pass	
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

**Auction Commentary:** East's 2 ♣ bid is NMF. It is artificial and must be alerted. It does not show clubs; it asks for opener to further describe their hand. With four hearts and a maximum, West jumps to 3 ♥. Having found a fit, East bids game in hearts.

**Opening Lead:** ♣ 6.

**Play Commentary:** West has two diamond losers and two club losers. The clubs can be ruffed in the dummy. Can we do anything about the diamonds? Suppose South returns a trump at trick 2. Win in the dummy and play a spade to the King. Ruff a club. Play a diamond to the Ace and ruff the last club. Cash the other high trump in the dummy. When each defender follows, play the ♠ A and ruff a spade. When that suit splits as well, you can cash the last trump, play a diamond to the King, and the last two cards in the dummy will be two good spades. Making six. Try not to complain about partner's pessimism.

**Takeaway:** When the auction begins 1m - 1M; 1 NT - 2om {1 of a minor, 1 of a major; 1 NT, 2 of the other minor}, the bid of 2 of the other minor is NMF. It is artificial and forcing. Discuss this with your partner so that both of you are on the same page.

Remember to make a plan at the beginning of the hand. When you have a trump suit, you should consider whether or not you have cards you want to ruff before drawing them.

**Board 8**

West Deals  
None Vul

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

**Auction Commentary:** West showed 18-19 HCP by opening a minor and rebidding 2 NT. East bid the other minor cheaply, which is NMF, even at the 3-level. West showed four hearts. After a 2 NT rebid, we don't jump to show a maximum. East's 3 NT bid says specifically that they have enough for game and five spades. If they had only four spades, they would have bid 3 NT immediately. West should bid 4 ♠, the known eight-card major suit fit.

**Opening Lead:** ♠ 2. The least bad option, perhaps.

**Play Commentary:** North will win the first trick and then have to decide whether or not to shift to clubs. It seems scary to do so, but if East has the ♣ A, they are likely to be able to discard their club losers on West's diamonds and hearts. A brave North will hold declarer to 10 tricks, otherwise, East will score 4 spades, 3 hearts and 4 diamonds for 11 tricks.

**Takeaway:** Remember that when partner uses NMF they had a reason. If you show hearts, and partner return to no trump, it means they were looking for spades. If you have those as well, you need to show them.