

# Careful reconstruction

**PROBLEM** Attention! This is a difficult exercise... but an instructive one. You have to reconstruct a hand (with the exact distribution and all the honors from Ace to Jack). For that, you have various clues at your disposal that come from the bidding or play of the cards.

**You are sitting South.**

## Problem 1 Clues from the bidding

### Auction A

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♦		

### Auction B

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥		

## Clues from the opening lead

### Auction C

WEST	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT			

South leads the Jack of Hearts.

## Problem 2 Clues from the bidding

### Auction A

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT



### Auction B

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♠		

### Auction C

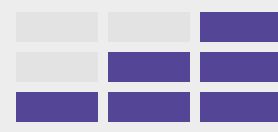
W	NORTH	E	S
	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT		

## Clues from the opening lead

### Auction D

WEST	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT			

South leads the Jack of Diamonds.



ALL LEVELS

## Solutions

### Problem 1

#### Auction A

After his initial 1NT response, South shows his enthusiasm for his partner's second suit by jumping to 3♣. This is a game try and shows a maximum hand with at least five Diamonds and a big honor doubleton in Spades.

To 4NT, RKCB, South then replies 5♠, showing two keycards and the Queen of Diamonds. These two keys can be two Aces or an Ace and the King of Diamonds.

#### Auction B

The response of 2NT indicates that South has three Hearts.

#### Auction C

The fact that South has the Jack of Hearts allows us to specify the keycards described in Auction A. South cannot have 11 HCP (he replied 1NT), so these two keycards must be one Ace and the King of Diamonds. In addition, the Ace can only be in Spades (this is the big honor described in Auction A).

What is left is to specify South's exact distribution. With six Diamonds, he would have answered 2♦ over the 1♠ opening. South's hand is therefore:

♠ Ax  
♥ J10x  
♦ KQxxx  
♣ xxx

### Problem 2

#### Auction A

After his partner's 1NT rebid, South uses checkback before bidding his Hearts at the two-level. That way, he shows a limited hand (9<sup>+</sup>-11HCP) with five Spades and four Hearts. When his partner corrects to 2♠ with two cards, South finds enough strength to speak again and say 2NT. We can reasonably give him 11HCP.

#### Auction B

South's 4♥ bid is not a suggestion to play there (why would he prefer to play in a 5-3 fit rather than a 4-4 fit?), but a control showing bid (in partner's first suit always an honor), denying a control in the minors and giving us the certainty that South has 5-4-2-2 distribution.

In response to RKCB, South describes one keycard (5♦) and, when his partner asks for the Spade Queen, his 5NT bid confirms this Queen but denies any unannounced King.

Over partner's grand slam try (6♣), South then shows his Heart Queen with 6♥.

#### Auction C

The 2NT answer denies the possession of an Ace. The keycard described in Auction B is therefore the King of Spades and the Heart control must be the King.

### Clues from the opening lead

When South leads the Jack of Diamonds after the opponent has shown his two long suits, he lifts the veil off the last unknown of his hand with 11 HCP:

♠ KQxxx  
♥ KQxx  
♦ Jx (or J10)  
♣ xx

THE MYSTERIOUS  
HAND