Board # 1

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ AK62
♡ Q2
◇ J92
♣ AJ86

WEST
♠ 8
♡ T953
◇ AKQT6
♣ KT2

EAST
♠ 3
♡ AJ8764
◇ 743
♣ 974

SOUTH
♠ QJT9754
♡ K
◇ 85
♣ Q53

HCP:
15
12 5
8

N-S have 23 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	7	7	4	4
♠	10	10	3	3
♡	3	3	9	9
◇	4	4	9	9
♣	9	9	4	4

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠n	A♡	=	420	
	4♠n	A♡	=	420	
	4♠n	A♡	-2		100
	4♡s	K◇	-4		200

North opens 1NT and if East passes, South should transfer to spades. For most pairs this will be a 2♡ call, North will bid 2♠ as requested, and South will raise to game. Modern science has a newer way, with four-level red suit responses as a transfer to the next suit when the transferer has six or more. If East overcalls 2♡, South should probably just bid 4♠ directly. Some pairs have agreements here too: doubling 2♡ might be played as a transfer.

Board # 2

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ Q73
♡ 86
◇ AJ742
♣ Q87

WEST
♠ AJT2
♡ QJT
◇ 96
♣ KJ62

EAST
♠ K65
♡ A7542
◇ 53
♣ A94

SOUTH
♠ 984
♡ K93
◇ KQT8
♣ T53

HCP:
9
12 11
8

E-W have 23 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	6	6	7	7
♠	3	3	10	10
♡	3	3	10	10
◇	6	6	7	7
♣	4	4	9	9

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2Ne	8◇	=		120
	1♠w	T♡	+2		140
	2♠w	4◇	+1		140
	4♡e	8♠	+2		480

East is close to a minimum opener but not quite close enough, so East and South pass and West opens 1♣. North overcalls 1◇ and East bids 1♡; South raises to 2◇. West should recognize that the 1♡ call after the overcall should be a five-card suit and raise to 2♡. This will be enough for East to bid game or perhaps invite game with 3♡, even if North persists with a 3◇ call. Two diamonds and the K♡ are guaranteed losers and to make 10 tricks, East will need some magic!

Board # 3

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: E-W

NORTH
♠ QJ5
♡ Q8532
◇ Q42
♣ T7

WEST
♠ K64
♡ T97
◇ A63
♣ 8652

EAST
♠ T98732
♡ -
◇ T98
♣ KQ93

SOUTH
♠ A
♡ AKJ64
◇ KJ75
♣ AJ4

HCP:
7
7 5
21

N-S have 28 combined points.
Suitable Level: Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	10	10	2	2
♠	6	6	7	7
♡	11	11	1	1
◇	10	9	3	3
♣	7	7	6	6

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♡s	2♣	+2	480	
	4♡s	A◇	+2	480	
	4♡s	8♣	+2	480	
	4♡s	8♣	=	420	

Nothing should stop N-S from getting to 4♡ and making eleven tricks or more, so a word of warning. A few years ago, ACBL changed the rules to allow notrump openers with singleton high honours (ace, king or queen). There are some awkward hands where experts complained that this was the least worst solution. But the rule change has encouraged non-experts to open notrump hands with singletons often, paying many matchpoints oftener! Keep your notrump openers balanced!

Board # 4

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ KT752
♡ 87
◇ JT
♣ QJ76

WEST
♠ Q8
♡ QJT654
◇ Q542
♣ 8

HCP: 7 7 12 14

EAST
♠ 963
♡ A932
◇ A87
♣ A95

HCP: 8 15 12

SOUTH
♠ AJ4
♡ K
◇ K963
♣ KT432

HCP: 7 7 12 14

N-S have 21 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	5	5	8	8
♠	8	8	4	4
♡	3	3	10	10
◇	4	4	7	7
♣	10	10	3	3

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♠n	3♡	+1	170	
	3♡w	5♠	=		140
	3♡w	5♠	+1		170
	4♡w	J◇	=		620

West and North pass and East opens 1♣. When you are about to open 1 of a suit and that suit is bid on your right, it is usually best to pass (unless you can overcall another suit). A double does not penalize clubs here, it is for takeout. So South passes and West bids 1♡. East raises to 2♡ and now South can get into the auction with a takeout double. West passes, North bids 2♠, and this is passed around to West, who takes a shot at 3♡, which is an easy ten tricks.

Board # 5

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ T753
♡ A982
◇ JT5
♣ 65

WEST
♠ J6
♡ 6
◇ KQ9862
♣ Q942

HCP: 5 8 15 12

EAST
♠ A4
♡ KT3
◇ 43
♣ AKJ873

HCP: 14 12 10

SOUTH
♠ KQ982
♡ QJ754
◇ A7
♣ T

E-W have 23 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	2	2	7	7
♠	8	8	4	4
♡	9	9	4	4
◇	2	2	10	10
♣	2	2	10	10

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♡s	2♣	-1		100
	2♣e	8♠	+2		130
	4♣e	K♠	=		130
	5♣e	Q♡	=		400

North passes and East has two possible openers: 1♣ or 1NT. South will come in over either with 2♣ over 1♣ (a Michaels cuebid to show 5-5 in the majors) or some call over 1NT that shows both majors (most pairs have one in their system). West will bid diamonds and North will bid hearts and the battle is on. East must be wary of 3NT for the opponents will set up at least one of their majors. Majors usually win these auctions, but 4♣ or 4◇ can make ten tricks if E-W can bid that high.

Board # 6

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: E-W

NORTH
♠ Q
♡ 6543
◇ Q9763
♣ 952

WEST
♠ A976
♡ Q9
◇ AK82
♣ J86

HCP: 4 14 12 10

EAST
♠ K43
♡ KT8
◇ T54
♣ AQ43

HCP: 14 12 10

SOUTH
♠ JT852
♡ AJ72
◇ J
♣ KT7

E-W have 26 combined points.
Suitable Level: Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	3	3	9	9
♠	4	4	9	9
♡	5	6	6	6
◇	4	4	8	8
♣	3	3	9	9

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3Nw	6◇	-1	100	
	1Nw	J♠	+2		150
	3Ne	5♠	=		600
	3Ne	J♠	=		600

A minimum 1♣ opener by East leaves South no safer call than pass (double might get a diamond response from partner, overcalling 1♠ on five to the jack and a weak hand is a bit dicey...). West has a full opening bid and need not bypass diamonds, knowing his strength is enough for multiple calls later, so 1◇ is the response. North passes and East rebids 1NT. West raises to 3NT since the 1NT bid denies a four-card major in this auction and nine tricks are possible but not easy...

Board # 7

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ KQ72
♡ K98764
◇ AT
♣ 8

WEST
♠ T4
♡ T
◇ KQ52
♣ AJ7654

HCP: 12
10 9
9

EAST
♠ A983
♡ A532
◇ J63
♣ 32

HCP: 13
9
13

SOUTH
♠ J65
♡ QJ
◇ 9874
♣ KQT9

N-S have 21 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	7	7	6	6
♠	7	7	5	5
♡	9	9	4	4
◇	5	6	7	7
♣	4	4	9	9

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♡n*	3♣	+2	930	
	3♡n	3♣	+1	170	
	2♡n	2♣	+2	170	
	2♡n	3♣	+2	170	

South and West pass and North opens 1♡. East passes and South bids 1NT. 1NT over a major suit can be unbalanced if responder has no other option such as raising or bidding 1♠. Most systems ask for 10 points or more to bid a new suit at the two level as a response, so 1NT is often the only choice possible. North rebids 2♡ and may have to compete to 3♡ if the opponents come in, but nine tricks in hearts are standard.

Board # 8

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ 7652
♡ AJ98
◇ -
♣ T8432

WEST
♠ 3
♡ KQ632
◇ A973
♣ A97

EAST
♠ KQT
♡ T75
◇ T642
♣ KJ6

SOUTH
♠ AJ984
♡ 4
◇ KQJ85
♣ Q5

E-W have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	6	6	7	6
♠	10	10	3	3
♡	6	6	7	7
◇	6	6	7	7
♣	7	7	5	5

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♠n*	5♡	=	530	
	3♠n	T♡	+1	170	
	2♡w	3♣	-2	100	
	4♠s	K♡	-2		100

West opens 1♡, North passes and East should bid 2♡, not 1NT. Finding and communicating the news that there is an 8-card major suit fit is a key priority in bidding. South bids 2♠ and West uses good judgment by passing with the minimum hand, rather than imply extras by bidding on. North's void and four card support are enough to raise to 3♠, and there it should end. Ten tricks are possible but tricky, and who wants to be in game on 18 combined points anyway?

Board # 9

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: E-W

NORTH
♠ QJ76
♡ KJ
◇ QJ764
♣ K4

WEST
♠ 3
♡ A832
◇ 852
♣ QJ952

EAST
♠ T82
♡ T9754
◇ K93
♣ A7

SOUTH
♠ AK954
♡ Q6
◇ AT
♣ T863

HCP: 13
7 7
13

N-S have 26 combined points.
Suitable Level: Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	8	8	4	4
♠	10	10	3	3
♡	4	4	9	8
◇	8	8	4	4
♣	6	6	6	6

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠s	2♣	=	420	
	4♠s	A♡	-1		50
	4♠s	Q♣	-1		50
	4♠s	5♣	-2		100

North is the dealer with 13 points but I would pass this one. Most will open 1◇ and when South responds 1♠ the pair will get to 4♠ easily. West starts with the Q♣ and South tries dummy's K♣, losing to the ace. Back comes a club to West's jack and a third club, testing whether South is awake or not. If South calls for a low trump for the third round of clubs, East overruffs and returns a heart for the setting trick! South must ruff that third club with the Q♠ to be 100% safe.

Board # 10

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ AJ752
♡ -
◇ 863
♣ AT983

WEST
♠ K4
♡ AK6
◇ KT752
♣ J75

EAST
♠ -
♡ Q98542
◇ A94
♣ KQ64

SOUTH
♠ QT9863
♡ JT73
◇ QJ
♣ 2

HCP:
9
14 11
6

E-W have 25 combined points.
Suitable Level: Likely Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	2	2	6	9
♠	11	11	2	2
♡	2	2	11	11
◇	2	2	7	8
♣	3	3	8	10

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♠n	A◇	+3	200	
	5♡e	2♣	-1	100	
	4♡w	Q◇	=		620
	5♡e	Q♠	=		650

East has to choose between 1♡, 2♡, and pass as a first call. Pass is silly: eleven and a void is enough to open. 2♡ is flawed because the heart suit is weak, so 1♡ is best. South passes and West responds 2◇. North doubles to show the black suits, and East passes with minimum points and a weak suit (2◇ is forcing, but with North's double it is safe to pass since West will get another call). South jumps to 4♠! Both sides can make 11 tricks in their suit: who will prevail?

Board # 11

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ KQ8
♡ 2
◇ K653
♣ K9652

WEST
♠ AJ43
♡ J98765
◇ Q9
♣ 7

EAST
♠ 976
♡ KQT
◇ A8742
♣ AJ

SOUTH
♠ T52
♡ A43
◇ JT
♣ QT843

HCP:
11
8 14
7

E-W have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	5	5	8	8
♠	4	4	8	8
♡	3	3	10	10
◇	4	4	8	8
♣	10	10	3	3

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♡w	6♣	-1	50	
	1◇n	A♣	-1		50
	4♣n	K♡	-1		50
	3♡w	K♠	+1		170

South and West pass and North is in third seat and can open light, but there is no real reason to do so with this aceless hand. (Subtract a point when you are aceless and add one when you have more than two aces: a point-count fix that works.) So East opens 1◇ and West responds 1♡, and North might get into the auction now. Ten tricks are possible to both sides in hearts or clubs, so whoever bids the most (and plays well) will succeed!

Board # 12

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ T8
♡ J92
◇ AJ7642
♣ 63

WEST
♠ KQJ7
♡ KQ54
◇ 83
♣ 542

EAST
♠ 9542
♡ AT73
◇ T
♣ AQJ8

SOUTH
♠ A63
♡ 86
◇ KQ95
♣ KT97

HCP:
6
11 11
12

E-W have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	7	7	5	5
♠	3	3	9	9
♡	3	3	10	10
◇	9	9	4	4
♣	5	5	8	8

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4◇s	A♡	-1		100
	3♡w	A◇	+1		170
	4♡w	A◇	=		420
	4♡w	A◇	=		420

West passes, North passes (2◇ is a bit on the wild side at thid vulnerability), and East opens 1♣. South passes and West responds 1♡. North passes and here is the key question: how many points is the East hand worth in support of hearts? East has 11 highcard points, a singletong which is worth three points in support of a suit bid by partner (not two), four card support and a high honour in trumps. This comes to about 16 points and a jump to 3♡ is called for, which should get the pair to 4♡.

Board # 13

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ 87
♡ Q62
◇ AJ7
♣ J9752

WEST
♠ T9
♡ J7
◇ Q652
♣ AKQ63

EAST
♠ 532
♡ K8543
◇ KT83
♣ 4

SOUTH
♠ AKQJ64
♡ AT9
◇ 94
♣ T8

HCP:
8
12 6
14

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	8	8	4	4
♠	9	9	4	4
♡	6	6	7	7
◇	6	6	7	7
♣	7	7	6	6

N-S have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♠s	A♣	+2	170	
	2♠s	A♣	+1	140	
	2♠s	A♣	+1	140	
	2♠s	A♣	+1	140	

North and East pass, South opens 1♠, West overcalls 2♣. North and East pass again and South's 2♠ ends the auction. West leads the A♣ and East plays the four. East would play high-low with a doubleton, so West knows the four is a singleton and thus South has two clubs. A low club to trick two gets the ruff and back comes a diamond to the queen and ace in dummy. South will usually make nine tricks unless West goes rogue and leads the J♡ at some point.

Board # 14

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ QT64
♡ 76
◇ QT874
♣ 86

WEST
♠ 85
♡ KQ8
◇ J653
♣ K974

EAST
♠ AK972
♡ 4
◇ A92
♣ AT52

SOUTH
♠ J3
♡ AJT9532
◇ K
♣ QJ3

HCP:
4
9 15
12

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	4	4	9	9
♠	4	4	9	9
♡	6	6	7	7
◇	4	4	9	9
♣	2	2	10	10

E-W have 24 combined points.
Suitable Level: Possible Game

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♡s	K♣	-1		50
	3♣e	A♡	=		110
	3♠e	A♡	+1		170
	3Ne	7♡	=		400

East opens 1♠, South overcalls 2♡, and West bids 2NT, which is raised to 3NT by East. Difficult contract! A heart lead goes to South's nine and West wins, but West cannot get another heart trick. Top tricks at this point: only 6: two spades, a heart, a diamond and two clubs. Making 3NT from here is nearly impossible even looking at all 52 cards!

Board # 15

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ A98763
♡ K64
◇ 5
♣ 532

WEST
♠ KQ4
♡ T73
◇ QJT62
♣ T4

EAST
♠ J52
♡ AQJ5
◇ 87
♣ AKQ8

SOUTH
♠ T
♡ 982
◇ AK943
♣ J976

HCP:
7
8 17
8

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	3	3	10	10
♠	5	5	7	7
♡	3	3	7	7
◇	4	4	9	9
♣	4	4	7	7

E-W have 25 combined points.
Suitable Level: Likely Game

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♡e	T♠	-2	100	
	2♡e	A◇	-1	50	
	2♡e	K◇	=		110
	3Ne	A◇	+1		430

South and West pass and North opens 2♠. This is a third-seat special but knocks East for an uncomfortable loop: no bid is perfect and the least worst may be to double and hope West doesn't insist on diamonds. South passes and West bids 2NT. North passes and East raises to 3NT, hoping for help in not just spades but diamonds as well. The 2NT response to the takeout double does show some values, so there is a good chance at success, and all works out well in the end.