

Lesson 3 - Class Hand #1

Board 1			
North Deals	♠ J 9 8 6		
None Vul	♥ 9 7 5		
	♦ A 10 5		
	♣ K 4 3		
	♠ 5 4 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A Q 10
	♥ A Q 8 6		♥ K J 3 2
	♦ Q 7 3		♦ K J 6
	♣ 9 8		♣ 6 5 2
		♠ K 7	
		♥ 10 4	
		♦ 9 8 4 2	
		♣ A Q J 10 7	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	All pass

East, with a minimum, raises West to 2H. West, also a minimum, passes. North leads the 6 of spades (4th highest in unbid major). East plays the 10 and South wins. South plays back the 7 of spades (hoping for a ruff at a later trick). East wins the Queen and draws trumps in three rounds. East drives out the Ace of diamonds. Once back in hand, East plays clubs until finally ruffing the third club. Making 9 tricks.

Lesson 3 - Class Hand #2

Board 2			
North Deals	♠ A 7		
None Vul	♥ 10 6 4		
	♦ Q J 7 3		
	♣ A K 10 2		
	♠ 10 8 4 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 6 5
	♥ J 9 5		♥ A Q 7 2
	♦ A 9 6 2		♦ K 8 4
	♣ J 4		♣ 9 8 5
		♠ K J 9 2	
		♥ K 8 3	
		♦ 10 5	
		♣ Q 7 6 3	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 N	All pass	

With no 5-card major and 4 - 4 in the minors, North opens 1D. South responds 1S. North has a choice: 1 NT or 2C. With only 4 cards in each of the minors and 4 - 4 - 3 - 2 distribution (balanced), 1 NT is better - it shows a minimum hand, while 2C is unlimited. To avoid leading from an honor, East leads the 9 of clubs. North sees 6 top tricks: two spades and 4 clubs. Before trying the heart finesse, lead the 10 of diamonds (and later the jack) to set up the queen. Delay the spade finesse - maybe West will lead spades.

Lesson 3 - Class Hand #3

Board 3		♠ 9 8 7 3 2	
North Deals		♥ K J	
None Vul		♦ J 10 8 6	
		♣ K 9	
♠ 10 6 5 4	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A	♥ 9 7 5 4 3
♥ A 8 2		♦ K Q 2	♣ A 4 3 2
♦ A 5		♠ K Q J	
♣ 8 7 6 5		♥ Q 10 6	
		♦ 9 7 4 3	
		♣ Q J 10	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	All pass		


East opens their 5-card major rather than the strong minor. Length is more important than strength in a trump suit. Both East and West are minimum, so the 2H raise is passed. East sees 6 top tricks. There are several approaches: draw trumps or ruff spades. Because of the three potential tricks in diamonds, try to draw trumps, finishing with the Ace at trick 3. In the current hand, East will lose two clubs and two hearts.

Lesson 3 - Class Hand #4

Board 4		♠ K 9 5 3	
North Deals		♥ A 8 6 4	
None Vul		♦ K Q 3	
		♣ J 6	
♠ J 8	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 10 4	♥ J 9 5
♥ 10 7		♦ A J 9 6 4	♣ Q 8
♦ 10 8 7 2		♠ A 7 6 2	
♣ K 10 9 7 5		♥ K Q 3 2	
		♦ 5	
		♣ A 4 3 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			

Without a 5-card major, North opens the longer minor. South bids "up the line" with 1H. With a minimum, North raises to 2H with 4 hearts. South has enough to be the 4H game. West leads the J of spades (high, then low from a doubleton) to South's Ace. South counts perhaps 6 losers (2 spades, 1 diamond, and 3 clubs). South must eliminate 3 losers. South can discard one club on one of KQ of diamonds after driving out the Ace. Otherwise, the only choice is to try for a 3 - 2 split in spades. South draws trumps in 3 rounds and loses the K of diamonds to the Ace. Winning the club return, South plays the King of spades and a small spade. The 3 - 2 split means only 1 spade loser. South cross-ruffs (the extra club in North's hand, the extra diamond in South's hand). Contract made.


Lesson 3 - Class Hand #5

Board 5	♠ K 8	
North Deals	♥ J 8 7 5	
None Vul	♦ 10 4	
	♣ A J 10 6 4	
♠ A Q J		♠ 6 5 4
♥ A K 6		♥ Q 9 4
♦ A K 9 8 2		♦ 7 6 5
♣ K 2		♣ Q 8 7 5
	♠ 10 9 7 3 2	
	♥ 10 3 2	
	♦ Q J 3	
	♣ 9 3	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 N	Pass	3 N	All pass

West bids an artificial 2C (22+ high-card points). After East's 2D "waiting" bid (usually weak), West bids 2 NT (22 - 24 high-card points) rather than 3D (it's harder to reach game in diamonds). East can pass, but in this case 4 high-card points is enough for the 3 NT game. North leads the J of clubs (top of an internal sequence, long suit). West wins with the K. West sees 6 more top tricks (7 total). If diamonds break 3 - 2, two more tricks are available. Play the AK of diamonds and a small diamond. Upon regaining the lead, 9 tricks are available (plus another potential spade trick after a finesse).

Lesson 3 - Class Hand #6

Board 6	♠ J 8	
North Deals	♥ K J 9 7 2	
None Vul	♦ 5 4 3	
	♣ A 4 2	
♠ K 7 4 2		♠ Q 6 5 3
♥ 10 6 4		♥ 8 3
♦ J 9 6		♦ 10 2
♣ Q 10 8		♣ 9 7 6 5 3
	♠ A 10 9	
	♥ A Q 5	
	♦ A K Q 8 7	
	♣ K J	

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

After the strong (22+) 2C bid, 2H shows 8+ high-card points and 5 hearts, KJxxx or better. The 4H game is soon reached after 3H shows heart support. Note: with advanced slam-bidding techniques, 6H would be the final contract. East leads the 10 of diamonds (high-low from a doubleton). North draws trumps in three rounds and wins five diamonds (because they break 3 - 2), discarding the 10 and 9 of spades. North then takes all 13 tricks.

Lesson 3 - Practice Hand #1

Board 7											
North Deals	♠ K 8										
None Vul	♥ A Q 10 8										
	♦ J 3 2										
	♣ J 8 6 5										
♠ J 9 7 6 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 10 5 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 5		♥ K 6 2									
♦ A K 10 9 8		♦ 6 5 4									
♣ K Q		♣ 10 4 3									
	♠ Q 4										
	♥ J 9 7 4 3										
	♦ Q 7										
	♣ A 9 7 2										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
	Pass	Pass	Pass								
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	All pass								

West opens the 5-card major (when 5 - 5, bid the higher-ranking suit). With a minimum, East raises. West is borderline good, but passes when considering that the KQ may win only 1 trick. With no good lead, North leads the 5 of clubs (4th highest, long suit), won by the Ace. West wins the club return with the K. West sees two potential spade losers, one heart loser, one or more diamond losers, and the Ace of clubs. Spades and diamonds are key. West leads the J of spades, won by the Q. The club return is ruffed by West, who plays a small spade to the Ace. All the trumps are out. West takes the AK of diamonds and leads a third diamond. After losing to the Ace of hearts, West has the rest.

Lesson 3 - Practice Hand #2

Board 8											
North Deals	♠ A 2										
None Vul	♥ Q 8 6										
	♦ 6 5										
	♣ A K Q 8 4 2										
♠ J 10 8 5 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 9 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J 9 5		♥ A 7 4									
♦ Q J 9		♦ K 10 8 7									
♣ 9 5		♣ 10 7 3									
	♠ K 6 3										
	♥ K 10 3 2										
	♦ A 4 3 2										
	♣ J 6										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦								
Pass	1 N	Pass	2 N								
Pass	3 N	All pass									

North, with 15 high-card points) raises South's invitational 2N (10 - 12 high-card points) to 3 NT. East leads the 7 of diamonds (4th highest, long suit) to North's Ace. North sees 9 tricks: 6 clubs (starting with the J in the short hand) and the AK of spades. A sneaky North will lead a small heart afterwards to try to steal a heart trick. East, of course, should take the Ace and play the diamonds/spades.

Lesson 3 - Practice Hand #3

Board 9		♠ 10 5 3	
North Deals		♥ 7 4 2	
None Vul		♦ A 8	
		♣ K J 10 6 4	
♠ A Q 8 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W S E </div>	♠ K J 9 2	
♥ K 8		♥ A J 5 3	
♦ K J 9 4		♦ Q 6 5 3	
♣ 9 5 3		♣ 8	
♠ 7 6 ♥ Q 10 9 6 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ A Q 7 2			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

After West bids 1S, East reevaluates their hand - 11 high-card plus 3 distribution points for the singleton). That's enough for a 4S game. A cautious player might bid an invitational 3S. West might pass that. North has no great lead, but tries a passive 7 of hearts (top of nothing). West sees one diamond loser and potentially 3 club losers. The plan: to ruff two clubs in East's hand. Win the heart lead with the Ace and play the small club. Win the trump return (led to limit ruffs). Ruff a club, return with the K of hearts, and ruff the last club. Play another spade and lead a diamond. Once the Ace wins, draw trumps and the rest are good.

Lesson 3 - Practice Hand #4

Board 10		♠ 9 8 7 6 5	
North Deals		♥ A Q 9	
None Vul		♦ A K J 5	
		♣ 2	
♠ A K Q	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W S E </div>	♠ J	
♥ J 7 6 5		♥ 10 8 3 2	
♦ 10 4 3		♦ 9 2	
♣ Q 9 6		♣ J 10 8 7 5 4	
♠ 10 4 3 2 ♥ K 4 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ A K 3			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

Opposite a 1S opening, South's hand has 12 high-card points plus 1 distribution point for the doubleton - enough for the 4S game. Note: some players will use 1S - 4S as a preemptive bid (long spades, weak hand), but our simplified approach allows you to use it with 13 - 15 points. You'll notice that N/S are missing the AKQJ of trumps! Unless they distribute 4 - 0, however, this hand is easy to play. Keep playing spades until all are drawn. All other tricks are good. Moral: length in the trump suit is more important than strength.