

# Improvers' Lesson 2: Blackwood Convention

**Board 1** ♠ 8 7 6  
North Deals ♥ J 10 7 5 4  
None Vul ♦ 10 8 4  
♣ 10 2

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

♠ 10 9 2  
♥ Q 2  
♦ 9 6  
♣ A J 9 8 7 6

West North East South  
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
4 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass  
6 NT All pass 5 ♦ Pass

East's 3 ♦ shows 16-17 HCP and 6+ diamonds.

West knows they have 32-33 HCP between them and uses Blackwood to check they are not missing two aces.

Lead: ♥ J

Declarer wins with ♥ A, and has 12 tricks.

**Board 2** ♠ 4  
East Deals ♥ A Q 10 8 3  
N-S Vul ♦ 6 4  
♣ A K Q 9 3

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

♠ K Q 6  
♥ K J 2  
♦ A K 7 5 2  
♣ 8 2

West North East South  
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♦  
Pass 3 ♣ Pass 1 NT  
Pass 4 NT Pass 3 ♥  
Pass 6 ♥ All pass 5 ♦

South's rebid of 1 NT shows 15-17. North bids their second suit then South shows a 3-card heart support in hearts.

North uses Blackwood to check they are not missing 2 aces.

Lead: ♦ Q

Win ♦ A and play ♣ A and ♣ K. Now ruff a club with the ♥ J then draws trumps starting with the ♥ K.

**Board 3** ♠ A J 9 4  
South Deals ♥ 5 4 2  
E-W Vul ♦ 8 2  
♣ J 10 7 4

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

♠ 10 8 7  
♥ Q J 10 6  
♦ 10 6 4  
♣ 8 6 5

West North East South  
1 NT Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♦ All pass

When West opens 1 NT, East knows they have a diamond fit and at least 30 HCP. The good long diamond suit encourages East to investigate slam.

Lead: ♥ Q

Declarer wins, draws trumps and concedes a trick to the ♠ A.

**Board 4** ♠ A 8  
West Deals ♥ K Q J 4  
Both Vul ♦ Q 2  
♣ A Q 10 7 3

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

♠ K 6  
♥ A 10 9 6 5  
♦ K 10 8  
♣ K J 6

West North East South  
Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥  
Pass 4 ♥ Pass 4 NT  
Pass 5 ♥ Pass 6 ♥  
All pass

North's rebid of 4 ♥ shows 18-19 with 4+ heart support.

South uses Blackwood. and bids the slam.

Lead: ♦ A

This is a straightforward hand to play. Draw trumps immediately.

**Board 5** ♠ K J 10 5 3 2  
North Deals ♥ K 8  
N-S Vul ♦ K Q  
♣ K J 8

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

♠ A Q 9  
♥ A 7 2  
♦ A 9  
♣ A Q 7 6 4

West North East South  
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣  
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 NT  
Pass 5 ♣ Pass 5 NT  
Pass 6 ♣ Pass 7 NT

North's rebid of 3 ♠ shows 16-17 with 6+ spades. Although South has all 4 aces they must still use Blackwood asking for aces before they can use 5 NT to ask for kings.

Because South has all the aces, North must have all the kings with their 6 ♣ response, South can count 13 tricks so can bid 7 NT

Lead ♥ J

**Board 6** ♠ 9 6  
East Deals ♥ 9 7 5  
E-W Vul ♦ 8 6 4  
♣ A 9 8 7 5

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

♠ 10 2  
♥ A 10 8 4  
♦ 10 9 7 3  
♣ 10 6 3

West North East South  
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♠  
4 NT Pass 5 ♥  
5 ♠ All pass

West uses Stayman to try and find a major fit, then asks for aces and stops in 5 ♠ as there are two missing.

Lead: ♦ 10

On a diamond lead, declarer is lucky and after drawing trumps, can discard clubs on the diamonds.

**Board 7** ♠ Q 4 3 2  
South Deals ♥ J 7 5 2  
Both Vul ♦ Q 2  
♣ A K J

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

♠ A K J 9 7 6  
♥ K 3  
♦ A K 5 4  
♣ 6

West North East South  
Pass 4 ♠ Pass 4 NT  
Pass 5 ♦ Pass 6 ♠  
All pass

North bids 4 ♠ showing 13+ HCP and 4 spades.

South uses Blackwood to ask for aces knowing they have 31+ HCP between the two hands.

With only one ace missing, they bid to slam in spades.

Win the club lead, draw trumps and discard a heart on the ♣ K

**Board 8** ♠ 10  
West Deals ♥ Q 9 5 2  
None Vul ♦ 9 8 4 2  
♣ 7 6 5 4

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

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

West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣  
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♥  
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠  
4 N Pass 5 ♦  
6 ♠ All pass

West's jump shift to 3 ♦ shows 18+ HCP and East's 3 ♥ a second suit. 3 ♠ by West now shows a 6-card suit. East then shows a spade fit and West asks for aces.

With all four aces and a singleton heart, West bids to slam.

Lead: ♣ 7