

## A few Simple Bridge Tips Provided by Neil H. Timm

You and your partner play 2/1 and you have the following hand:

♠AJ105 ♥AQ ♦AJ109876 ♣7

You open 1♦ and partner holds:

♠K9 ♥J1043 ♦K5 ♣AKQJ47

How do you now respond? Do you show your 4-card major or bid 2♣?

If you bid 1♥, partner will bid 1♠. You have 17HCP and bid 3NT. Is that sign-off?

Some may bid 2♣\* over 1♠ as fourth suit forcing, \*=alert; is that forcing to game or one round? The bid may not be passed; partner may then bid 3NT. Is that a drop-dead bid?

Over 3NT some may bid 4♣ as Gerber/ 1430expert Gerber? Then what?

In this example, responder made a basic mistake by bidding 1♥. Playing 2/1, responder must show a game force hand immediately and bid 2♣ not the 4-card major!

Opener will next respond 2♦ showing five or more diamonds which does NOT deny a 4-card major (as does the bid of 2♣ by responder). Next opener should bid 3NT=17-18HCP. With 12-14 or 18-19, opener would bid 2NT. With 18-19HCP openers would bid 4NT over any bid by responder.

By agreement a jump to 3NT should NEVER be fast arrival but should show 17-18 points playing the strong 1NT 15-17 opening with bid. Knowing opener has 17-18HCP, responder has a simple 6NT bid with 12+points.

My partner Dave Stentz of almost 20 years suggested that the bidding go: 1♦-2♣-3NT-6NT which right sides the contract and protects against a spade lead.

Next, bid and Play this hand:

North (Dealer)	South
♠AK654	♠83
♥107	♥AKJ943
♦AJ6	♦10
♣K102	♣A965

Try to bid and play the hand next – Solution follows.

The Bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♥ GF 5+H	Pass
2NT Min	Pass	3♥ 6+H	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣ 1430 Gerber	Pass
4♠ 2 Aces Min	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Opening Lead = ♠J

Deal Follows

		♠	AK654		
		♥	107		
		♦	AJ6		
		♣	K102		
♠	J10	N W   E S		♠	Q972
♥	Q652			♥	8
♦	98432			♦	KQ75
♣	84			♣	QJ73
		♠	83		
		♥	1AKJ943		
		♦	10		
		♣	A965		

Play of the Hand

South wins the opening lead with dummy's Ace and plays the ♥10, losing to West's Queen. The spade continuation by West is won in dummy with the King. South next draws trump in three rounds, crossing to dummy with the ♦A, ruffing a spade with the following position.

		♠ 65	
		♥ -	
		♦ J	
		♣ K2	
♠ -		N W     E S	♠ Q
♥ -			♥ -
♦ 984			♦ K
♣ KJ10			♣ QJ7
		♠ -	
		♥ 9	
		♦ -	
		♣ A965	

South next cashes his last trump and discards a spade from dummy. What is East to do? A club discards and all the clubs would run! East discards the ♠Q. South then leads a club to the king and then leads the six of spades. Now any discard by East gives south the rest of the tricks. Did you bid and make 6♥?

The play of the hand is unique, the last position is known as repeating a triple squeeze.

For more on this squeeze technique go to the link:  
[https://www.bridgebum.com/triple\\_squeeze.php](https://www.bridgebum.com/triple_squeeze.php)

When bidding slams we are told it usually requires about 32HCP for balance hand. However, with very distributional hands (short suits and voids), 24-26HCP may work!

When and how do you know? Use the guideline that that 13- SST (in both hands)=the number of tricks with 19-21 combined working points. One adds add 1 more trick with 22-24HCP, and yet another with 25-27HCP, etc.

To convince you, we consider an example. Bid and Play this hand:

South (Dealer)	North
♠A10632	♠5
♥-	♥Q97643
♦AKQ962	♦J10
♣74	♣AKJ2

Try to bid and play the hand next – Solution follows.

The Bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	X	XX	1♠
3♦	Pass	4♠* Splinter	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦ = 1 Ace	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Opening Lead = ♦5

Deal Follows

		♠ 5	
		♥ Q97643	
		♦ J10	
		♣ AKJ2	
♠ K74		N	♠ QJ98
♥ AK82		W E	♥ J105
♦ 75		S	♦ 843
♣ Q983			♣ 1065
		♠ A10632	
		♥ -	
		♦ AKQ962	
		♣ 74	

Play of the Hand

South wins the opening trump lead in dummy and ruffs a heart. Then play the ♠A and ruff another heart followed by another heart ruff, leaving the following position.

		♠ -	
		♥ Q9	
		♦ -	
		♣ ALJ2	
♠ -		N W   E S	♠ QJ
♥ AK			♥ J
♦ -			♦ -
♣ Q983			♣ 1065
		♠ 1063	
		♥ -	
		♦ 9	
		♣ 74	

South next leads the ♦9. West is unable to defend the position. If West discards a club, since then all clubs would run so h discards the ♥K. South discards a club from dummy and leads a club to his Jack. He next leads a low heart, which is taken by West's ace, and dummy takes the rest of the tricks.

The slam is bid and made with only 24HCP (a distributional hand). Note also that the formula works:  $13 - SST(1) = 12$  tricks.