



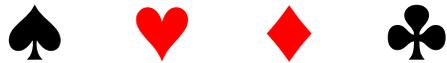
FYI

The following was excerpted from Marty Bergen's slam booklet, "

## **How to Bid Good Slams and Avoid Bad Ones**

It's available from Marty for all of May with a very special offer. If interested, email Marty at [mbergen@mindspring.com](mailto:mbergen@mindspring.com)





# MARTY BERGEN'S

## SECRETS TO WINNING BRIDGE

Number 34

### How to Bid Good Slams and Avoid Bad Ones

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### Exploring for Slam With 2/1 GF

26. West	W	E	East
♠ A J 3	1♥	2♦	♠ K Q 10
♥ Q 6 5 4 2	2NT	4NT	♥ K 7
♦ 6 4	Pass		♦ A Q 9 8 2
♣ K Q J			♣ A 5 3

Once West opens, East is very interested in slam. But when West can't raise diamonds or rebid hearts, East settles for a quantitative raise to 4NT.

West has 13 HCP rather than 12. On the other hand, he has a very weak long suit, no intermediate cards, a downgradable club holding, and no help for East's suit. Therefore, he correctly declines the invitation. As you can see, 6NT would have been hopeless.

27. West	W	E	East
♠ A 7 3	1♥	2♦	♠ K Q 10
♥ A Q 9 6 5	2NT	4NT	♥ K 7
♦ J 10	6NT	Pass	♦ A Q 9 8 2
♣ K 10 8			♣ A 5 3

West's hand is everything the previous example is not. More HCP and quick tricks, a better 5-card suit, 2 honors in East's suit, and several intermediates. This hand is the right one to justify attempting to win 12 tricks without the benefit of a trump suit.

28. West	W	E	East
♠ A 6 3	1♥	2♦	♠ K Q 10
♥ A J 9 4 2	2NT	4NT	♥ K 7
♦ J 7 4	5♦	6♦	♦ A Q 9 8 2
♣ K 7	Pass		♣ A 5 3

West has some support for East's diamonds, good controls and a ruffing value, so he's willing to accept East's invitation. Once he bids 5♦, the partnership will usually get to slam, but are only forced to 5NT. Of course on this hand, with East's 5 nice diamonds, he's happy to bid 6♦.