

Module 12 – Strong Opening Bids

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K 8 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ 10 9 8 6 ♣ 9 7 5 4	<div> <div>♠ A Q 3</div> <div>♥ K 7 6</div> <div>♦ K J 5</div> <div>♣ A K J 10</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ 6 4 2</div> <div>♥ J 10 9 5</div> <div>♦ A 7 3</div> <div>♣ Q 6 2</div> </div>	♠ J 10 9 7 5 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ 8 3	East Pass All pass	South 3 ♠
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West
Pass

2 NT by North shows 20-22 balanced and South's 3 ♠ shows exactly 5 spades. North knows they have a ♠ fit, so they bid 4 ♠ rather than 3 NT.

Lead: ♦ 10

Declarer is able to get to their hand with the ♦ Q to lead the ♠ J to finesse West's ♠ K. Declarer can make 11 tricks.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 5 3 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ 10 8 6 3	<div> <div>♠ 10 8 6 4</div> <div>♥ K 7 5</div> <div>♦ Q 4 3</div> <div>♣ 9 7 4</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ A K 7</div> <div>♥ A J 8 3</div> <div>♦ A 7 2</div> <div>♣ K Q 5</div> </div>	♠ J 9 2 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ J 10 9 8 ♣ A J 2	East 2 NT	South Pass
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West
3 NT

North
All pass

West's 5 HCP are enough for game opposite 20-22 HCP 2 NT.

Lead: ♦ J

Declarer should use their ♦ K and ♠ Q entries to double finesse in ♥ s.

Win the ♦ lead in dummy first and run ♥ 10 which will lose to the Q. After re-gaining the lead, go back to dummy with ♠ Q to repeat the ♥ finesse. Later play on ♣ s for the 9th trick.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A 10 2 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ Q 7 4 2	<div> <div>♠ Q J 9 7 5 3</div> <div>♥ 4 2</div> <div>♦ 7 5 2</div> <div>♣ 9 6</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ 6 4</div> <div>♥ Q J 10 8</div> <div>♦ A J 6 3</div> <div>♣ 10 8 3</div> </div>	♠ K 8 ♥ A K 7 3 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ A K J 5	East Pass All pass	South 2 ♣ 2 NT
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West
Pass
Pass

North
2 ♦
4 ♠

North must respond to partner's forcing 2 ♣ opening, but with a weak hand they should start with a 2 ♦ negative bid. After South's 2 NT rebid showing 23-24 HCP balanced, North knows there is a ♠ fit and has enough for game, so they bid 4 ♠.

East leads: ♥ Q

Declarer draws trumps then leads towards ♦ KQ4 twice to make an overtrick.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ Q 10 9 5 2 ♥ J 10 8 4 3 ♦ 7 ♣ 7 3	<div> <div>♠ K 7 6 3</div> <div>♥ 7 2</div> <div>♦ 10 9 8 6</div> <div>♣ Q 9 8</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ A J</div> <div>♥ A K 9</div> <div>♦ K Q 4 2</div> <div>♣ A K 10 5</div> </div>	♠ 8 4 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ A J 5 3 ♣ J 6 4 2	East Pass 2 NT 3 NT	South Pass Pass Pass
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West
2 ♦
3 ♠
4 ♥

North
Pass
Pass
Pass

East
2 ♣
2 NT
3 NT

South
Pass
Pass
Pass

With 24 HCP, East has too many points to open 2 NT, so they open 2 ♣ and rebid 2 NT to show their 23-24 HCP balanced hand. West has a weak hand but must respond when partner opens 2 ♣ with 2 ♦ negative. When partner rebids 2 NT, with 5-5 shape West bids their Major suits, bidding the higher ranking ♠ suit first, then continues over 3 NT with 4 ♥ so Opener can choose between their two 5-5 Major suits at the 4-level.

Lead: ♦ 10

After leading a round of trumps, Declarer can make an overtrick by finessing North for the ♠ K & later finessing it out with a trump finesse, before all of dummy's trumps are used up.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 5 4 ♥ 10 7 5 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ A 9 8 2	<div> <div>♠ A K J 8 6 3</div> <div>♥ A K J 4</div> <div>♦ A Q</div> <div>♣ 5</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ 7</div> <div>♥ Q 9 6 3</div> <div>♦ K 8 5 2</div> <div>♣ K Q 10 7</div> </div>	♠ 10 9 2 ♥ 8 2 ♦ J 10 4 3 ♣ J 6 4 3	East Pass Pass	South 2 ♦ 4 ♠
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West
Pass
All pass

North
2 ♣
2 ♠

North's 2 ♣ is a game force bid. 2 ♦ by South shows 0-7 HCP. North's 2 ♠ bid shows at least 5 spades.

South must not pass, so bids to game 4 ♠

Lead: ♣ K

Before drawing trumps, Declarer can try to ruff their two potential ♥ losers in dummy, which makes 10 tricks (the 2nd can be overuffed), or they can establish ♦ J10 tricks in dummy by playing ♦ AQ and ruff a ♥ to get over there; makes 11 tricks.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ K J 5 ♥ K 4 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K Q 10 7 4 2	<div> <div>♠ 9 7 4 2</div> <div>♥ 7</div> <div>♦ 7 6 4 3 2</div> <div>♣ A 9 8</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ A</div> <div>♥ A Q J 9 8 6 5</div> <div>♦ A K Q</div> <div>♣ J 5</div> </div>	♠ Q 10 8 6 3 ♥ 10 3 ♦ J 10 9 8 ♣ 6 3	East 2 ♣ 3 ♥ 5 ♠	South Pass Pass Pass
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West
3 ♣
4 NT
6 ♥

North
Pass
Pass
All pass

After East's game force bid, West bids 3 ♣ to show their good 5+ long suit and 7+ HCP. Once the ♥ fit is found, West knows there are at least 32 points between the 2 hands. West should bid 4 NT to ask for aces and then bid the heart slam.

Lead: ♦ J

Declarer draws trumps and then plays on ♣ s losing to the ace and makes 12 tricks.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ J 10 9 7 5 ♣ Q 10 9 2	<div> <div>♠ J 9 6 4</div> <div>♥ A K 10 8 6</div> <div>♦ 4 3</div> <div>♣ 8 7</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ 5</div> <div>♥ 9 7 3 2</div> <div>♦ A 8 6 2</div> <div>♣ 6 5 4 3</div> </div>	♠ A K Q 8 7 3 ♥ Q J ♦ K Q ♣ A K J	East Pass Pass Pass	South 2 ♣ 2 ♠ 4 NT 6 ♠
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West
Pass
Pass
Pass
All pass

North
2 ♥
3 ♠
5 ♦

South opens 2 ♣ with their strong hand and North bids a positive response with 2 ♥. South bids their suit 2 ♠ and North with support raises to 3 ♠. South can envisage a slam as the combined HCP are 32+ and they expect partner's positive response should have at least an Ace and a King, probably in ♥ s. So the use Blackwood 4 NT to ask for aces - and when North shows one, they sign off in 6 ♠.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

♠ A J ♥ A J 2 ♦ A J 10 7 ♣ A K 9 5	<div> <div>♠ K 5 3</div> <div>♥ Q 3</div> <div>♦ 9 8 6</div> <div>♣ Q J 10 7 6</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ Q 10 9 6 2</div> <div>♥ 10 9 4</div> <div>♦ K 3 2</div> <div>♣ 8 2</div> </div>	♠ 8 7 4 ♥ K 8 7 6 5 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ 4 3	East 3 ♠	South Pass
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West
2 NT
3 NT

North
Pass
All pass

Responding to West's 20-22 HCP 2 NT opening, East bids 3 ♠ which shows a 5-card suit. West only has a spade doubleton so they bid 3 NT.

Lead is ♣ Q.

Declarer should win and play ♠ A and ♠ J to guarantee two spade tricks (dummy has the ♦ K for an entry to the winners later on).