Responding to a suit with a fit

Board 1
North Deals
No-one Vul

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 7
♦ A K 4 2
♣ Q

♠ K 9 6 5
♥ 9 8
♦ J 8
♣ A K 9 7 2



♠ Q J 10
♥ 10 5
♦ 10 9 5 3
♣ J 10 8 4

♠ A 8 7
♥ 6 4 3 2
♦ Q 7 6
♣ 6 5 3

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

4 ♥ by North
Lead: ♠ Q

North's opening bid shows 12-19 points with at least four cards in hearts. South's response is a limit raise showing 6-9 points and at least four hearts. North can count enough points for game and closes the auction in 4 ♥.

Declarer has nine top tricks. The tenth can be made by ruffing a diamond in dummy.

Play theme: Draw trumps and then take ruffs.

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Responding to a suit with a fit

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 10 6 3
♥ Q 9 8 5 2
♦ 8 6 3
♣ Q 10

♠ K J 8 7
♥ 6 3
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ A K 2



♠ A Q 9 5 4
♥ A K 10
♦ Q J
♣ 9 8 6

♠ 2
♥ J 7 4
♦ A K 10 5
♣ J 7 5 4 3

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		1 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass
4 ♠ by East			

Lead: ♦ A

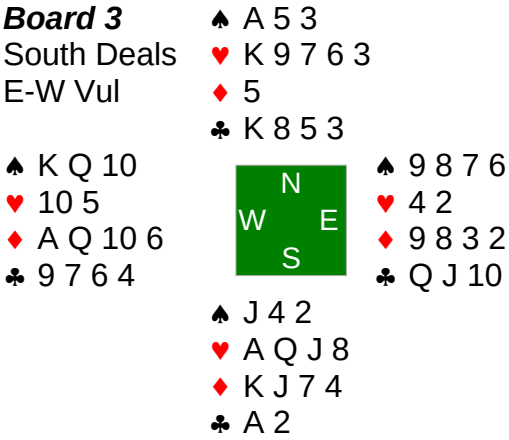
The opening bid shows 12-19 points with at least 4 cards in spades. The 3 ♠ response, is a limit raise showing 10-12 points and at least four cards in the suit (a fit) and. East has 16 points and so enough to bid 4 ♠.

Declarer has nine top tricks. After drawing trumps, a tenth trick can be made by ruffing a heart in dummy.

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Responding to a suit with a fit

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul



West	*North*	*East*	*South*
			1 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♠ K

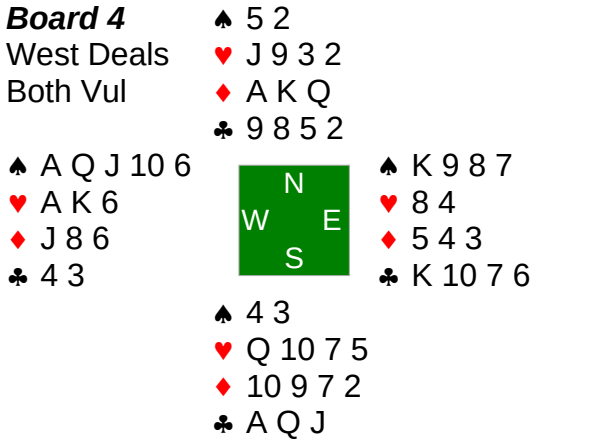
South has a balanced hand but, with 16 points, is too strong to open 1 NT. South should open 1 ♥, the higher ranking 4-card suit. North knows that there is a fit in hearts, and the singleton diamond is now worth three points. North has too many points for 3 ♥ and should bid 4 ♥.

Declarer can count eight top tricks. After drawing trumps, two extra tricks can be made by ruffing clubs.

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Responding to a suit with a fit

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul



West	*North*	*East*	*South*
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	All pass

2 ♠ by West
Lead: ♦ A

With a balanced hand and 15 points, West should open 1 ♠ showing 12-19 points; the hand is to too strong for 1 NT.

North leads the ♦ A and cashes two more diamonds. Declarer has seven top tricks, and can make an eighth by ruffing a heart in dummy.

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Responding to a suit with a fit

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
All pass			

3 ♥ by North
Lead: ♣ K

The opening bid shows 12-19 points with at least 4 cards in hearts. South's responding bid of 3 ♥ shows 10-12 points and a fit. Holding a minimum opener, North will pass.

East will lead K clubs top of a sequence. After winning with the Ace, declarer should draw trumps and driving out the ♦ A. A ninth trick can be made by ruffing a club in dummy.

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Responding to a suit with a fit

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

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

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	All pass

2 ♥ by West
Lead: ♦ Q

With a balanced hand and 15 points, West is too strong to open 1 NT. With equal length, it is normal to open the higher ranking suit. However, with 4-4 in hearts and spades, 1 ♥ should be opened to maximise the chance of finding a 4-4 fit.

Declarer can count seven tricks. An extra trick can be made by ruffing a diamond in hand.

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