

HOW TO BID THE GRAND

East is the dealer and no one is vulnerable. East passes and it's your bid.

S	South
♠	K
♥	A10986
♦	Q
♣	AK10532

You have only 16 HCP but your 6-5 shape makes the hand even stronger. There is a saying in bridge: "Six five come alive." This distribution produces extra tricks so bid as if it is stronger than your HCP indicate.

Your choices of bids is 1♥ or 1♣. What shall it be? Many like to open the 5-card major before the 6-card minor to get the major into the picture right off the bat. It is also slightly more pre-emptive because the opponents can't overcall 1♦. I would follow this line of reasoning if I had fewer HCP's. Having more than the minimum high card strength, I prefer opening the 6-card suit first and reversing into the higher ranking suit. If partner responds spades, you have enough to bid 2♥ and rebid them at the 3-level.

Say you do open 1♣. Your partner responds 1♥. Now what do you rebid?

Now that North has shown at least four hearts and you have a confirmed minimum of 9 cards in the trump suit, you can add additional points for the two singletons and the 6-card club suit. You have 20 or more points now and you can show this by bidding 4♥. This is NOT a shut-out bid. Usually, jumping to game shows no interest in slam, but jumping on your first uncontested rebid, when partner may have only 6 points, shows enough points to be in game – that is, 20+ total points.

Your partner rebids 4NT. He is asking for aces. He must have first or second round control of all the side suits, because he can't afford to lose the first two tricks, and your bidding hasn't shown any suit stoppers except for hearts.

You show 2 aces by rebidding 5♥. Partner now bids 5NT. He must have the other two aces and is now asking for kings. You show your two kings by rebidding 6♥. This is enough encouragement for him to bid a grand slam – 7♥!

After East leads the ♣Q you put your hand down. These are the two hands:

N	North
♠	AJ6
♥	K7542
♦	AK97
♣	7

East leads ♣Q

S	South
♠	K
♥	A10986
♦	Q
♣	AK10532

The only possible loser for North is the ♥Q. This Grand will depend on a normal split in the trump suit. You win the ♣K in the dummy and lead a low heart, holding your breathe. Both defenders follow suit and your grand slam is in the bag. You pull the last trump with your ♥A, take your top tricks and cross ruff the remaining losers.

This is the entire deal:

14	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ AJ6 ♥ K7542 ♦ AK97 ♣ 7	P	P	P	1♣
W West	♠ Q10874 ♥ J ♦ J105432 ♣ 9	P	1♥	P	4♥
		P	4NT	P	5♥
S South	♠ K ♥ A10986 ♦ Q ♣ AK10532	P	5NT	P	6♥
		P	7♥	P	P
		E East			
		♠ 9532			
		♥ Q3			
		♦ 86			
		♣ QJ864			
		7♥ N	NS: 0	EW: 0	

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/ya4p8occ> , or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own. If you click on GIB, the software will analyze the hand and show the result for each opening lead.

© David Germaine 2017