

THE JACOBY TWO NOTRUMP DECISION

S	South
♠	AK973
♥	873
♦	KQ2
♣	Q4

Your partner is the dealer and he opens 1♠. RHO passes and it's your turn. You have 14 HCP and a super fit for partner's 5-card suit. Don't jump to game. You are too strong. Slam is a possibility and if you just bid 4♠, partner will never believe you have the values you have. You can use the Jacoby 2NT bid. The shows an opening strength and at least 4 trump support. Now you are in a game force and can explore slam more leisurely, not having to worry about partner passing any of your bids.

After your 2NT response, partner rebids 3♦. In the convention, any new suit rebid by the opener at the 3-level shows a singleton or void in that suit. Now you decide whether that features improves your hand enough to justify further slam bids. The fact that partner is short in diamonds makes your hand less valuable. Your 5 points in diamonds might be worthless opposite a void in partner's hand. This is called a duplication of values. If you had 3 little diamonds and your KQ were located in another suit – like hearts – the hand would have significantly more value. Knowing about partner's shortage in diamonds, you should make the decision to sign off in game. You should rebid 4♠.

This bid doesn't mean North can't go on to a slam try on his own. You are giving him your opinion based on seeing only your own hand.

East leads the ♥A. Take over the North hand and plan the play:

N	North
♠	QJ1052
♥	Q5
♦	9
♣	AK1092

East leads ♥A

S	South
♠	AK973
♥	873
♦	KQ2
♣	Q4

East follows with the ♥K and switches to a diamond. West win his ♦A, but you win his return and pull trump in three rounds. You now have the rest of the tricks. This was an easy hand to play as long as you didn't get beyond the 4-level.

The Jacoby 2NT is an essential convention for those who want to get to the slams they are entitled to be in.

This is the entire deal:

D 9	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ QJ1052 ♥ Q5 ♦ 9 ♣ AK1092	1♠	P	2NT	
W West		P	3♦	P	4♠
♠ J109 ♥ A7653 ♦ A7653 ♣ J8763		P	P	P	
	E East				
	♠ 864 ♥ AK642 ♦ J1084 ♣ 5				
	S South				
	♠ AK973 ♥ 873 ♦ KQ2 ♣ Q4				
		4♠ N	NS: 0 EW: 0		

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8zbq95q> , 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.

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