How to go to slam..

How to go to a trump slam

A good chance to win a NT slam is to hold 33 points (HCP+L). For a grand slam, you need 37. When there is a trump and short suits, honors are worth more than in NT. The process to go to slam will be tougher and more precise.

- First step : agree on a trump, use forcing bids
- Second step : check all controls are there... In order not to fail right away !
- Third and last step : Blackwood, to know about the pair Aces.

S	W	N	E
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠			

K♠	7♠	5♠	3♠	A♥	9♥	A♣	K♣	Q♣	7♣	4♣	8♦	2♦

Exercise 20265 Pi is the agreed trump; the pair is going to start the controls and figure if a slam is possible or not.

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How to go to slam..

How to go to a trump slam : find a trump suit, using the forcing sequences

Main sequences showing slam ambitions :

- The responder's jump raise (in the opening suit) after a 1/1 shift
- The responder's raise (in the opening suit) after a 2/1 shift
- The responder's raise in one of the suits named by the opener, after a 4th suit forcing bid
- The opener's raise, at level 4, of the responder's minor suit
- The responder's raise at level 4 of the opener's minor suit
- The responder's raise after a reverse
- Splinters (both opener's or responder's)
- Direct jump to 4NT in response to a level 1 opening

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass		

A♠ K♠ 7♠ 6♠ 5♠ A♥ K♥ 6♥ 4♥ 8♣ 2♣ 8♦ 5♦

Exercise E20134 The responder has shifted (1/1), now he jumps in the opening suit. that's a support with slam ambitions. the pair is going to start checking the controls.
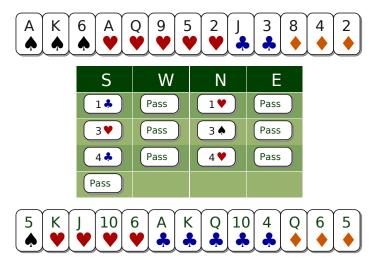
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Controls

- A suit is under control when there is only one loser on the lead.
- Controls are always featured step by step skipping a suit means a control denial.
- When a suit is not under control, the last player gets back to the trump suitC'est un arrêt.
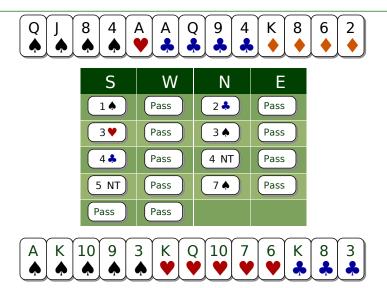
Controls for a trump contract :

- Ace or void (1st rank control : if the suit is led, you don't lose a trick)
- K or singleton (2nd rank control : if the suit is led, you lose 1 trick and no more)

A♠ K♠ 6♠ A♥ Q♥ 9♥ 5♥ 2♥ J♣ 3♣ 8♦ 4♦ 2♦

S	W	N	E
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass			

5♠ K♥ J♥ 10♥ 6♥ A♣ K♣ Q♣ 10♣ 4♣ Q♦ 6♦ 5♦

Problem E6197 3♠ control initiation : ♠ is the 1st control
4 ♣ = ♣ control
 North skips the ♥ suit, therefore, he doesn't control it. South doesn't control ♥ suit neither. They must stop at 4♥.

Q♠ J♠ 8♠ 4♠ A♥ A♣ Q♣ 9♣ 4♣ K♦ 8♦ 6♦ 2♦

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

A♠ K♠ 10♠ 9♠ 3♠ K♥ Q♥ 10♥ 7♥ 6♥ K♣ 8♣ 3♣

Problem E9465 All controls are here. Time to check the Aces with a Blackwood.

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How to go to slam..

RKC Blackwood (30-41)

RKC Blackwood is asking for the keys, not only the Aces. there are 5 keys : 4 Aces and K of trump. We recommend the 41-30 response (check guideline 64JD), instead of the 30-41, more common, which is :
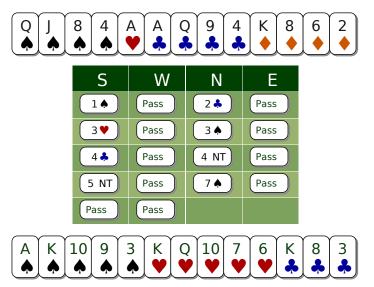
- 5♣ : 3 or 0 key(s)
- 5♦ : 4 or 1 key(s)
- 5♥ : 2 keys
- 5♠ : 2 keys and Q of trump
- 5NT : 2 keys and a void
- "6something" : 3 or 1 key(s) and a void in the named suit

Q♠ J♠ 8♠ 4♠ A♥ A♣ Q♣ 9♣ 4♣ K♦ 8♦ 6♦ 2♦

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

A♠ K♠ 10♠ 9♠ 3♠ K♥ Q♥ 10♥ 7♥ 6♥ K♣ 8♣ 3♣

Problem E9465 5NT = 2 keys and a void. In this sequence, it's obvious : the void is ♦.

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