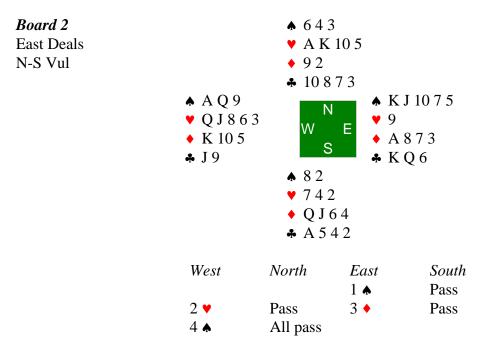
Texas Two Step



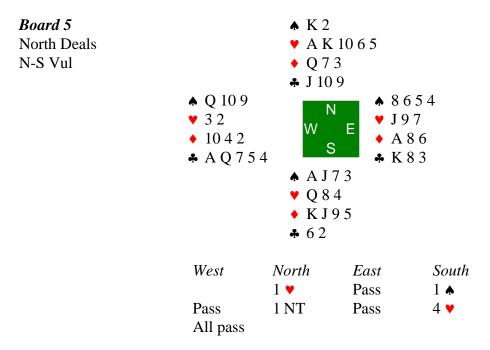
Lead: ◆ Q. Top of touching honors.

Auction: East opens 1 ♠ showing 5+ spades and 13-21 total points. South and North pass throughout. West, as Responder knows the Partnership belongs in spades and reevaluates the hand by subtracting out the heart Long Suit Point and adding a +1 for the doubleton club and a +1 for the ♠ Q Honor Upgrade.

West responds 2 ♥ showing 11+ total points and at least 5 hearts. East rebids 3 ♦ showing 5 spades and at least 4 diamonds. West completes the Texas Two Step by rebidding 4 ♠. East knows West has at least 3 spades and 13+ total points.

Declarer: Counting losers from East's hand: 1 heart, 1 diamond and 1 club. The key to making this hand is to place the ◆ J in South's hand based on the opening lead. Win the opening lead with the ◆ A ~ preserving the ◆ K10 tenace. Pull trump and finesse South out of the ◆ J by playing low to the ◆ 10. Diamonds are 4-2 so East still has 1 diamond loser, but not 2!

Texas Two Step



Lead: ♣ 3. Low from 3 or more in an unbid suit.

Auction: North opens 1 ♥ showing 5+ hearts and 13-21 total points. East and West pass throughout. As Responder, South knows the Partnership belongs in hearts and reevaluates the hand ~ subtracting out Long Suit Points (there are none) and adding 1 point for the doubleton club. South also adds an Honor Upgrade point for the ♥ Q in Partner's 5+-card suit.

11 HCP 1 SSP <u>1 HUP</u> 13 Total Points.

Responder now knows the Partnership belongs in a major suit game. However, Responder can't jump to 4 ♥ because that would show the Weak Freak! Instead, South responds 1 ♠ showing 6+ total points and 4+ spades. REMEMBER: New Suit by Responder is Forcing!

North rebids 1 NT showing a 5-3-3-2 shape and 12-14 total points. South rebids 4 ♥ to complete the Texas Two Step showing 3+-card heart support and 13+ total points.

Declarer: Declarer counts losers from North's hand: 1 diamond and 2 clubs. Making 4!