

Good Raise -- Problem

**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul



♠ A 8 6 4  
♥ 10  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ K 7 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Gary</i>		<i>Pete</i>	
1 ♠	Pass	?	

Join me as East on this deal at the Charlotte regional, playing your system. How should we respond?

The ideas described for this deal enhance those in my *E-Z Expert Bidding Tools* book and are planned to appear in a future edition.

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**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

Good Raise -- Solution

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

  

♠ Q 5
♥ A K J 9 6
♦ Q 9 7 6
♣ J 10

EW 5♠; EW 5♣; NS 2♥; EW 1N; NS 1♦; Par -450; EW 4♠+1

West	North	East	South
<i>Gary</i>		<i>Pete</i>	
1 ♠	Pass	2 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

1. Jacoby 2 NT (game-forcing raise).
2. Small opening hand.

With 4-card support for partner's major suit, that singleton is worth three points. If we play Jacoby 2 NT, that's a fine response. Gary and I play that opener always rebids bids 3 ♣ with a small opening hand (normal strength). This is a super agreement: usually responder can rule out slam and not tell the opponents a thing. Here, we place the contract at 4 ♠, end of auction. On the favorable lie of the cards for this deal, partner makes 5 ♠ on an effective 9 HCP (the ♥ Q is wasted).

If opener were to make a standard shortness response to 2 NT, it would not fit our hand in any suit. We would refuse to cooperate with such a slam exploration. Standard Jacoby 2 NT methods do not include a way for responder to show shortness with a hand either weaker or stronger than a game-splinter. With a large hand, responder has plenty of room to try for slam over a small-hand 3 ♣ rebid.

With a medium or large hand, Gary would have made a NLMH5 bid over 2 NT. If that bid were 3 ♦ (no shortness), our shortness could be huge opposite a hand such as:

♠ K Q 10 7 2    ♥ A 7 3    ♦ Q 8    ♣ A Q 9 6

Our NLMH5 shortness bid over 3 ♦ would be: 3 ♥ (none), 3 ♠ (clubs), 3 NT (diamonds), 4 ♣ (hearts, our bid). Opener asks for keycards and bids the slam.

On page 56 of the October 2024 *Bridge Bulletin*, Vic Quiros recommends playing a 3 NT response as showing a hand such as ours (4+ card support, a singleton somewhere, and 9 to 11 good HCP), concealing the singleton. If opener needs to know where the singleton is, they bid 4 ♣ (the next step), and responder bids LMH (there are other methods). However, modern responses to Jacoby 2 NT handle this hand just fine, and we have better uses for the 3 NT response.

Another fine method is to play a 3 ♦ response as an artificial 4-card limit raise, as in Bergen raises. Because opener cannot pass that bid, we can use it on the way to a game, based on shape as well as high cards.