


## Misfit Hands

When the auction indicates that you and partner have ill-fitting hands you should be wary of taking a rosy view of your hand, regardless of its strength and distribution. All players appreciate that a fit with partner is frequently a requirement for success when playing in a trump contract, but a fit (or at least a partial fit) is often necessary when playing no trumps.

Consider the following deal:

West Deals	♠ 4		♠ A J 8 6 5
	♥ A Q 8 5 3		♥ 7
	♦ 5 3		♦ K Q J 4 2
	♣ K Q J 4 3		♣ 5 2

Both East and West have promising hands. If West opens 1♥ it is difficult to stop short of game, but game is unlikely to make. There is no major suit fit and no suit that can be easily established in no trumps. When West bids hearts and clubs, East should backpedal.

There are some important principles which you should observe.

*With a fit (or a partial fit) for partner, upgrade your hand. With shortage in partner's suit, downgrade your hand.*

*If one partner has a poor hand with a long suit, that suit should usually be trumps.*

*Don't enter into a battle with partner. Two opponents are plenty – and three are too many.*

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	?		

North should pass. South has nine or fewer HCP and a long heart suit. The South hand is unlikely to be useful in anything except a heart contract. A 2 NT bid would be awful.

♠ A K J 7 6 4  
 ♥ J 10 9  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ K Q 10



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
?			

Close between bidding 2 ♠ or 3 ♠. Choose the more aggressive action of 3 ♠ because your club cards are likely to fit well with partner.

♠ A K J 7 6 4  
 ♥ J 10 9  
 ♦ K Q 10  
 ♣ 7



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
?			

Close between bidding 2 ♠ or 3 ♠. Choose 2 ♠ because your club holding does not fit well with partner's suit.