

son play Stayman, transfers, 4♦ as a minor-suit slam try in one minor, and 4♠ as a minor-suit slam try in either minor.

Bridge Bulletin auction: (3♥)-3NT-(Pass)-Pass; (Pass)

Scores: 4♠ 11; 3NT 8; 5♦ 4; (3♥) doubled 3; 3♠ 2; 4♦ 1
Simson-Johnson 37, Cohen-Satten 39

Problem 6

East deals. E-W vulnerable.

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

Simson	Johnson
2♦	2NT
3♣	3♥
Pass	

Simson and Johnson play mini-Roman, *i.e.*, a 2♦ opening that shows a limited (11-15 HCP) three-suited hand with short diamonds. That treatment was an impediment on this layout, as Johnson found himself with a borderline hand for passing or inviting. He eventually issued a 2NT response, an inquiry to get more information, only to hear Simson reply 3♣, showing a minimum. He retreated to 3♥.

Cohen	Satten
1♣	1♥
1♠	1NT
2♥	Pass

Cohen embarked on a natural, pattern-showing sequence to allow the duo to find the nice Moysian fit at the two level.

Bridge Bulletin auction: Pass-1♣; 1♥-1♠; 1NT-2♥; Pass

Scores: 1♥ 10; 1NT 9; 2♥ 8; 1♠ 7; Pass 6; 2♣ 4; 2NT 3; 3♥ 2; 3♣ 1
Simson-Johnson 39, Cohen-Satten 47

Problem 7

South deals. N-S vulnerable.

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

Simson	Johnson
1♥	1NT
2♣	Pass

The 1NT response is semi-forcing; opener is permitted to pass with a 5-3-3-2 minimum. The two-of-a-minor rebid strongly suggests a four-card suit. This is especially true because their 1NT opening shows 14-16 HCP: Opener will pass with balanced hands in the 11-13 range, but will bid again if unbalanced.

Cohen	Satten
1♥	1NT
2♣	2♥
3♦	3♥
Pass	

In this pair's methods, 1NT is forcing by an unpassed hand after a major-suit opening. 2♣ could be bid with as few as three clubs, so Satten took the matchpoint preference to 2♥. Cohen, with extra values, took a somewhat aggressive view with the pattern- and value-showing 3♦. Satten limped into 3♥, ending the auction.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♥-1NT; 2♣-2♥; Pass

Scores: 2♣ 11; 3♣ 7; 2♥ 6; 3♥ 4; 1NT 2; 2♦ 1
Simson-Johnson 50, Cohen-Satten 51

Problem 8

West deals. Both vulnerable.

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

Simson	Johnson
1♦	1♠
2♥	2NT
3♠	3NT
4♣	4NT
5♥	6♠
Pass	

2♥ is artificial with a two-way meaning: It is natural or a shapely hand with a spade fit. 2NT asks responder to clarify, and the 3♠ follow-up reveals the spade-fit variety as well as a minimum hand. 3NT asked opener to specify where his singleton was located; 4♣, oddly enough, pinpoints the heart suit. A RKCB sequence was next, allowing the pair to reach the good slam.

Cohen	Satten
1♦	1♠
3♠	4♣
4♦	4♠
Pass	

The West hand increases so much in value after a 1♠ response, that despite the fact it contains only 10 HCP, Cohen made a jump raise, typically showing a hand in the 16-18 HCP range. 4♣ and 4♦ are control bids, but Satten felt he had done everything he could, and rebid 4♠. Cohen, who had already bid his hand to the hilt, did not make another slam try.

Bridge Bulletin auction: Pass-1♠; 2♣ (Drury)-2♦ (full opener); 4♠-Pass

Scores: 6♠ 12; 4♠ 8; 5♠ 7; 3♠ 1
Final score: Simson-Johnson 62, Cohen-Satten 59