

as Burger did. Many would do it even if the ♣Q were a low club.

Bridge Bulletin auction: Pass-1♦; 1♠-3♠; 4♠-Pass

Scores: 2♠ 11; 3♠ 8; 4♠ 7; 2NT 3; 3NT 2
 Doub-Merblum 17, Burger-Lewis 15

Problem 3

South deals. E-W vulnerable.

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

<i>Doub</i>	<i>Merblum</i>
Pass	1♥
2♥	3♣
3♦	4♥
Pass	

This partnership employs short-suit game tries. When Merblum revealed a singleton club, Doub countered with 3♦ to show values in that suit. That was all Merblum needed to hear to bid the heart game.

<i>Burger</i>	<i>Lewis</i>
Pass	1♥
2♥	3♦
4♥	Pass

Same result with a different gadget. 3♦ is a help-suit game try. Burger definitely had help in diamonds, so she jumped to game.

Bridge Bulletin auction: Pass-1♥; 2♥-3♦ (help-suit game try); 4♥-Pass

Scores: 2♥ 10; 4♥ 7; 3♥ 6; 3♦ 2
 Doub-Merblum 24, Burger-Lewis 22

Problem 4

West deals. Both vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ A 10 8 6 2	♠ —
♥ —	♥ A K J 10 3
♦ J 8	♦ A K 10 6 5
♣ K Q 10 7 6 4	♣ A 5 3

<i>Doub</i>	<i>Merblum</i>
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
2♠	3♣
4♣	5NT
7♣	Pass

Doub opened the very shapely, minimum West hand, and Merblum had a choice for his response: a strong jump shift of 2♥ or a simple 1♥. Despite holding sufficient values for the former, he chose the latter because the three-suited nature of the hand might make it difficult to describe after a space-consuming jump.

2♦ was a general game force. Doub's 2♠ revealed a likely 5-6 pattern in the black suits, so Merblum's first job at that stage of the auction was to set clubs as trumps with 3♣. After the temporizing 4♣, Merblum leapt to 5NT. Although many pairs (including this one) use 5NT as "pick a slam," the context of the auction — namely, that clubs is the agreed trump suit — makes that interpretation illogical. Instead, the jump to 5NT takes on a much older meaning: the grand slam force (which folks in other parts of the world frequently call "Josephine" after the great Josephine Culbertson). Merblum was asking his partner to bid a grand slam with two of the top three honors, but bid a small slam otherwise. Doub obeyed.

<i>Burger</i>	<i>Lewis</i>
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♦
2♠	3♦
4♦	4♥
4♠	5NT
6♣	7NT
Pass	

Lewis knew that her partner was likely 5-5 or 6-5 after she heard

Burger's first three bids, but she was worried that 2♠ might simply be a mark-time bid, showing a hand that didn't have a diamond stopper and had no other convenient action: Imagine a 4=2=2=5 hand with all the values in the black suits. To cater to this hand-type, Lewis tried 3♦ at her third turn.

Burger had few attractive options: She settled on 4♦ as a way to keep the ball rolling without being too committal (even though she had to give up 3NT in the process). Lewis, however, thought 4♦ was RKCB for diamonds and answered 4♥, showing four key cards. When Burger continued with a natural (to her) 4♠, Lewis thought this was the queen-ask. She jumped to 5NT, therefore, as pick-a-slam. When Burger picked 6♣, Lewis tried 7NT. This would have a good play opposite something such as:

♠ A K x x	♥ x x	♦ Q x	♣ K Q x x x.
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Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♣-1♥; 1♠-2♦; 2♠-3♣; 5♣-6♣; Pass

Scores: 7♣ 12; 6♣ 8; 6NT 7; 7NT 4; 6♦ 3; 7♦ 2; 5NT 1
 Doub-Merblum 36, Burger-Lewis 26

Problem 5

North deals. None vulnerable.

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

<i>Doub</i>	<i>Merblum</i>
1♦	1♣
2♣	1♥
Pass	2NT

Note Doub's choice of 1♦. Despite holding a balanced hand and enough values for a 1NT response, the terrible holdings in the majors make 1NT unattractive. Put another way, if notrump is the right spot, East needs to be declarer, not West.