

Deal 1	♠ Q 7 4		
North Deals	♥ A K 4		
None Vul	♦ J 6		
	♣ A K Q 10 4		
♠ A 10 5 2	♠ K 9 6 3		
♥ 8 5 3	♥ Q J 10 7		
♦ A 7 3	♦ 8 5 2		
♣ J 6 2	♣ 8 3		
	♠ J 8		
19 9 6 6	♥ 9 6 2		
	♦ K Q 10 9 4		
	♣ 9 7 5		
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♥ Q			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ Q, you played low and North won the ♥ A.

North now plays the ♦ J on which East plays the ♦ 2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

South hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the South hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦ A on the trick that North plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what East plays. On the ♦ J East played the ♦ 2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of ♦s. ODD must be either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you that North started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds North to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Deal 2South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5	♦ Q 10 6 4	♥ K 7 2	♣ 10 5 2
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7	♦ J 10 4
9 5	♥ AK
19	♦ J 10 9 5

N	W	E	S
♠ K Q 9 3	♦ Q 6	♥ 8 7 3	♣ 9 7 6 4
♠ 8 7 2	♦ A 8 4 3	♥ J 9 5 2	♣ 8 3

♣ A K Q J

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass

Pass
3 NT by South
Lead: ♥ 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East plays the ♥ J, won by South with ♥ A.

South plays the ♠ J, you follow with ♠ 5, dummy ♠ 3 and East plays the ♠ 2. South continues with the ♠ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠ 2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠ A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥ K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠ A, down 1

Deal 3
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 9 7 3 2 ♥ — ♦ 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ A K J 9 15 8 4 13	♠ A Q 10 5 ♥ K Q 9 4 ♦ K J ♣ 8 7 3 ♠ 8 4 ♥ A 8 7 5 2 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 6 4 2 ♠ K J 6 ♥ J 10 6 3 ♦ A Q 6 ♣ Q 10 5
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<i>West</i> Pass	<i>North</i> 1 NT Pass	<i>East</i> Pass	<i>South</i> 3 NT
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3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 5

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 5, dummy played the ♥ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You really want East to lead a ♣ if he gets into the lead. If you discard the ♣ 9 East will surely get the message and will lead a ♣. BUT - you will only win 3 ♣ tricks. The ♣ 9 would have been the fourth winner.

So instead, play a low card in one of the other suits, say the ♦ 3.

North is one trick short and he sees he can easily get that trick in ♥s. So he plays a second ♥ from dummy and you now discard the ♣ 2. East takes the ♥ A and he can see that you don't want him to lead a ♣ or a ♦. He deduces that you might like a ♣ so he plays his ♣ 2 and you win 4 tricks.

Deal 4East Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J 8 6 4 2
 ♣ J 9 4 3

¹²
² 8
¹⁸

West

♠ K J 7
 ♥ Q J 2
 ♦ Q 10 3
 ♣ K 10 7 5



♠ 8
 ♥ A 10 9 7 6 3
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ A 6 2

♠ A Q 10 9 4 2
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ A K
 ♣ Q 8

North

East

South

2 ♥ 2 ♠

Pass 3 ♠
 Pass Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East takes the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 3. You ruff and then play what???

When you have made your choice

Partner played the ♥ 3, a low card, for you to ruff. That means his re-entry, if he has one, is in the lower-ranking suit.

Partner takes the ♣ A and gives you a second ♥ ruff.

Deal 5

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 4
♥ 9 5 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ A Q J 4

¹³
9 8
₁₀

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A
♥ A K J 8 7 2
♦ J 10 5
♣ 10 5 3

♠ J 8 6 3
♥ 10 6
♦ A K 8 4
♣ 8 7 2

♠ K Q 7 5 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ K 9 6

West North East South
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 ♥ Pass Pass

2 ♥ by North

Lead: ♦ A

♣, then cash your ♦ Q. That first signal led to your side winning the first 6 tricks. Wow.

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♦ A, dummy played the ♦ 3 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You know partner also has the ♦ K, and normally you would give an encouraging signal when you hold the Queen. But with this hand you want partner to switch to ♣s as soon as possible. So you play a low ♦.

East looks at your signal, then looks at dummy, then looks at your signal. He knows you want a switch and it looks like a switch to ♣s might work the best. North plays a low ♣ from dummy, you win the ♣ J. Next you play a low ♦, taken by East with his ♦ K. East leads a ♣. Dummy plays the ♣ K, you win that, cash another

Deal 6
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

N
W E
S

♠ 8
 ♥ Q J 8 4 3
 ♦ Q J 10 4
 ♣ 8 7 6

♠ K Q J 7 5 2
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ A 10 4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ A

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ A, East puts on the ♥ Q. It's your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♥ Q is either a singleton, (practically impossible), or a signal showing that he also holds the ♥ J. In either case you can reach the East hand on the second trick by playing a low ♥. Since you don't particularly want to start playing ♦s from your side, you go ahead and play a small ♥, won by East with the ♥ J.

East next plays the ♦ Q and however South tries it your side will take the next two ♦ tricks and set the contract.