

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 6 3
♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ Q 10 9
♣ J 6

21
3 4
12

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|------|-------|
| | 2 NT | Pass | 4 NT |
| Pass | 6 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| 6 NT by North | | | |
| Lead: ♣ 9 | | | |

♠ A K J
♥ A Q 3
♦ A 4 3
♣ K 10 4 2



♠ 7 5 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ K 8 6 2
♣ A Q 5

♠ Q 8 2
♥ J 6 4
♦ J 7 5
♣ 9 8 7 3

Partner's 4 NT bid is not Blackwood, it is the Quantitative 4 NT. He is unsure whether to bid 6 NT or not, so is inviting you to do so.

With 20 points you are supposed to pass. With 21 points you are supposed to bid 6 NT. The evaluations probably aren't that accurate, but at least you have an excuse to bid 6 NT.

West plays the ♣ J which you take with your ♣ K.

There are two places you might find your twelfth winner. You can finesse West for the ♠ Q; this is a 50% chance. Or, the ♦s might split 3-3; this is about a 40% chance.

If you try the ♠ finesse and it fails you will go down even if the ♦s are splitting 3-3.

If you play ♦ A, ♦ K then another ♦, a 4-2 ♦ split will defeat you even if the ♠ Q was with West.

Two chances are always better than one. The way to take both chances is to duck a ♦ at trick 2. Win whatever the defenders play next and then test

the ♦s. If they do split your last ♦ will be trick #12. But if they don't split you can still try the ♠ finesse.

to see.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 7 3

♥ K J 9

♦ Q J 10 4

♣ 8 5 2

17
8 6
9

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♦ Q

♠ K 8 6 2

♥ 7 5

♦ A K 7

♣ A K 6 3



♠ A 9

♥ Q 10 6 3

♦ 8 5 2

♣ Q J 9 4

North

2 ♣

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

2 ♠

3 NT

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2 ♣. Partner duly replies 2 ♠. What do you say now?

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2 ♣. Partner duly replies 2 ♠. What do you say now?

You don't have a 4-4 ♥ fit, so you invite the notrump game by bidding 2 NT. Partner raises to 3 NT.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT and East leads the ♦ Q. Should you win or hold up?

A pretty good argument against holding up could be that they might switch to ♠s. However, say you do in fact hold up and that East does in fact continue ♦s with West following suit.

Don't worry any more about the ♦s since there is nothing more you can do. Instead, worry about where that one more winner is going to come from. The answer will have to be: *from the ♥ suit*.

You might be tempted to take your 4 ♣ tricks right away, but avoid the temptation. The ♣ suit is your convenient transportation back and forth between hands.

You will have to lose at least 2 ♥ tricks in order to set up 1 winner, and by the time you do that the defenders will have established at least 1 more ♦ trick. What that means is that you cannot afford 3 ♥ losers. So how will you play the ♥s?

You should play East for the ♥ J plus one of the big ones. This is a better chance than playing him for both the ♥ A K. So play a ♥ toward dummy and insert the ♥ T when East plays low. West wins with the ♥ A and clears the ♦s. Play another ♥ toward dummy's ♥ Q. East can take his ♥ K and cash his ♦ winner but dummy's ♥ Q will be your ninth trick.

East could hold both the ♥ A and ♥ K, in which case leading toward dummy's ♥ Q would be the winning play.

East could hold EITHER ♥ A J x OR ♥ K J x in which case finessing dummy's ♥ J would be the winning play. This is the more likely distribution of the two.

Deal 3

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 10
 ♥ K J 9 7 5 4
 ♦ A
 ♣ 9 5

14
 14 1
 11

West

1 ♥

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 8

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

N
 W E
 S

♠ 8 7 3
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ J 8 5 2
 ♣ A Q 6 2

North

1 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 NT

♠ 6 4 2
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ 9 7 4
 ♣ J 10 7 4 3

You should not make a takeout double with three cards in their suit. A 2♦ overcall would be a reasonable choice. But with 15 points, balanced, and a stopper in ♥s a 1NT overcall is probably better.

Partner bids 3 NT.

As expected, East leads his partner's ♥ suit.

You need at least 4 ♦ winners.

If you play low from dummy on the ♥ lead West can win the ♥K but this will give you an extra ♥ stopper. He could drive out dummy's ♥A at trick 2, but you would then establish ♦s and make an overtrick!

But who said West would play another ♥ after winning the ♥K? What if he wins the ♥K and switches to ♠s? They might then win 3 ♠ tricks to go with their ♥K and ♦A.

Instead you should grab the first trick with dummy's ♥A and start playing ♦s. West will take the ♦A but you still have the ♠A and ♥Q as stoppers.

to see.

Don't give him the chance.

Deal 4

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 2
♥ K 8 3
♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ Q 10 6 2

15
5 14
6

West

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ K 6 3
♥ A 10 5
♦ A 7 6 2
♣ A 7 5



♠ 8 5
♥ Q J 9 7 6 4 2
♦ 9
♣ K 9 4

North

1 NT

Pass

East

2 ♠

Pass

South

4 ♥

You would really like to have a transfer bid in this situation, to make North bid ♥s.

But you don't have one, so you just bid 4 ♥ yourself.

You play low in dummy and West holds the trick. He continues the suit and East takes the ♠ Q and then plays the ♠ A.

You've already lost the 2 ♠s. If West has the ♥ K you might avoid a loser there. You don't have a winner on which to discard the ♣ loser.

If East has the ♥ K it will have to be a singleton to help you, so it is more logical to play West for the ♥ K. But if West does have the ♥ K it will do you no good to ruff East's ♠ A, West will over-ruff and you would still have that ♣ loser.

So do it this way instead. Discard the ♣ loser on East's ♠ A! Another ♠ from East won't hurt you since dummy would be able to over-ruff West. Whatever East plays you can win, then finesse

West out of his ♥ K.

for the full layout.

That was true, so instead you were able to discard it on a loser!