

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 5 4
♥ 8 4
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ J 8 2

♠ A K 6
♥ A 10 3
♦ A 8 2
♣ 10 9 7 4



♠ Q 9 2
♥ K Q J 9 7 5
♦ K Q 3
♣ 6

15
3 13
9

♠ 8 7 3
♥ 6 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A K Q 5 3

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	2 ♥	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♥ K			

Partner's jump to 3 NT is a lebensohl method.

He is describing a hand with which he would have bid 3 NT if there had been no overcall. But he is warning you that he DOES NOT HAVE a ♥ stopper!

Since you DO have a ♥ stopper you decide to pass and play 3 NT.

You hold up your ♥ A until the third round.

You need two more winners. Barring a 4-0 ♣ split your two extra winners will be the ♣ 5 and ♣ 3.

So after winning the ♥ A, you play a ♣ to dummy's ♣ Q and breathe a sigh of relief when both defenders follow suit.

UhOh. Surely you didn't play your ♣ 4 to dummy's ♣ Q???

If you did then just look at the situation now. If the ♣ J doesn't fall on the next trick the suit will

be blocked. Now go back in time and play the ♣ T to dummy's ♣ Q.

That's better. Now under the ♣ A K you can unblock the ♣ 9 7, which will leave you with the ♣ 4 to slip under dummy's ♣ 5.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 8 7
♥ 10 4
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ K 10 9 5

15
6 9
10

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

4 ♠ by South
Lead: ♣ 10

♠ A 4 2
♥ A 6
♦ A J 8 4 3
♣ Q 7 2



♠ K Q J 9 5 3
♥ K J 7
♦ 6 2
♣ 8 4

North

2 ♥
4 ♠

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 NT
2 ♠
Pass

You decide to use a transfer so the lead will be into whatever holding partner has in the minor suits. You bid 2 ♥ and partner bids 2 ♠. What do you say now?

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You are nowhere near strong enough to be thinking of slam so you bid 4 ♠.

The contract would be 4 ♠ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♣T. West wins the ♣A. They continue ♣s and you ruff the third one in dummy.

Those losers are based on dummy's hand, not yours. You can figure them either way but it is usually easier to determine losers based on the long-trump hand. It's important to remember it in this Deal because the zero losers in ♥s assumes

you will ruff a ♥ in your hand.

Pull one round of trumps with dummy's ♠ K. Both defenders follow suit. Play the ♥ A, then ♥ 6 to dummy's ♥ K. On this trick East follows with the ♥T.

The Plan is still the same, you will ruff the ♥ in your hand, but you better be sure to ruff with your ♠ A. Aha! Your precaution pays off when East shows out of ♥s, but of course he cannot over-ruff your ♠ A.

When you are ruffing, ruff with as high a trump as you can afford.

Here, with only 2 trumps left out, you can afford the ♠ A.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A
♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ 9 8 5 3
♣ A 10 8 7

17
8 5
10

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♣ 9

♠ Q J 4
♥ A K 6
♦ K Q J
♣ J 5 4 3



♠ K 10 9 8 6 5
♥ Q
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K Q 6

North

1 NT

2 ♠

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♥

4 ♠

Partner's 2 ♥ bid is a transfer so you bid 2 ♠.
Partner now bids 4 ♠ and you pass.

West takes the ♣ A, then returns the ♣ 7 on which East plays the ♣ 2.

Careful! Although it looks like only 3 losers you are in real danger of a ♣ ruff. It is almost certain that East has led a doubleton ♣ so if West can get the lead with either ♠ A or ♦ A they will get the ruff.

Fortunately your ♦s are solid and you do not need the ♥ Q as a winner.

So before playing any trumps play ♥ A K, discarding dummy's ♣ K. That's a lot of winners you are wasting but you can afford it.

Only then can you afford to play a ♠. West can win the ♠ A, but if he plays a ♣ dummy will be able to over-ruff East.

After you pull trumps you can drive out the ♦ A and claim the contract.

You had to get rid of dummy's singleton ♥ first - the fact that it was a winner should not affect your making the correct play.

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 7 2
 ♥ Q J 10 3
 ♦ Q J 4
 ♣ A 7

0
 13 12
 15

West

Pass

Pass

3 ♣ by South

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ 5 3

♥ 7 6

♦ 10 5

♣ 9 8 6 5 4 3 2



♠ A 9 6

♥ 9 8 4 2

♦ A K 7 3

♣ K J

North

2 ♠

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

3 ♣

♠ Q J 8 4

♥ A K 5

♦ 9 8 6 2

♣ Q 10

Many people play Jacoby Transfer convention. Not all of them play that an initial response of 2 ♠ asks partner to bid 3 ♣. You use that here and reply 3 ♣. Everybody passes.

South plays 3 ♣. West leads the ♥ Q. East takes the ♥ A K, then switches to the ♠ Q.

Instead of trying to estimate how many ♣ losers you may have, just tell yourself that you can only afford to lose one! Then you base your plan on that requirement.

You might as well win the ♠ A. You need to play the trumps from dummy and the easiest way to get there is to play ♦ A K, then ruff a ♦. Now play a ♣ from dummy and play what from your hand?

You may think it is a guess whether to play the ♣ K or ♣ J, but there is no guessing involved here. You must play the ♣ J because East cannot possibly hold the ♣ A. Just go back and look at the bidding again. The East hand failed to open the bidding in first seat. And since then you have seen the ♥ A K and the ♠ Q come out of the hand.

That's 9 points and the ♣ A would bring that total to 13. Since he passed it follows that he doesn't have the ♣ A. Of course he might or might not have the ♣ Q, you just have to hope for that card.

But good players don't forget, they use every bit of information they can get to help them make their contracts. That's why they make more contracts.