

Deal 1North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 2
♥ J 10 9
♦ A J 7 2
♣ Q 10 9 8

¹⁶
8 3
₁₃

N
W E
S

♠ K 6 5 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ Q 8 3
♣ A K 4

♠ J 10 9 7
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 7 5

♠ A Q 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ K 9 5
♣ J 6 3 2

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| | 1 NT | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

3 NT by North
Lead: ♠ J

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠ J, won by dummy's ♠ Q. The ♦ 5 is now played from dummy. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Considering that North opened 1 NT, he must have the ♦ Q for this play to make sense.

So if you put on your ♦ A, North will have TWO ♦ winners established. If instead you play low, then North cannot get a second ♦ trick and will have to look elsewhere for his ninth trick. As you can see, he is not going to be able to find it.

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ A Q J 7 4
♣ K Q 7

5
19 14
2



♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ Q
♦ K 10 5 2
♣ 8 6 5 4

♠ K Q J 8 2
♥ A 8 7 6 2
♦ 8
♣ A 2

♠ 10 4
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J 10 9 3

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♥ | Pass |
| 6 ♥ | ALL | Pass | |
| 6 ♥ by East | | | |
| Lead: ♣ J | | | |

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

Your lead of the ♣ J was won by East with the ♣ A. East then played the ♥ 2 and you must decide whether to split your honors.

When you have made your choice

East's bidding showed at least 5 ♥s, so assuming he holds both the ♥ A Q, it would be silly for him to finesse the ♥ 9 on the first trump play.

As it turns out, when you play low East calls for dummy's ♥ K, North's ♥ Q falls and you now have 2 trump tricks. If you had played the ♥ T you would have tossed away the setting trick.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ K
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 7 5

9 7
16
8

N
W E
S

♠ K 7
♥ J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 4 2

♠ Q 9 8 3 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 9 3

♠ A 5
♥ A 10 9 7 5
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 6

West North East South
Pass 4 ♥ Pass Pass

4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ K

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♣ K, and you played the ♣ 9 to encourage him. He continued with the ♣ Q, then a small card to your ♣ A. You then exit with the ♦ T, taken by dummy's ♦ K.

Declarer then calls for the ♥ J. Do you cover with your ♥ Q or not?

When you have made your choice

North has 5 ♥s and South must have at least 5. The reason you cover an Honor is that you hope to establish a lower card in either your hand or partner's hand. But your partner has one ♥ at the most so there is no hope of establishment.

Now that you have looked at the hands aren't you glad you didn't cover?

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 4 2
♥ 9 4
♦ A K Q J
♣ A K

19 5
 9 7



♠ K J 3
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ 10 6
♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ A 10 5
♥ Q 6 3
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ J 8 5

♠ 8 6
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 9 5 3
♣ Q 10 3 2

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 4 ♠ by West | | | |
| Lead: ♥ J | | | |

You are North. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♥ J, covered by dummy's ♥ Q and won by South's ♥ K. South wins the ♥ A at the second trick and continues with a small ♥ ruffed by West.

West then plays the ♠ 4 from his hand. Do you play low? or play the ♠ J to force dummy's ♠ A?

When you have made your choice

If West decides to finesse the ♠ T then you will still win the one ♠ trick which you are entitled to win.

However, with West holding the ♠ Q it would be very logical for him to go up with the ♠ A then lead back toward his ♠ Q, playing South for the ♠ K. If he plays this way you will get two tricks and defeat the contract.

Deal 5

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| North Deals | ♠ A 10 8 |
| None Vul | ♥ K Q 4 |
| | ♦ A K 10 |
| | ♣ A 9 8 2 |

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | ♠ 9 5 3 |
| ♥ 6 5 3 | ♥ 9 8 7 2 |
| ♦ 9 7 2 | ♦ 8 6 5 3 |
| ♣ 5 4 3 | ♣ K 6 |
| | ♠ K 7 4 |
| | ♥ A J 10 |
| 20 3 3 14 | ♦ Q J 4 |
| | ♣ Q J 10 7 |

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

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥ 9, taken by dummy's ♥T. The ♠ 4 is then played from dummy. Do you play low? or split your honors?

When you have made your choice

You should always make a point count check as soon as you see dummy. North's 2 NT promises 20 or 21 points, South has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore East must have either 2 or 3 points. He cannot have two Jacks because you can see all four of them. Likewise he cannot have a Queen because you can see three of them and his ♥ lead (top of nothing) denied that Queen.

It follows that East MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Since East will definitely win his King, you need to take one trick yourself, and the best way to do that is to split your Honors to establish one ♠ winner.

North has no defense to this, but if you had played low he would have played the ♠T and made the slam.