

Deal 1	♠ K 7 4		
South Deals	♥ A J 10		
None Vul	♦ Q J 4		
	♣ Q J 10 7		
♠ 9 5 3	♠ Q J 6 2		
♥ 9 8 7 2	♥ 6 5 3		
♦ 8 6 5 3	♦ 9 7 2		
♣ K 6	♣ 5 4 3		
	♠ A 10 8		
14 3 3 20	♥ K Q 4		
	♦ A K 10		
	♣ A 9 8 2		
West	North	East	South
			2 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 9			

You are East. 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. South's 2 NT promises 20 or 21 points, North has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore West 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 West MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Since West 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.

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

Deal 2

South Deals	♠ K J 5
None Vul	♥ Q 7 4
	♦ 10 7 2
	♣ A J 9 5
♠ 10 9 8 2	♠ 7 6 3
♥ 9 6 3 2	♥ K J 10
♦ 5 3	♦ K J 9 6
♣ K Q 4	♣ 10 7 2



11	♠ A Q 4
5 8	♥ A 8 5
16	♦ A Q 8 4
	♣ 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 10			

dummy's ♣ 9, finessing West for the ♠ T. This is because ♣ K T or ♣ Q T are twice as likely as ♣ K Q.

If he does play this way East will win the ♠ T and your ♣ K Q will get one more trick.

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ T; low cards from North and East, won by South with the ♠ A.

South next plays the ♣ 3 and you must decide whether to split your ♣ K Q.

When you have made your choice

If you split your Honors, playing the ♣ Q perhaps, dummy's ♣ A will take the trick and South will later play through your ♣ K toward dummy's ♣ J 9 5. Played in this way he will establish 3 ♣ winners (which he needs for the contract).

If you play low, he MIGHT finesse the ♣ J and again establish 3 ♣ winners. But South's correct play would be to put on

Deal 3
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ J 8 7 3 ♥ 10 ♦ J 10 9 8 5 2 ♣ Q 5	♠ A K 9 4 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ 10 8 6
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18 4 7 11	♠ Q 5 ♥ A J 9 8 5 4 2 ♦ —
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♠ 10 6 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ K 7 6 3 ♣ A 9 4 2

♣ K J 7 3

<i>West</i> Pass Pass 6 ♥ by South	<i>North</i> 1 ♣ 2 NT Pass	<i>East</i> Pass Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 1 ♥ 6 ♥
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Lead: ♦ J

You are East. The bidding has been as shown, (wild).

Partner led the ♦ J; ♦ Q from dummy, ♦ K from you and ruffed by South.

South then pulls two rounds of trumps, (West discards on the second one), followed by his ♠ Q, dummy's ♠ A K and dummy's ♦ A. South discards ♣s on the last two cards.

The ♣ 6 is then played from dummy and you must make a decision - ♣ A or ♣ 2?

When you have made your choice

You have a full count on South's hand. He started with 2 ♠s, 7 ♥s, and no ♦s. His other 4 cards must have been ♣s, and he has discarded 2 of them.

So he has 2 ♣s left in his hand. If one of them is the ♣ K and you play your ♣ A then you have handed him the contract.

By playing low you give him a guess to make. If he plays the ♣ K he will make the contract, but if he plays the ♣ J he will go down. He will probably play the ♣ J, figuring you wouldn't have the nerve to duck with the ♣ A. He'll know better next time he plays against you.

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 4
♥ 7 4
♦ J 9 7 5 4
♣ A J 3

12
11 4
13

♠ 8 6 2
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ 8 3
♣ Q 10 6

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 8 4

N
W E
S

♠ J 9 5
♥ 9 3
♦ A K Q
♣ K 9 7 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass			Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♦ 5			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♦ 5; ♦ 3, ♦ T and won by South with ♦ K. South now leads the ♣ 9 from his hand and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

First ask yourself "Where are the ♦ A and ♦ Q?" East doesn't have either one or he would have played it at the first trick. So South has both of them. So with those 3 tricks and the 5 ♥s in dummy South only needs to find one more winner. Assuming he has the ♣ K, (or why play the suit), if you play low he will find that one more winner whichever high ♣ he plays.

Next ask yourself "Where is the ♠ A?" Clearly East DOES have this card; otherwise South has his 9 tricks.

So the way to beat the contract is to go up with your ♣ A, then play ♠ K, ♠ Q and a third ♠, hoping East holds ♠ A x x x.