

Deal 1

South Deals ♠ 4
 None Vul ♥ K Q J 10 3

♦ 10 6 4

♣ 8 7 6 4

♠ Q J 10 9 7 2

♥ 9 7 4

♦ 8

♣ K 9 3



♠ 8 5 3

♥ 8 6 5 2

♦ Q 9 7

♣ A 10 5

♠ A K 6

♥ A

♦ A K J 5 3 2

♣ Q J 2

6
6 6
22

West North East South

2 ♣

Pass 2 ♦

Pass 3 ♦

Pass 3 ♥

Pass 3 NT

Pass Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ Q

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ Q.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=0 Total = 5

There they are, four perfectly good ♥ tricks and no straightforward way to reach them. On the other hand, (I should say "In the other hand"), you have the possibility of 6 ♦ tricks, if the ♦ Q drops, in which case you won't need the ♥ tricks at all. Can you work those two possibilities into a strategy?

Sure. The ♦ problem is that the outstanding ♦s may split 3-1 with one defender holding ♦ Q x x. So it would appear you could only get 5 ♦ winners. But you can thwart him like this.

Win the ♠. Unblock the ♥ A. Now play the ♦ J. If Mr. ♦ Q x x takes this trick dummy's ♦ T will become an entry to

those wonderful ♥s. But if he cleverly refuses to win the ♦ Q, then it will fall under your ♦ A K and you will get all 6 ♦ tricks.

Maybe after the hand is over he will appreciate it more and congratulate you.

Deal 2

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7 5 4
♥ 10 8
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ Q 8 4

22
3 7
8

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♦ 2

♠ K

♥ A K 7 5 3

♦ A K Q 6

♣ K 10 5



♠ Q J 10 9 3

♥ 6 2

♦ 8 5 4

♣ A J 3

North

2 ♣

3 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♠

3 NT

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♦ 2.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 8

The reason the Winners list shows 1 ♠ is that the defenders are going to have to let you win dummy's ♠ K. If they take that then you'll have 4 ♠ winners in your hand!

So you only need one more winner really, and if you guess the ♣ finesse right you will have it. Which way will you finesse, and why?

You will finesse through East. If he has the ♣ Q you will win all 3 ♣ tricks, but if West has the ♣ Q you may win even more. Just watch.

Win the opening ♦ lead in dummy. Play the ♠ K which the defenders are not about to take while you have a ♣ entry to your hand. Now play the ♣ T and pass it to West. If West takes the ♣ Q then you will have TWO entries to your hand, one to get there for a ♠ lead, and the other to reach the ♠ winners after you have driven out the ♠ A. But if West DOESN'T take the ♣ Q, or if East actually has it, then you will have 3 ♣ tricks and your contract.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 9 8 5 2

♥ 9 7 5 2

♦ J 4

♣ K 5

9
4 5
22

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ Q 6

♥ A Q J 8 4

♦ 7 5 3

♣ 6 4 2



♠ A K

♥ K 10 3

♦ A K 8 6

♣ A J 10 9

North

2 ♥

6 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

2 NT

Pass

♠ J 7 4 3

♥ 6

♦ Q 10 9 2

♣ Q 8 7 3

South is to play 6 NT. West leads the ♠T.

Winners: ♠ = 2 ♥ = 5 ♦ = 2 ♣ = 1

Total = T

You need two more winners and the best bet is to try to pick up three ♣ tricks. You will need the ♣K and ♣Q to lie in different hands, or both of them to be with East. That is about a 75% chance.

But you may need to make 3 finesses, so that means 3 entries to dummy, all of which must be in the ♥ suit. Can it be done?

Of course it can. Win the ♠ lead in your hand and play the ♥K, overtaking with dummy's ♥A. Now play a ♣ to your ♣9, which loses to West's ♣K. West plays another ♠.

Now play the ♥T, and when West follows you are safe to overtake with dummy's ♥J since you can tell that East did not start with 4 ♥s. In fact, East shows out so it is West who started with 4 ♥s but that won't be a problem for you. Play another ♣ from dummy, finessing the ♣T which wins.

Now play your ♥3 toward dummy, finessing the ♥8 when West follows with a low card. Play dummy's two ♥ winners, discarding ♦s, then the low ♣ to your ♣J. Wow.

And as you have figured by now, assessing how many entries you are going to need is big part of that plan. Like here, if you had won a single ♥ trick in your hand then you wouldn't have had the three entries to dummy.

Deal 4

South Deals ♠ 8
 None Vul ♥ A K 8 6 5 4 3
 ♦ 8 5 4
 ♣ Q 3

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



9
 4 5
 22

♠ A K Q J 9 7
 ♥ —
 ♦ A K 6 2
 ♣ A J 5

West North East South

Pass 2♥ Pass 2♣

Pass 3♥ Pass 2♠

Pass Pass Pass 6♠

6♠ by South

Lead: ♦ Q

Pretty bold bidding by South, but partner DID make a positive response. South is to play 6♠. West leads the ♦ Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 3

OK, the plan is to get over to dummy for those two ♥ winners.

If you just play a small ♣ toward the ♣ Q that will work whenever West holds the ♣ K.

How about playing ♣ A and a small ♣, planning on ruffing your third ♣ to get to dummy? Naaah. They will win the second ♣ and play a trump.

There is actually a play that is 100% certain, no matter who holds the ♣ K.

Win the opening lead and lay down your

♣ J. The defense is helpless. If they take the ♣ J with the ♣ K, then you have a dummy entry in the form of the ♣ Q. If they refuse to take the trick you will counter by next laying down the ♣ A, then ruffing a third ♣ to get to dummy and the two golden eggs.

My dream is that someday I will get a chance to use it at the table. If you ever do be sure and email me.