

**Deal 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 7 5 2

♥ K 4

♦ K 9 7

♣ Q 8 5

 22  
 8 3  
 7

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 5

♠ A Q 9

♥ A 7 5 3

♦ A J 6 4

♣ A K

♠ K J 4

♥ Q 6

♦ 8 5 3

♣ J 10 6 3 2

North

2 ♣

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 5.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing two winners you will naturally consider your 5-card ♣ suit. After unblocking the ♣ A K you will need two entries to your hand; one to lead the ♣ J and drive out the ♣ Q, then a second to enjoy your good ♣s.

The ♠ suit will provide one entry easily, but should you depend on the ♥ Q for the second entry?

No, for two reasons. Firstly the ♥ Q only gives you a 50% chance of being an entry. But more importantly, you already have your two sure entries in ♠s. As long as you take the first trick with dummy's ♠ A both your ♠ K and ♠ J can be entries.

Win the ♠ A. Play off dummy's ♣ A K. Lead the ♠ 9 to your ♠ J. Play your ♣ J (and another one if necessary) to establish the ♣ suit. Win whatever red card they play next with dummy's Ace. Play the ♠ Q to your ♠ K and cash your established ♣(s). Dummy's other red Ace will be your ninth trick.

You'd have to be very careless to miss this one.

**Deal 2**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 8 5

♥ K 7 2

♦ 8 6 4

♣ Q 10 7 5

6  
7 6  
21

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♣ 5

♠ 10 7

♥ 8 6 5

♦ K Q 7 3

♣ J 9 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6 4 3

♥ A J 4

♦ A J

♣ A K 8 3

North

Pass

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♣ 5. You play low from dummy and East plays the ♣ 6.

Winners: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 1 ♦ = 4? ♣ = 3  
Total = 9

Although you have 4 ♦ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ♦ tricks simply by winning your ♦ A, then overtaking your ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q. But you need that fourth ♦ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣. It is likely from the opening lead, (and East's play of a small card), that West has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ♦ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which East discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9. You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ♦s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ♦s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

**Deal 3**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 10 9 5  
 ♥ A 9 3  
 ♦ 9 8 3  
 ♣ 10 8

5  
 7 8  
 20

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ Q

♠ 8 3

♥ J 7 4

♦ A 6 4 2

♣ 7 6 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6

♥ K 5 2

♦ K Q J 5

♣ A Q J 4

North

Pass

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ Q. East plays the ♠ K, then the ♠ 2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=0 ♦=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♥ suit because a defender would take the ♥ A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ♦s. Play the ♦ K, then ♦ Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you play the ♦ J to dummy's ♦ A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦ 5 to dummy's ♦ 6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find East with the doubleton ♣ K.

**Deal 4**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ J 8 6 2  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ Q J 10 2  
♣ 10 3

9  
6 4  
21

West

North

East

South

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

3 NT

Pass

3 ♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♣

6 ♣ by South

Lead: ♦ Q

♠ A K Q 7 3

♥ 7 6 4

♦ 8 5 3

♣ 9 8



♠ —

♥ A 5 2

♦ A K 6

♣ A K Q J 7 5 4

♠ 10 9 5 4

♥ K J 10 3

♦ 9 7 4

♣ 6 2

South is to play 6 ♣. West leads the ♦ Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 3

Partner's hand didn't turn out to be what you hoped for, you had in mind maybe the ♥ K and ♦ Q.

But this is what you got. First, be thankful West led a ♦ rather than a ♥. Second, see if you can find a way to fight yourself over to dummy and those three beautiful ♠s.

You have two possibilities for a ♣ entry, but you can only try one of them as you will see.

You can play a high ♣ and hope somebody plays the singleton ♣T. Then your ♣ 9 would be an entry. If this works you would probably make all 13 tricks,

but the chances are very slim.

You can play a low ♣ to dummy's ♣ 8. Assuming a defender takes the ♣T you can win his return and enter dummy with the ♣ 9. This play is guaranteed to give you the entry and is the one you should choose.

When you are missing 4 cards the probability of a 3-1 split is about 50%.

But the singleton can be any one of four cards - in this case it can be the ♣T, ♣ 6, ♣ 3 or ♣ 2. So the chance of one of the opponents holding specifically the singleton ♣T is only one-fourth of 50%, about 12.5%.

**Deal 5**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♠ A			

South is to play 4 ♥. West leads the ♠ A, then ♠ K.

Losers: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 0 ♦ = 3? ♣ = 0  
Total = 4?

This is the kind of hand that can get really messy if you aren't careful. You could ruff the ♠, then try to ruff some ♦s, but the defense can prevent you by leading trumps when you give up the ♦ tricks.

All in all a much better plan is to use dummy's ♣ suit after you unblock the Ace. The only flaw with that idea is that when you ruff the ♠, unblock the ♣ A, then play two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, there will still be a trump left out. And the defender might ruff a ♣ before you can take the discards you need. Do you see a way around this?

Do NOT ruff the second ♠ in dummy, just discard a ♦. If West plays a third ♠ you will ruff in your hand, then unblock the ♣ A, then pull trumps in 3 rounds ending in dummy. And run all those ♣ tricks. If West plays a trump or a ♣ the result will be the same. The defense can get one ♦ trick if they take it right now, but you still make your contract.