

**Deal 1**  
North Deals  
None Vul

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

16  
10 6  
8

♠ A 7 5  
♥ J 7  
♦ A 10 8 6 3  
♣ A K 5

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

N  
W E  
S

West      North      East      South  
Pass      1 NT      Pass      2 ♦  
Pass      2 ♥      Pass      2 NT  
Pass      3 NT      Pass      Pass  
Pass  
3 NT by North  
Lead: ♠ 6

South's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2 NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 6, you play dummy's ♠ 9 and West contributes the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥ A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠ A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then East will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠ A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to the good ♥s.

<b>Deal 2</b>	♠ 8 6 3		
South Deals	♥ A 8 2		
None Vul	♦ Q J 9		
	♣ J 10 7 4		
♠ K J 4	♠ A 10 5		
♥ Q J 10 5 3	♥ 9 7		
♦ 7 5 4	♦ A K 6 3		
♣ 8 2	♣ A K 9 5		
	♠ Q 9 7 2		
8	♥ K 6 4		
7 18	♦ 10 8 2		
7	♣ Q 6 3		
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
3 NT by East			
Lead: ♠ 2			

East is to play 3 NT. South leads the ♠ 2, you play dummy's ♠ 4 and North plays the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠ T and play the ♥ 9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠ A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠ K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠ K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠ A. Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠ J by a finesse and the ♠ K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.

**Deal 3**  
 East Deals  
 None Vul  
 ♠ 10 9 6  
 ♥ Q 10 7 2  
 ♦ 9 4 3  
 ♣ K Q 8

9  
7 9  
15

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5 ♦ by South  
 Lead: ♠ 10

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

N      ♠ A K 7 5 4 3  
 W            ♥ J 9 5  
 E            ♦ —  
 S            ♣ J 10 7 2

—  
 ♥ K 8 4  
 ♦ A K J 7 6 5 2  
 ♣ A 6 5

3 NT would have been a lot easier, but you didn't get there. South is to play 5 ♦. West leads the ♠T.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 3

The good news is that you only have one loser to get rid of. The bad news is that there doesn't seem to be a good place to put it.

Unlikely as it seems, your best candidate for establishment is dummy's ♠ 8. West is marked with 3 ♠s, and having led the ♠T there is a good chance that he also has the ♠ 9. If so you can ruff it out.

Cover the ♠T with dummy's ♠ J, and when East plays one of his honors ruff in your hand. Play a trump to the ♦T, East showing out. Lead the ♠ Q. East will be forced to play his other high honor, (if he

doesn't you would discard a loser), and you ruff again.

Back to dummy with the ♦ Q and ruff the ♠ 2 with a high trump just to be safe. West drops the ♠ 9 on this trick.

Pull West's last trump and enter dummy with the ♥ A and FINALLY discard a loser on the now established ♠ 8.

Here you needed ♠ T 9 x to be with West if you were to make the contract so you played for just that holding.

**Deal 4**  
 East Deals  
 None Vul  
 ♠ 5 3  
 ♥ J 7 6 4  
 ♦ K J 7 3 2  
 ♣ 10 5

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

N  
W E S

♠ K 6 4	♦ A 9 3
♥ A 9 3	♦ 8 6
♣ 9 8 6 4 3	

♠ 8 2	
♥ Q 8 2	
♦ Q 10 9 4	
♣ Q J 7 2	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♪	Pass	4 ♪	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♪	Pass	Pass	Pass

6 ♪ by West

Lead: ♪ 5

West is to play 6 ♪. North leads the ♪ 5.

Losers: ♪=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

First pull trumps with the ♪ A and ♪ Q, both defenders following. Next you must establish dummy's ♣ suit to get rid of one of your losers. If the suit splits 3-3 that will be easy since you have two dummy entries, one to get there to ruff the third ♣ and the other to get there to enjoy playing the winners. But ♣s will probably split 4-2 so the two entries won't be enough. Here's how to make the defenders help you establish the suit.

After pulling trumps, play the ♣ A K, then ♦ A. Next exit with a small ♦.

to see the position.

The defender who won the ♦ trick has a problem. If he plays another ♦ you will get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥ Q and ♥ J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.

You ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy's ♪ K and ruff the ♣ 8, establishing the ♣ 9 while you still have the ♥ entry.

This was a combination of Suit Establishment and End-play. The lesson on Eliminations contains a lot more of this type of hand.