

**Deal 1**

North Deals	♠ A J 10 8 3
None Vul	♥ A 3
	♦ A J 7
	♣ A Q 5

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



20	♠ K 9 7 6 4
7 4	♥ 6 4
9	♦ K 10 3
	♣ K 8 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass

6 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ Q

end-played.

The defender who won the last trick cannot lead a trump because he has none. If he leads a ♥ or a ♣ you will get a ruff-sluff, ruffing in one hand while discarding a ♦ loser from the other. If he leads a ♦ you will get the free finesse you were hoping for all along.

With an elimination play you make it no matter who holds the Queen.

South's 3 ♠ bid is a limit raise showing T-12 points and good trump support. North is to play 6 ♠. East leads the ♥ Q.

With one certain ♥ loser you cannot afford to lose a ♦ also. You could guess which way to finesse and be correct half of the time. But an elimination play will work ALL of the time.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Next play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate that suit from both your and dummy's hand.

With all the eliminations completed you are ready for the throw-in. Lead a ♥ from either hand. One of the defenders will win, (you don't care which), and will be

**Deal 2**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

<p>♠ Q 2          ♥ Q J 10 7          ♦ K 9 6 4          ♣ J 7 4</p>	<p>♠ K 9 7 6 4          ♥ 6 4          ♦ J 7 3          ♣ Q 8 2</p>
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	<p>♠ 5          ♥ K 9 8 5 2          ♦ A 10 8          ♣ 10 9 6 3</p>
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<p>6          9 7  <b>18</b></p>	<p>♠ A J 10 8 3          ♥ A 3          ♦ Q 5 2          ♣ A K 5</p>
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West      North      East      South

Pass      4 ♠      Pass      Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ Q

South is to play 4 ♠. West leads the ♥ Q.

This should remind you a lot of Deal 1. This time you have 1 ♥ loser and 3 ♦ losers. If you can force the opponents to lead ♦s you can make a trick with the ♦ Q or ♦ J, avoiding one of those losers.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Next play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate that suit from you and dummy.

The eliminations are complete and it is time for the throw-in. Play the small ♥ from whichever hand you are in. This will be taken by one of the defenders.

No matter which defender wins the ♥ he is end-played. A ♥ or a ♣ will give you a

ruff-sluff, but if he leads a ♦ you cannot be prevented from establishing either your ♦ Q or ♦ J as a winner.

Only by forcing them to start the ♦s can you take a trick in the suit.

**Deal 3**

North Deals

None Vul

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

**19**  
4 8  
9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 10 8 3  
♥ A 3  
♦ A 9 7  
♣ A Q 5

♠ Q 2  
♥ Q J 10 7  
♦ Q 8 6 4  
♣ J 7 4

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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass

6 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ Q

leads the ♦. You play low in dummy and West must play either the ♦ Q or ♦ J to keep you from getting a cheap trick with your ♦ 9. So you take West's honor with your ♦ A and then finesse East for the other honor. As long as the ♦ Q and ♦ J are in different hands the elimination play will succeed.

By forcing them to start the ♦s you make three tricks when the two outstanding honors are divided.

North is to play 6 ♠. East leads the ♥ Q.

This is another follow-up to Deal 1. But this time you are missing both the ♦ Q and ♦ J. In this case an Elimination play doesn't give you a guarantee, it just improves your odds.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate the suit from you and dummy.

Now execute the throw-in by leading a ♥ from either hand.

The defender who gets thrown in cannot play a ♥ or a ♣ without handing you the contract by way of a ruff-and-sluff. So he must lead a ♦. Suppose it is East who

**Deal 4**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ K J 4</b> <b>♥ 10 5</b> <b>♦ J 10 9 3 2</b> <b>♣ Q 7 4</b>	<b>♠ 9 7 3</b> <b>♥ K J 8 2</b> <b>♦ A 8 4</b> <b>♣ K 10 3</b>
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<b>♠ A Q 10 2</b> <b>♥ 6 4</b> <b>♦ Q 7 5</b> <b>♣ 9 8 6 2</b>
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<b>♠ 8 6 5</b> <b>♥ A Q 9 7 3</b> <b>♦ K 6</b> <b>♣ A J 5</b>
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<i>West</i> Pass Pass	<i>North</i> 3 ♥ Pass	<i>East</i> Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 1 ♥ 4 ♥
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4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♦ J

♣ Q.

South is to play 4 ♥. West leads the ♦ J.

Win the ♦ K, then pull trumps, it takes two rounds.

Next you eliminate the ♦s by playing ♦ A then ruffing the ♦ 8.

Execute the throw-in by leading a ♠.

The defense is in with a ♠ and they are welcome to take two more ♠s. But then they will have to play a ♠ or a ♦, giving you a ruff-sluff, or else lead a ♣ which finds the ♣ Q for you.

Here you were lucky the defense didn't start by taking their three ♠s. If they had, you would not have been able to pull off the throw-in, and would have had to try your luck with guessing who had the

**Deal 5**South Deals  
None Vul

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

**10**  
**8 8**  
**14**



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

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

4 ♠ by North  
Lead: ♦ J

North is to play 4 ♠. East leads the ♦ J, covered by the ♦ Q and ♦ A. West returns a ♦ to the ♦ K.

You still have two losers in the ♥ suit, so the question is which way you plan to finesse the ♣s. And of course the answer is that you don't plan to finesse them at all!

Pull trumps with the ♠ A, then ♠ K. Next ruff dummy's last ♦.

Now exit with a ♥. The defenders win this and take another ♥ trick, leaving this position.

They must now break the ♣ suit for you or give you a ruff-sluff. Of course you would ruff in dummy and discard a ♣ from the 3-card holding in your hand.

If East is the one who has to play a ♣ you need to insert the ♣ T or ♣ J from dummy.

In either case you will no longer have a ♣ loser.