

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A K 10 5

¹⁴
8 8
10



♠ A
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ J 8 6 2

♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ 9 3

♠ K 9 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣ 9 West will continue with the ♣ K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow North's ♣ J to be established as a winner that South can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and South will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦ K, return the ♣ 9 back to West's ♣ K, and still have your trump trick for later.

Deal 2

South Deals	♠ J 6 4 2
None Vul	♥ J 6 3
	♦ AJ 6
	♣ 10 7 3

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



7	♠ 8 5
12 3	♥ A K Q 8 7 2
18	♦ K 5 4
	♣ A Q

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

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ A

see, South would have been able to discard a loser on that ♠ J if you hadn't played this way.

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ A, East plays the ♠ 9, South the ♠ 5. You assume East has signaled you to continue ♠ s, so you play the ♠ Q. On this trick East plays the ♠ 3 and South the ♠ 8. How will you continue?

When you have made your choice

You might just switch suits, but you have a better choice.

If you play your ♠ Q, East won't bother ruffing, South WILL ruff and dummy's ♠ J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. East will ruff and South will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of North's ♠ J. As you can

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 6 3**♥ Q J 10 7****♦ 8 5 2****♣ 8 3****6
6 9
19****West****♠ J 8****♥ 9 6 2****♦ K Q 10 9 4****♣ 9 7 5****♠ A 10 5 2****♥ 8 5 3****♦ A 7 3****♣ J 6 2****♠ Q 7 4****♥ A K 4****♦ J 6****♣ A K Q 10 4****North****East**

2 NT

Pass**3 NT****Pass****Pass****3 NT by South****Lead: ♥ Q**

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ Q, you played low and South won the ♥ A.

South now plays the ♦ J on which West plays the ♦ 2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

North hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the North hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦ A on the trick that South plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what West plays. On the ♦ J West played the ♦ 2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of ♦s. ODD must be either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you that South started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds South to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Deal 4South Deals
None Vul

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

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

N		E
W		S

♠ 8 7 2	♦ J 9 5 2	♥ A 8 4 3	♣ 8 3
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♣ A K Q J			
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You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East plays the ♥ J, won by South with ♥ A.

South plays the ♠ J, you follow with ♠ 5, dummy ♠ 3 and East plays the ♠ 2. South continues with the ♠ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠ 2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠ A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥ K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠ A, down 1