

Deal 1North Deals
None Vul

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

¹⁶
8 3
₁₃



♠ K 6 5 3
 ♥ A 7 4
 ♦ Q 8 3
 ♣ A K 4

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

♠ A Q 4
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ K 9 5
 ♣ J 6 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♠ J			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠ J, won by dummy's ♠ Q. The ♦ 5 is now played from dummy. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Considering that North opened 1 NT, he must have the ♦ Q for this play to make sense.

So if you put on your ♦ A, North will have TWO ♦ winners established. If instead you play low, then North cannot get a second ♦ trick and will have to look elsewhere for his ninth trick. As you can see, he is not going to be able to find it.

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ A Q J 7 4
♣ K Q 7

5
19 14
2



♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ Q
♦ K 10 5 2
♣ 8 6 5 4

♠ K Q J 8 2
♥ A 8 7 6 2
♦ 8
♣ A 2

♠ 10 4
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J 10 9 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♠	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	ALL	Pass	
6 ♥ by East			
Lead: ♣ J			

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

Your lead of the ♣ J was won by East with the ♣ A. East then played the ♥ 2 and you must decide whether to split your honors.

When you have made your choice

East's bidding showed at least 5 ♥s, so assuming he holds both the ♥ A Q, it would be silly for him to finesse the ♥ 9 on the first trump play.

As it turns out, when you play low East calls for dummy's ♥ K, North's ♥ Q falls and you now have 2 trump tricks. If you had played the ♥ T you would have tossed away the setting trick.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ K
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 7 5

9 7
16 8

N
W E
S

♠ K 7
♥ J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 4 2

♠ Q 9 8 3 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 9 3

♠ A 5
♥ A 10 9 7 5
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 6

West *North* *East* *South*
Pass 4 ♥ Pass Pass

Pass
4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ K

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♣ K, and you played the ♣ 9 to encourage him. He continued with the ♣ Q, then a small card to your ♣ A. You then exit with the ♦ T, taken by dummy's ♦ K.

Declarer then calls for the ♥ J. Do you cover with your ♥ Q or not?

When you have made your choice

North has 5 ♥s and South must have at least 5. The reason you cover an Honor is that you hope to establish a lower card in either your hand or partner's hand. But your partner has one ♥ at the most so there is no hope of establishment.

Now that you have looked at the hands aren't you glad you didn't cover?

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 4 2
♥ 9 4
♦ A K Q J
♣ A K

19 5
9 7



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

♠ 8 6
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 9 5 3
♣ Q 10 3 2

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

4 ♠ by West
Lead: ♥ J

You are North. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♥ J, covered by dummy's ♥ Q and won by South's ♥ K. South wins the ♥ A at the second trick and continues with a small ♥ ruffed by West.

West then plays the ♠ 4 from his hand. Do you play low? or play the ♠ J to force dummy's ♠ A?

When you have made your choice

If West decides to finesse the ♠ T then you will still win the one ♠ trick which you are entitled to win.

However, with West holding the ♠ Q it would be very logical for him to go up with the ♠ A then lead back toward his ♠ Q, playing South for the ♠ K. If he plays this way you will get two tricks and defeat the contract.

Deal 5
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q J 6 2	♦ A 10 8		
♥ 6 5 3	♥ K Q 4		
♦ 9 7 2	♦ A K 10		
♣ 5 4 3	♣ A 9 8 2		
	♠ 9 5 3		
	♥ 9 8 7 2		
	♦ 8 6 5 3		
	♣ K 6		
	♠ K 7 4		
20 3 3 14	♥ A J 10		
	♦ Q J 4		
	♣ Q J 10 7		
West	North	East	South
	2 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 NT by North			
Lead: ♥ 9			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥ 9, taken by dummy's ♥T. The ♠ 4 is then played from dummy. Do you play low? or split your honors?

When you have made your choice

You should always make a point count check as soon as you see dummy. North's 2 NT promises 20 or 21 points, South has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore East must have either 2 or 3 points. He cannot have two Jacks because you can see all four of them. Likewise he cannot have a Queen because you can see three of them and his ♥ lead (top of nothing) denied that Queen.

It follows that East MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Since East will definitely win his King, you need to take one trick yourself, and the best way to do that is to split your Honors to establish one ♠ winner.

North has no defense to this, but if you had played low he would have played the ♠T and made the slam.

Deal 6

East Deals

None Vul

♠ KJ5
♥ Q74
♦ 1072
♣ AJ95

8
11 16
5

West

♠ 763
♥ KJ10
♦ KJ96
♣ 1072

N
W E
S

♠ A Q 4
♥ A 8 5
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ 8 6 3

♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ 5 3
♣ K Q 4

North

East

South

1 NT

Pass

Pass

3 NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by East

Lead: ♠ 10

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠T; low cards from West and North, won by East with the ♠A.

East next plays the ♣3 and you must decide whether to split your ♣KQ.

When you have made your choice

If you split your Honors, playing the ♣Q perhaps, dummy's ♣A will take the trick and East will later play through your ♣K toward dummy's ♣J95. Played in this way he will establish 3 ♣ winners (which he needs for the contract).

If you play low, he MIGHT finesse the ♣J and again establish 3 ♣ winners. But

East's correct play would be to put on dummy's ♣9, finessing South for the ♠T. This is because ♣KT or ♣QT are twice as likely as ♣KQ.

If he does play this way North will win the ♣T and your ♣KQ will get one more trick.