

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

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♦ K.

Winners: ♠=4 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 6

You need 3 more winners, and they must come from the ♥ suit. The danger is that when you knock out the ♥ A, West may take too many ♦s. To exhaust East of ♦s you hold-up your ♦ A until the third round.

Next you start on ♥s by playing ♥ K, then overtaking the ♥T. Assume that East wins the second ♥.

You were fortunate it was East who took the ♥ A, and that he has no ♦ to return. If he plays a ♥ or a ♣ you will win in dummy. If he plays a ♡ you will jump up with the ♡ A and take your winners, 9 in all.

But if you had not held-up your ♦ A even good luck wouldn't have helped you.

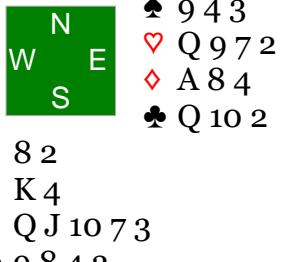
Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 10 5
♥ J 10
♦ 9 6 2
♣ J 7 6

♠ A 7 6
♥ A 8 6 5 3
♦ K 5
♣ A K 5



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

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

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 5

Even if ♥s split 3-3 you could only get 2 extra winners there, so it should be clear that you must establish the ♦s. You will have to drive out the ♦A and hope they don't win too many ♠s at that time. You can help your chances by a hold-up of the ♠A until the third round.

Having just taken the third ♠ trick you now work on ♦s by first playing the ♦K, then continuing the suit. East wins the third one with his ♦A. And now the good news - he has no ♠ left to reach his partner's good tricks. So East plays the ♥Q.

At this point in the play you have three tricks in the bank; ♠A, ♦K, ♦Q. You take your ♥K, cash the two good ♦s, then lead to dummy for the ♣A K and ♥A. Voila!

But what if East actually held 4 ♠s? No problem, in that case the ♠s would have split 4-4 so the defenders could only win 3 ♠ tricks and the ♦A.

The hold-up lets you make the contract whenever East holds the ♦A. And if West happened to hold the ♦A??? You go down.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

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

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

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

N	W	E	S
♠ A 8 6	♥ Q J 9 2	♦ K 7 4	♣ 9 7 3

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 3. East wins the first trick with the ♠ A and returns the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 7

You can win 3 more ♦ tricks if the finesse works, but even if it doesn't work you can still get the 2 that you need. Of course if East does win the ♦ K it would sure be great if he had no ♠ to lead. So you duck the second ♠ and take your ♠ K when they play a third round.

After winning the ♠ K you are conveniently in your hand, so you play the ♦ Q and let it ride when West plays a low card. Alas, East takes the trick with his ♦ K.

It's too bad the finesse didn't work, but it's not too too bad! Because East is out of ♠s and must lead one of the other suits. You don't care which he leads because you can now win 8 more tricks and make your contract.

And as long as you had held up on the ♠ K until the third round you could ensure that East was out of ♠s if he had started with only 3.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 6	♦ 7 5 2
♥ A 10 9	♣ K J 10 6 4

♠ 10 8 4	♦ K Q J 4
♥ 6 5 4 2	♣ 7 5

♦ K Q J 4	♣ 7 5
♣ 7 5	10

6	9
15	

West	North	East	South
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Pass	3 NT	Pass	1 NT
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Pass			
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3 NT by South			
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Lead: ♦ K			
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♠ J 9 3 2	♦ Q 8 3
♥ Q 8 3	♦ 10 9 6
♣ A Q 3	

♠ A K 7 5	♦ A 8 3
♥ K J 7	♣ 9 8 2

♦ A 8 3	
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♣ 9 8 2	
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South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♦ K.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 6

You will need some ♣ tricks to make the contract. If West has 5 ♦s and also the ♣ A then you will go down. It doesn't matter if he has the ♣ Q because you can finesse him out of that.

But in the case where East has both the ♣ A Q you need to make sure he has no ♦ when he takes his first trick. So hold up the ♦ A until the third round, everybody following.

Now start on the ♣s. Play your ♣ 9 and let it ride. East wins the ♣ Q and returns a ♠. Good, he didn't have the fourth ♦.

Win with dummy's ♠ Q and force out the

♣ A.

The rest of the tricks are yours, nine in all.

But with this layout you needed to hold up twice.

Deal 5

South Deals	♠ A Q 8 2
None Vul	♥ 7 5 3
	♦ Q 6 4
	♣ A 9 5

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



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

West	North	East	South
			1 NT

Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
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3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 6

With his 4-3-3-3 distribution North chooses not to bother with Stayman. South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♥ 6. East plays the ♥ J.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=1 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need to get two more winners. The ♥ suit might provide one of them, but you will still have to establish ♠s. The burning question is whether to win the first ♥ or to hold up. If you take this trick you will have a second stopper if West takes the lead, but you will be in extreme danger if East takes the lead. Since the ♠ finesse has to go into East you should hold up.

East returns the ♥ 9, West takes the ♥ A and clears the suit.

You have lost two tricks so far. Lead the ♠ J and let it ride. East wins their third trick with the ♠ K but has no ♥ to return so he plays a ♦ which you win with your ♦ A.

Play off your 7 winners and give up a ♣ at the end.

So you decide whether to hold up or not based on how you expect to play the hand.