

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 5 3
♥ 9 8 7 2
♦ 8 6 5 3
♣ K 6

14
3 3
20

West

Pass

Pass

6 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 9

♠ K 7 4
♥ A J 10
♦ Q J 4
♣ Q J 10 7



♠ A 10 8
♥ K Q 4
♦ A K 10
♣ A 9 8 2

North

6 NT

East

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 9 7 2
♣ 5 4 3

You are East. 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. South's 2 NT promises 20 or 21 points, North has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore West 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 West MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Since West 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.

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

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ 5 3
♣ K Q 4

11
5 8
16

West

♠ K J 5
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 10 7 2
♣ A J 9 5



♠ A Q 4
♥ A 8 5
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ 8 6 3

North

East

South

Pass

3 NT

Pass

1 NT

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 10

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

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

South 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 South will later play through your ♣K toward dummy's ♣J 9 5. 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 South's correct play would be to put on

dummy's ♣9, finessing West for the ♣T. This is because ♣K T or ♣Q T are twice as likely as ♣K Q.

If he does play this way East will win the ♣T and your ♣K Q will get one more trick.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 9 4
♥ K Q 6
♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 8 6

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 10
♦ J 10 9 8 5 2
♣ Q 5



♠ 10 6 2
♥ 7 3
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ A 9 4 2

18
4 7
11

♠ Q 5
♥ A J 9 8 5 4 2
♦ —
♣ K J 7 3

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♦ J

You are East. The bidding has been as shown, (wild).

Partner led the ♦ J; ♦ Q from dummy, ♦ K from you and ruffed by South.

South then pulls two rounds of trumps, (West discards on the second one), followed by his ♠ Q, dummy's ♠ A K and dummy's ♦ A. South discards ♣s on the last two cards.

The ♣ 6 is then played from dummy and you must make a decision - ♣ A or ♣ 2?

When you have made your choice

You have a full count on South's hand. He started with 2 ♠s, 7 ♥s, and no ♦s. His other 4 cards must have been ♣s, and he has discarded 2 of them.

So he has 2 ♣s left in his hand. If one of them is the ♣ K and you play your ♣ A then you have handed him the contract.

By playing low you give him a guess to make. If he plays the ♣ K he will make the contract, but if he plays the ♣ J he will go down. He will probably play the ♣ J, figuring you wouldn't have the nerve to duck with the ♣ A. He'll know better next time he plays against you.

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 4
♥ 7 4
♦ J 9 7 5 4
♣ A J 3

12
11 4
13

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

3 NT by South
Lead: ♦ 5

♠ 8 6 2
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ 8 3
♣ Q 10 6



♠ J 9 5
♥ 9 3
♦ A K Q
♣ K 9 7 5 2

North

1 ♥
3 NT

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♣
1 NT
Pass

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♦ 5; ♦ 3, ♦ T and won by South with ♦ K. South now leads the ♣ 9 from his hand and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

First ask yourself "Where are the ♦ A and ♦ Q?" East doesn't have either one or he would have played it at the first trick. So South has both of them. So with those 3 tricks and the 5 ♥s in dummy South only needs to find one more winner. Assuming he has the ♣ K, (or why play the suit), if you play low he will find that one more winner whichever high ♣ he plays.

Next ask yourself "Where is the ♠ A?" Clearly East DOES have this card; otherwise South has his 9 tricks.

So the way to beat the contract is to go up with your ♣ A, then play ♠ K, ♠ Q and a third ♠, hoping East holds ♠ A x x x.