

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8 3
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ K J
♣ Q 9 8 3

21
8 7
4

West

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 2

♠ A K 5
♥ A K 6
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A K 4 2



♠ 9 6 4
♥ 7 3 2
♦ A 8 5 4 2
♣ 6 5

North

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 NT

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 2, West plays the ♠ J.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need two more winners and dummy's ♦suit is your only hope. IF ♦s split 3-2 and IF the defenders don't take too many winners in their suit(s) you can establish ♦s by ducking twice.

Win the first ♠. If you hold up they might pocket the ♠ trick and switch to another suit where you only have two stoppers.

Next play a small ♦ from each hand. Win the return (probably a ♠) and duck a second ♦.

If the defenders can only take 2 ♠ tricks now you are home-free since dummy's 3 ♦s are now established.

But in fact you were pretty sure they were going to do so. Since East's ♠ 2 was probably his fourth-down then he couldn't have a fifth-down.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 5 2
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 8 7
♣ J 8 7 2

10
3 10
17

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 2

♠ A 7 4

♥ K 10 9 8 3

♦ J 5 3

♣ Q 3



♠ K 6 3

♥ Q J

♦ A K 4 2

♣ A 10 6 4

North

2 ♦

3 NT

East

Pass

ALL

South

1 NT

2 ♥

Pass

North's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s.
South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 5

Obviously you need to establish 4 ♥ winners and by driving out the ♥ A you can manage that handily. The problem is that dummy has only one sure entry, (the ♠ A), and the defenders may be good enough to hold up their ♥ A twice.

To assure the contract you should win the first trick in your hand with the ♠ K. Then play ♥ Q, ♥ J overtaking with dummy's ♥ K so you can continue establishing the suit while you still have that ♠ entry.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ —

♥ 10 9 6 3

♦ K Q J 9 4

♣ Q 10 9 7

13
8 7
12

♠ K Q 9 8 7 5 2

♥ A 2

♦ A 2

♣ 5 2



♠ A J 6 4

♥ 7 5

♦ 6 3

♣ A K 6 4 3

♠ 10 3

♥ K Q J 8 4

♦ 10 8 7 5

♣ J 8

West	North	East	South
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Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♣
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Pass	4 NT	Pass	2 ♠
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Pass	6 ♠	Pass	5 ♥
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Pass

6 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ K

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

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

One of the two red losers must be discarded on dummy's ♣ suit. So you pull trumps, taking two rounds, with ♠ K and ♠ Q. Then play two top ♣s and ruff a ♣. When East shows out on the third ♣, enter dummy with a trump and ruff another ♣. Dummy's final ♣ is now established, so enter dummy with another trump and discard one of the red losers on the fifth ♣.

Deal 4

South Deals ♠ 10 9 7 2
 None Vul ♥ A J 6
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ Q 6 4 3

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

 ♠ Q J 5
 ♥ K 5 4 3
 ♦ A 4 3
 ♣ A K 5

7
 6 10
 17

West North East South
 1 NT

Pass Pass Pass

1 NT by South
 Lead: ♦ 6

South is to play 1 NT. West leads the ♦ 6, taken by East with the ♦ J. East next plays the ♦ Q on which West plays the ♦ 2. East plays the ♦ 9 which you finally win.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

You only need one more winner and you have several possibilities. The ♥ finesse might work, or the ♣s might split 3-3. But you need to consider the defenders winners also. They have already scored 2 ♦ tricks and will get 2 more as soon as they gain the lead. (The spot cards told you that West has a 5-card ♦ suit.) Plus they have the 2 top ♠s which they can take whenever they like. So if your play sets up just one more trick for them you will go down.

No, you must establish ♠s, the suit where they have 2 winners anyway. So you play a ♠ which West wins. He takes his 2 ♦s but you are now home free. When you gain the lead again you will get your ♠ winner established and only lose 2 ♠s and 4 ♦s.

If you had played 3 rounds of ♣s you would have gone down with the defenders winning 4 ♦s, 1 ♣ and 2 ♠s.

Only by establishing ♠s can you make the contract.