

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 8 6 2

♥ 10 5

♦ 4 3 2

♣ A 8 5

♠ —

♥ 9 6

♦ K Q J 10 8 7

♣ Q J 9 7 2

W	N	E	S
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♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q J 8 7 4 2

♦ 9

♣ 10 4

♠ 10 7 5 4 3

♥ A 3

9 9

♦ A 6 5

11

♣ K 6 3

11

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ K

When the bidding gets high in a hurry you sometimes have to guess what you can make. North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♥ K.

And it looks like you are too high. Assuming the trumps split 2-1, you still have one ♥ loser, two ♦ losers and one ♣ loser.

You win the ♥ A and play a ♠ to your ♠ K. West discards a ♦!

From bad to worse. Now you must add a ♠ loser to the four you already had. Are you finished?

No, never give up. East has a bunch of ♥s and 3 ♠s, so he cannot have many ♦s and ♣s. If you can eliminate those and then throw him in it should work to your advantage.

Play your ♠ A, the ♦ A and the ♣ A K. East follows to everything.

You've done all you can do. Now play the ♥ T to East's high ♥.

East has just won his side's first trick with the ♥ J. He now plays the ♠ Q, winning his side's second trick.

Now, East is still on lead, and he has nothing in his hand but good ♥s. So he leads one of them, and you DO NOT RUFF. Instead you discard a ♣ from dummy and a ♦ from your own hand. East has now taken his side's third trick. He plays another good ♥, and you ruff in dummy and discard the last ♦ loser from your hand. You can now cross-ruff for the rest of the tricks.

You just wonder how many bridge players would have just conceded down 2 on this hand.

Not you or me, of course.

Deal 2
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ 6 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ K Q 10 3 2 ♣ 10 8 6 4 8 2 19	♠ A 10 9 3 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ A J 6 ♣ Q 7 5 ♠ K Q J 7 4 2 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 5 ♣ A K 3	♠ 8 5 ♥ J 10 9 6 ♦ 9 8 7 4 ♣ J 9 2
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N
W E S

West North East South

Pass 3 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
 Pass 5 ♥ Pass 4 NT
 Pass Pass Pass

6 ♠ by South
 Lead: ♦ K

North's 3 ♠ is a limit raise, 11-12 points in support of ♠s. When you discover that the raise includes two Aces you bid the slam. South plays 6 ♠. West leads the ♦ K, won by you with dummy's ♦ A.

So rather than finesse, eliminate! Pull trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy.

Ruff the ♦ 6, then play ♣ A, ♣ K, ♣ Q.

So here you are in dummy. Do you finesse the ♥ now? Of course not. You play the ♦ J and discard a small ♥ from your hand. West wins his ♦ Q (which his opening lead told you he held) and is end-played. He must lead a ♥ to your tenace or give you a ruff-sluff.

It is a pretty simple problem, but you are no doubt getting a lot better.

Deal 3

East Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 2
♥ 9 8 3
♦ J 10 4
♣ 9 6 4 2

18
2 14
6

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	1♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by North
Lead: ♣ K

♠ K 6
♥ A K J 10 5 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ A 10



♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ 6
♦ A Q 8
♣ K Q J 7 5

♠ A 8 5 3
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ 8 3

South realizes that to make a takeout double, then jump in your own suit you must have a very good hand. So he bids the game. North plays 4 ♥. East leads the ♣ K, which you take with the ♣ A.

Play one round of trumps with the ♥ A. You can't play any more because you will need an entry to dummy for the elimination.

Next play ♠ K, ♠ A and ruff a ♠ high.

Lead a ♥ to dummy's ♥ Q. East shows out. Play dummy's last ♠. West is now void, so if he ruffs you over-ruff. Otherwise you ruff with a small trump.

Now throw East in (you hope!) with the ♣ T.

Fortunately East has to take the ♣ T.

Since he has nothing left but ♣s and ♦s he must lead one or the other. A ♦ lead will give you a trick with your ♦ K and a ♣ lead will allow you to ruff in dummy (West still has a ♣) and discard a ♦ from your hand.

It was not a complete elimination since West still had a trump when you threw East in. However, it worked because East was out of both ♣s and ♥s.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 4
♥ K J 9 5
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ Q 10 9 2

9	7
11	
13	

West North East South
 Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass
 Pass
 4 ♠ by South
 Lead: ♦ Q

♠ J 10 9 7 5

♥ 7

♦ K 8 6 3

♣ K 5 3

W	N
S	E

♠ 8
♥ Q 10 8 4 2
♦ A 9 5 2
♣ A J 8

♠ A K Q 6 3 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ 7

♣ 7 6 4

1 ♠

South is to play 4 ♠. West leads the ♦ Q.

The contract is in danger if East holds the ♣ A because you would have three ♣ losers to go with the ♦ already lost. One really good possibility is that East now has the lone ♦ A and you can set up dummy's ♦ K with a ruff.

So play a small ♠ to dummy's ♠ 9, (pulling the two outstanding trumps), and ruff another ♦ with an honor, hoping the ♦ A drops.

Too bad, the ♦ A did not fall so dummy's ♦ K is not a winner. But it will still prove to be useful.

Play the ♥ A, then ruff a ♥ in dummy. Play a trump to your ♠ A and ruff your last ♥.

You are in dummy, just where you want to be. Play the ♦ K, and when East plays the ♦ A don't ruff but instead discard a ♣ from your hand. You knew all along that he held the ♦ A.

East is end-played, forced to either break the ♣s and give you a ♣ trick, or give you a ruff-sluff.

It also depended upon the defenders not switching to ♣s at the second trick. If West had decided to switch to the ♣ Q you would have had no chance at all.