

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ 9 3

10
8 8
14

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

4 ♥ by North
Lead: ♣ A

♠ K 9 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q 7 4



♠ A
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ J 8 6 2

North

1 ♥
4 ♥

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♦
2 ♥
Pass

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣ 9 East will continue with the ♣ K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow South's ♣ J to be established as a winner that North can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and North will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦ K, return the ♣ 9 back to East's ♣ K, and still have your trump trick for later.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q 10 7

♥ 10 9

♦ 9 7 2

♣ K 8 4

7
12 3
18

West

1 ♠

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ A

♠ J 6 4 2

♥ J 6 3

♦ A J 6

♣ 10 7 3

N
W E
S

♠ 8 5

♥ A K Q 8 7 2

♦ K 5 4

♣ A Q

North

2 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

♠ 9 3

♥ 5 4

♦ Q 10 8 3

♣ J 9 6 5 2

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ A, East plays the ♠ 9, South the ♠ 5. You assume East has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠ Q. On this trick East plays the ♠ 3 and South the ♠ 8. How will you continue?

When you have made your choice

You might just switch suits, but you have a better choice.

If you play your ♠ Q, East won't bother ruffing, South WILL ruff and dummy's ♠ J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. East will ruff and South will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of North's ♠ J. As you can

see, South would have been able to discard a loser on that ♠ J if you hadn't played this way.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 5 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 6 2

19
9 6
6

West

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ Q 7 4

♥ A K 4

♦ J 6

♣ A K Q 10 4



♠ J 8

♥ 9 6 2

♦ K Q 10 9 4

♣ 9 7 5

North

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 NT

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ Q, you played low and North won the ♥ A.

North now plays the ♦ J on which East plays the ♦ 2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

South hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the South hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦ A on the trick that North plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what East plays. On the ♦ J East played the ♦ 2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of ♦s. ODD must be either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you that North started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds North to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5
♥ Q 10 6 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ 10 5 2

7
9 5
19

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 4

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ Q 6
♣ 9 7 6 4



♠ J 10 4
♥ A K
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ A K Q J

North

1 ♠

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ 8 3

South

1 ♣

2 NT

Pass

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East plays the ♥ J, won by South with ♥ A.

South plays the ♠ J, you follow with ♠ 5, dummy ♠ 3 and East plays the ♠ 2. South continues with the ♠ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠ 2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠ A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥ K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠ A, down 1