

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 7
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ J 9
♣ J 10 6 2

14
5 8
13

West

♠ A K 5 2
♥ A K 4 3
♦ 7 5 3
♣ 9 5



♠ 8 3
♥ 7 5
♦ A Q 10 6 2
♣ A K 7 4

North

♠ Q 10 6 4
♥ J 8 2
♦ K 8 4
♣ Q 8 3

East

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 4

1 ♥

3 NT

Pass

Pass

1 ♦

2 ♣

Pass

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 4.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need two more winners. They cannot possibly come from ♠s, ♥s, or ♣s since one defender must hold at least 4 cards in each of those suits. So your two extra winners must come from the ♦ suit.

There is no reason to hold up on the ♠ since the ♥ and ♣ suits also have just two stoppers. You win the ♠ A.

Your best play next is to finesse the ♦ T. This may gain a trick by virtue of the finesse if East happens to hold the ♦ J, but primarily you are working to establish the ♦ suit. Assume West wins the ♦ J and returns a ♠.

Again don't hold up. Take the ♠ K and lead another small ♦, finessing with dummy's ♦ Q. Happily this time the finesse works, and even more happily both defenders follow suit. That means the rest of the ♦s are good and you make an overtrick.

If looked different because of the two finesses you took.

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10 6 4 2

♥ K J 8

♦ 10 7 3

♣ K 2

4
8 9
19

♠ 9 7

♥ 4 3

♦ 8 6 5 2

♣ A 8 6 5 3



♠ K Q 3

♥ A 7 5 2

♦ A K 4

♣ Q J 9

♠ A 8 5

♥ Q 10 9 6

♦ Q J 9

♣ 10 7 4

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South
Lead: ♠ 4

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 4.
East puts on the ♠ A and returns the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

Needing three more winners you are going to have to establish the ♣ suit. You are also going to have to be lucky!

You win the second ♠ and play your ♣ Q. West covers with the ♣ K. What do you do next?

You DUCK. If you take the ♣ A now you will never get back to dummy to enjoy those other ♣s. So let West have the ♣ K. You win his return, (probably a ♠), and play ♣ J, then ♣ 9 to dummy's ♣ A. As long as ♣s split 3-2 you will get the three winners you need.

West's play of the ♣ K may have made you want to jump up with the ♣ A, but you must stick to the original play of ducking one trick.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 6
♥ J 9 2
♦ Q J 10
♣ 10 9 3 2

19
5 10
6

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♦

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

2 NT

Pass

3 NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 2

♠ A Q 3

♥ 6 3

♦ A K 5 4

♣ A Q 6 5



♠ K 10 8 2

♥ K 10 4

♦ 8 7 2

♣ K J 7

♠ 7 5 4

♥ A Q 8 7 5

♦ 9 6 3

♣ 8 4

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 2.
West puts on the ♠ J.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

You need three more winners. It is possible your fourth ♦ can be established, but that needs a 3-3 split. It's also possible that the ♣ finesse will work, and also the ♥ finesse. Since you need the ♥ finesse anyway you should go ahead and try to establish the ♥s.

Win the first trick with your ♠ Q and play a low ♥, ducking in dummy. West will no doubt win a cheap trick but no matter. When you next gain the lead play your other low ♥ and finesse the ♥ Q. Assume this wins (if it doesn't you will be going down for sure). Play the ♥ A and if both defenders follow your other 2 ♥s are good and your contract is made.

to see the full Deal and whether you made the contract or not.

But, it is your only chance to make the contract.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 10

♥ 10 9

♦ 7 4 3

♣ K 10 7 2

9
9 10
12

♠ 8 6 5 3

♥ K 5 4

♦ K J 10 8 5

♣ Q



♠ 7 4

♥ A Q 8 6 2

♦ Q 6

♣ A 8 4 3

♠ A 9 2

♥ J 7 3

♦ A 9 2

♣ J 9 6 5

West	North	East	South
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			1 ♥
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Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
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Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
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4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ K

Some pretty aggressive bidding gets you to a challenging game. South is to play 4 ♥. West leads the ♠ K, overtaken by East's ♠ A. East returns a ♠ to West's ♠T, and he then plays the ♠ Q.

Losers: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

With 2 tricks already gone you still have 4 losers. You could consider ruffing the 3 ♣ losers in dummy but that would just create a trump loser even when trumps are splitting 3-2. So it looks like you will have to establish the ♦ suit for discards. You could pull trumps and then play your ♦ Q, hoping the defenders will grab their ♦ A immediately. But unless they are real novices they will hold it up one round and you'll no longer be able to reach dummy.

The solution is to establish the ♦s before you use up dummy's ♥ K.

Ruff the third ♠, then play ♦ Q, (which they will duck), and another ♦, (which they will probably take). Win whatever they return, pull trumps ending in dummy, and enjoy your 3 ♦ winners.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A 8 2
♦ K J 5
♣ Q 10 7 4

16
10 6
8

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 6

♠ A 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ A 10 8 6 3

♣ A K 5



♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q 10 5 4

♦ 9 4

♣ 8 6 3

♠ K 10 8 6

♥ 9 6 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ J 9 2

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♦

2 NT

Pass

South's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2 NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 6, you play dummy's ♠ 9 and West contributes the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥ A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠ A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then East will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠ A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to the good ♥s.

Deal 6

West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ K 6 4
♦ 10 8 2
♣ Q 6 3

7
7 8
18

West
Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass
3 NT by South
Lead: ♠ 2

♠ K J 4
♥ Q J 10 5 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 8 2



♠ A 10 5
♥ 9 7
♦ A K 6 3
♣ A K 9 5

North
Pass
1 ♥
3 NT

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A 8 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ J 10 7 4

East
Pass
Pass
Pass

South
1 ♦
2 NT
Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 2, you play dummy's ♠ 4 and East plays the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠T and play the ♥ 9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠ A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠ K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠ K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠ A. Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠ J by a finesse and the ♠ K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.