

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 8 2
♥ J 6 4
♦ J 7 5
♣ 9 8 7 3

12
4 3
21

West

Pass
Pass
6 NT by South
Lead: ♣ 9

♠ 7 5 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ K 8 6 2
♣ A Q 5



♠ A K J
♥ A Q 3
♦ A 4 3
♣ K 10 4 2

North

4 NT
Pass

East

Pass
Pass

South

2 NT
6 NT

Partner's 4 NT bid is not Blackwood, it is the Quantitative 4 NT. He is unsure whether to bid 6 NT or not, so is inviting you to do so.

With 20 points you are supposed to pass. With 21 points you are supposed to bid 6 NT. The evaluations probably aren't that accurate, but at least you have an excuse to bid 6 NT.

East plays the ♣ J which you take with your ♣ K.

There are two places you might find your twelfth winner. You can finesse East for the ♠ Q; this is a 50% chance. Or, the ♦s might split 3-3; this is about a 40% chance.

If you try the ♠ finesse and it fails you will go down even if the ♦s are splitting 3-3.

If you play ♦ A, ♦ K then another ♦, a 4-2 ♦ split will defeat you even if the ♠ Q was with East.

Two chances are always better than one. The way to take both chances is to duck a ♦ at trick 2. Win whatever the defenders play next and then test

the ♦s. If they do split your last ♦ will be trick #12. But if they don't split you can still try the ♠ finesse.

to see.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 7 3

♥ K J 9

♦ Q J 10 4

♣ 8 5 2

17
8 6
9

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♦ Q

♠ K 8 6 2

♥ 7 5

♦ A K 7

♣ A K 6 3



♠ A 9

♥ Q 10 6 3

♦ 8 5 2

♣ Q J 9 4

North

2 ♣

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

2 ♠

3 NT

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2 ♣. Partner duly replies 2 ♠. What do you say now?

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2 ♣. Partner duly replies 2 ♠. What do you say now?

You don't have a 4-4 ♥ fit, so you invite the notrump game by bidding 2 NT. Partner raises to 3 NT.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT and East leads the ♦ Q. Should you win or hold up?

A pretty good argument against holding up could be that they might switch to ♠s. However, say you do in fact hold up and that East does in fact continue ♦s with West following suit.

Don't worry any more about the ♦s since there is nothing more you can do. Instead, worry about where that one more winner is going to come from. The answer will have to be: *from the ♥ suit*.

You might be tempted to take your 4 ♣ tricks right away, but avoid the temptation. The ♣ suit is your convenient transportation back and forth between hands.

You will have to lose at least 2 ♥ tricks in order to set up 1 winner, and by the time you do that the defenders will have established at least 1 more ♦ trick. What that means is that you cannot afford 3 ♥ losers. So how will you play the ♥s?

You should play East for the ♥ J plus one of the big ones. This is a better chance than playing him for both the ♥ A K. So play a ♥ toward dummy and insert the ♥ T when East plays low. West wins with the ♥ A and clears the ♦s. Play another ♥ toward dummy's ♥ Q. East can take his ♥ K and cash his ♦ winner but dummy's ♥ Q will be your ninth trick.

East could hold both the ♥ A and ♥ K, in which case leading toward dummy's ♥ Q would be the winning play.

East could hold EITHER ♥ A J x OR ♥ K J x in which case finessing dummy's ♥ J would be the winning play. This is the more likely distribution of the two.

Deal 3

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 4 2

♥ 8 3

♦ 9 7 4

♣ J 10 7 4 3

11
1 14
14

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 8

♠ 8 7 3

♥ A 6

♦ J 8 5 2

♣ A Q 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 5

♥ Q 10 2

♦ K Q 10 6 3

♣ K 8

North

3 NT

East

1 ♥

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

You should not make a takeout double with three cards in their suit. A 2♦ overcall would be a reasonable choice. But with 15 points, balanced, and a stopper in ♥s a 1NT overcall is probably better.

Partner bids 3 NT.

As expected, West leads his partner's ♥ suit.

You need at least 4 ♦ winners.

If you play low from dummy on the ♥ lead East can win the ♥K but this will give you an extra ♥ stopper. He could drive out dummy's ♥A at trick 2, but you would then establish ♦s and make an overtrick!

But who said East would play another ♥ after winning the ♥K? What if he wins the ♥K and switches to ♠s? They might then win 3 ♠ tricks to go with their ♥K and ♦A.

Instead you should grab the first trick with dummy's ♥A and start playing ♦s. East will take

the ♦A but you still have the ♠A and ♥Q as stoppers.

to see.

Don't give him the chance.

Deal 4

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 2
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ 10 8 5 4
 ♣ Q 10 6 2

15
 5 14
 6

West

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ K 6 3
 ♥ A 10 5
 ♦ A 7 6 2
 ♣ A 7 5



♠ 8 5
 ♥ Q J 9 7 6 4 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ K 9 4

North

1 NT

Pass

East

2 ♠

Pass

South

4 ♥

You would really like to have a transfer bid in this situation, to make North bid ♥s.

But you don't have one, so you just bid 4 ♥ yourself.

You play low in dummy and West holds the trick. He continues the suit and East takes the ♠ Q and then plays the ♠ A.

You've already lost the 2 ♠s. If West has the ♥ K you might avoid a loser there. You don't have a winner on which to discard the ♣ loser.

If East has the ♥ K it will have to be a singleton to help you, so it is more logical to play West for the ♥ K. But if West does have the ♥ K it will do you no good to ruff East's ♠ A, West will over-ruff and you would still have that ♣ loser.

So do it this way instead. Discard the ♣ loser on East's ♠ A! Another ♠ from East won't hurt you since dummy would be able to over-ruff West. Whatever East plays you can win, then finesse

West out of his ♥ K.

for the full layout.

That was true, so instead you were able to discard it on a loser!