

Deal 1

North Deals	♠ A 10 8
None Vul	♥ K Q 4
	♦ A K 10
	♣ A 9 8 2

♠ Q J 6 2	♠ 9 5 3
♥ 6 5 3	♥ 9 8 7 2
♦ 9 7 2	♦ 8 6 5 3
♣ 5 4 3	♣ K 6
	♠ K 7 4
	♥ A J 10
20 3 3 14	♦ Q J 4
	♣ Q J 10 7

West	North	East	South
	2 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 NT by North			
Lead: ♥ 9			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥ 9, taken by dummy's ♥T. The ♠ 4 is then played from dummy. Do you play low? or split your honors?

When you have made your choice

You should always make a point count check as soon as you see dummy. North's 2 NT promises 20 or 21 points, South has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore East must have either 2 or 3 points. He cannot have two Jacks because you can see all four of them. Likewise he cannot have a Queen because you can see three of them and his ♥ lead (top of nothing) denied that Queen.

It follows that East MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Since East will definitely win his King, you need to take one trick yourself, and the best way to do that is to split your Honors to establish one ♠ winner.

North has no defense to this, but if you had played low he would have played the ♠T and made the slam.

Deal 2
East Deals
None Vul

♠ KJ5
♥ Q74
♦ 1072
♣ AJ95

8
11 16
5

West North East South
3 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
3 NT by East
Lead: ♠ 10

♠ 763
♥ KJ10
♦ KJ96
♣ 1072

♠ A Q 4
♥ A 8 5
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ 8 6 3

N
W E
S

♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ 5 3
♣ K Q 4

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠T; low cards from West and North, won by East with the ♠A.

East next plays the ♣3 and you must decide whether to split your ♣KQ.

When you have made your choice

If you split your Honors, playing the ♣Q perhaps, dummy's ♣A will take the trick and East will later play through your ♣K toward dummy's ♣J95. Played in this way he will establish 3 ♣ winners (which he needs for the contract).

If you play low, he MIGHT finesse the ♣J and again establish 3 ♣ winners. But

East's correct play would be to put on dummy's ♣9, finessing South for the ♣T. This is because ♣KT or ♣QT are twice as likely as ♣KQ.

If he does play this way North will win the ♣T and your ♣KQ will get one more trick.

Deal 3
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ J 8 7 3 ♥ 10 ♦ J 10 9 8 5 2 ♣ Q 5	♠ A K 9 4 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ 10 8 6
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18 4 7 11	♠ Q 5 ♥ A J 9 8 5 4 2 ♦ —
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♠ 10 6 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ K 7 6 3 ♣ A 9 4 2

♣ K J 7 3

<i>West</i> Pass Pass 6 ♥ by South Lead: ♦ J	<i>North</i> 1 ♣ 2 NT Pass	<i>East</i> Pass Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 1 ♥ 6 ♥
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You are East. The bidding has been as shown, (wild).

Partner led the ♦ J; ♦ Q from dummy, ♦ K from you and ruffed by South.

South then pulls two rounds of trumps, (West discards on the second one), followed by his ♠ Q, dummy's ♠ A K and dummy's ♦ A. South discards ♣s on the last two cards.

The ♣ 6 is then played from dummy and you must make a decision - ♣ A or ♣ 2?

When you have made your choice

You have a full count on South's hand. He started with 2 ♠s, 7 ♥s, and no ♦s. His other 4 cards must have been ♣s, and he has discarded 2 of them.

So he has 2 ♣s left in his hand. If one of them is the ♣ K and you play your ♣ A then you have handed him the contract.

By playing low you give him a guess to make. If he plays the ♣ K he will make the contract, but if he plays the ♣ J he will go down. He will probably play the ♣ J, figuring you wouldn't have the nerve to duck with the ♣ A. He'll know better next time he plays against you.

Deal 4

West Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 5
♥ 9 3
♦ A K Q
♣ K 9 7 5 2

11
13 12
4

West
1♣
1 NT
Pass
3 NT by West
Lead: ♦ 5

♠ K Q 4
♥ 7 4
♦ J 9 7 5 4
♣ A J 3

N
W E
S

♠ 8 6 2
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ 8 3
♣ Q 10 6

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 8 4

You are North. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♦ 5; ♦ 3, ♦ T and won by West with ♦ K. West now leads the ♣ 9 from his hand and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

First ask yourself "Where are the ♦ A and ♦ Q?" South doesn't have either one or he would have played it at the first trick. So West has both of them. So with those 3 tricks and the 5 ♥s in dummy West only needs to find one more winner. Assuming he has the ♣ K, (or why play the suit), if you play low he will find that one more winner whichever high ♣ he plays.

Next ask yourself "Where is the ♠ A?" Clearly South DOES have this card;

otherwise West has his 9 tricks.

So the way to beat the contract is to go up with your ♣ A, then play ♠ K, ♠ Q and a third ♠, hoping South holds ♠ A x x x.