

Deal 1

West Deals

None Vul

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

15	15	15	15
9	9	9	9
7	7	7	7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 ♠	Dbl	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

5 ♦ by North

Lead: ♠ 10

N	W	E	S
♦ 9 4 3	—	♦ Q 10 7 2	♣ K Q 8
♣ Q J 8 2	—	♦ 9 4 3	—
♦ A 6 3	—	—	—
♦ Q 10 8	—	—	—
♣ 9 4 3	—	—	—

♠ 10 9 6	♦ Q 10 7 2
♦ 9 4 3	♣ K Q 8

3 NT would have been a lot easier, but you didn't get there. North is to play 5 ♦. East leads the ♠T.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 3

The good news is that you only have one loser to get rid of. The bad news is that there doesn't seem to be a good place to put it.

Unlikely as it seems, your best candidate for establishment is dummy's ♠ 8. East is marked with 3 ♠s, and having led the ♠T there is a good chance that he also has the ♠ 9. If so you can ruff it out.

Cover the ♠T with dummy's ♠ J, and when West plays one of his honors ruff in your hand. Play a trump to the ♦T, West showing out. Lead the ♠Q. West will be forced to play his other high honor, (if he

doesn't you would discard a loser), and you ruff again.

Back to dummy with the ♦ Q and ruff the ♠ 2 with a high trump just to be safe. East drops the ♠ 9 on this trick.

Pull East's last trump and enter dummy with the ♥ A and FINALLY discard a loser on the now established ♠ 8.

Here you needed ♠ T 9 x to be with East if you were to make the contract so you played for just that holding.

Deal 2

North Deals	♠ K 6 4
None Vul	♥ A 9 3
	♦ 8 6
	♣ 9 8 6 4 3
♠ 5 3	♠ 8 2
♥ J 7 6 4	♥ Q 8 2
♦ K J 7 3 2	♦ Q 10 9 4
♣ 10 5	♣ Q J 7 2
7	♠ A Q J 10 9 7
5 7 21	♥ K 10 5
	♦ A 5
	♣ A K

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South
Lead: ♣ 5

get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥ Q and ♥ J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.

You ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy's ♠ K and ruff the ♣ 8, establishing the ♣ 9 while you still have the ♥ entry.

This was a combination of Suit Establishment and End-play. The lesson on Eliminations contains a lot more of this type of hand.

South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ♠ 5.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

First pull trumps with the ♠ A and ♠ Q, both defenders following. Next you must establish dummy's ♣ suit to get rid of one of your losers. If the suit splits 3-3 that will be easy since you have two dummy entries, one to get there to ruff the third ♣ and the other to get there to enjoy playing the winners. But ♣s will probably split 4-2 so the two entries won't be enough. Here's how to make the defenders help you establish the suit.

After pulling trumps, play the ♣ A K, then ♦ A. Next exit with a small ♦.

to see the position.

The defender who won the ♦ trick has a problem. If he plays another ♦ you will

get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥ Q and ♥ J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.