

Deal 1
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 10 8 4 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ K 9 5 2 ♣ 9 3	♠ K 9 3 ♥ A 7 6 5 4 ♦ J 8 ♣ Q 7 4
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	♠ J 7 6 5 2 ♥ 3 ♦ 10 6 4 ♣ A K 10 5
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10 8 8 14	♠ A ♥ K 10 8 2 ♦ A Q 7 3 ♣ J 8 6 2
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by North			
Lead: ♣ A			

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

East Deals

None Vul

♠ J 6 4 2

♥ J 6 3

♦ A J 6

♣ 10 7 3

3
7 18
12

West

2 ♥

Pass
4 ♥ by East
Lead: ♠ A

♠ 9 3
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 10 8 3
♣ J 9 6 5 2



♠ 8 5
♥ A K Q 8 7 2
♦ K 5 4
♣ A Q

♠ A K Q 10 7
♥ 10 9
♦ 9 7 2
♣ K 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♥	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	4 ♥	Pass

You are South. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ A, North plays the ♠ 9, East the ♠ 5. You assume North has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠ Q. On this trick North plays the ♠ 3 and East 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, North won't bother ruffing, East WILL ruff and dummy's ♠ J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. North will ruff and East will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of West's ♠ J. As you can see, East would have been able to discard

a loser on that ♠ J if you hadn't played this way.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 6 3**♥ Q J 10 7****♦ 8 5 2****♣ 8 3****6
6 9
19****West****♠ J 8****♥ 9 6 2****♦ K Q 10 9 4****♣ 9 7 5****♠ A 10 5 2****♥ 8 5 3****♦ A 7 3****♣ J 6 2****♠ Q 7 4****♥ A K 4****♦ J 6****♣ A K Q 10 4****North****East**

2 NT

Pass**3 NT****Pass****Pass****3 NT by South****Lead: ♥ Q**

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

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

When you have made your choice

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

Only by watching what West plays. On the ♦ J West 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 South started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

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

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 4
 ♥ A K
 ♦ J 10 9 5
 ♣ A K Q J

9
 19 7
 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

3 NT by West

Lead: ♥ 4

♠ A 6 5
 ♥ Q 10 6 4
 ♦ K 7 2
 ♣ 10 5 2

N
 W E
 S

♠ K Q 9 3
 ♥ 8 7 3
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ J 9 5 2
 ♦ A 8 4 3
 ♣ 8 3

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

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

When you have made your choice

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

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