

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q
♥ 10 9 6 5 2
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ 6 4 2



♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ K Q
♦ A 5
♣ K J 10 8 5

♠ AJ 3
♥ AJ 3
♦ K 10 9 2
♣ 9 7 3

West North East South

1♣ **1♠** **2 NT**

Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ Q

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠ Q, a low card was played from dummy, and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

It seems that perhaps you should play low and let partner's ♠ Q force out South's ♠ A. Then, when you get the lead with a high ♣ you can force out South's ♠ J. Get the lead with your other high ♣ and set the contract with ♠s.

Suppose you try that. Play low on the first ♠. South will also play low and West will be left holding the trick, and also holding the bag! With no more ♠s West will have to play one of the other three suits, and that is just what South wants to have happen. The contract could no longer be beaten.

Now do it the right way. Play your ♠ K on partner's ♠ Q. Assume South takes the trick, although it doesn't matter whether he wins the first one or holds up. When you win your first ♣ drive out South's ♠ J. When you win your second ♣ trick your ♠s will be good. If you overtake the first trick the contract can no longer be made.

Notice that South will always make two ♠ tricks, so your overtake costs nothing.

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q J 9 8 2

♠ 9 3
♥ J 8 6 5 2
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ K 4

12
5 9
14

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

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 9

N	E	S	
W			
♠ K 8 7 5 4 2	♥ Q 10 4	♦ 8 3	♣ A 6

♠ Q J 10
♥ A 7
♦ A K 7 5
♣ 10 7 5 3

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠ 9, dummy played the ♠ 6 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You could easily win the ♠ K, then play a small ♠ to drive out dummy's ♠ A. But South bid Notrump over your 2♠ overcall, so he surely holds ♠ Q J T. So when you get the lead with your one ♣ A entry you can establish your ♠s, but you won't get into the lead to cash them.

Look what happens when you duck the first trick. South will win the trick with his ♠ T, and start on dummy's ♣ suit.

West (your wonderful partner) will win the first ♠ and return his final ♠ to dummy's ♠ A.

South will have to keep working on ♣s, but now you can win the ♣ A and play your ♠ K, dropping South's ♠ Q, and your other three good ♠s.

Just like the previous deal, South gets two ♠ tricks either way, but one way he makes an overtrick, the other way he goes down 2.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 8 3
♥ 6
♦ J 10 7 2
♣ K Q J 10

¹¹
¹³ 4
₁₂

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ A K 6
♣ 9 4 2

♠ 7 2
♥ 8 4 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ A 8 7 5 3

♠ K 9 5
♥ A K 9 7 5 2
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Dbl	Rdbl	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ K

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ K, dummy played low and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You are pretty sure partner would not have supported your ♣s unless he had 4 of them, which means it is very likely that South has a singleton. (he might even be void)

So if you are to set this contract partner is going to have to have some ♠ winners. It might not matter, but it also might be vital that the first ♠ lead comes from your side of the table so after you overtake with the ♣ A you switch to the ♠ 7.

Partner loves it - whatever South does West takes the next two ♠s, then leads a third ♠ for you to ruff. Down 1.

Deal 4
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 7 ♥ Q 8 7 3 2 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ K Q 9 5 13 7 8 12	♠ K 10 8 3 ♥ A J 9 4 ♦ A J 7 ♣ 10 7 ♠ A 4 2 ♥ 5 ♦ 10 9 6 3 ♣ A 8 6 4 3 ♠ Q J 9 6 5 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ J 2
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West North East South

Pass 1♦ Pass 1♣
 Pass 2♠ Pass 4♣
 Pass Pass Pass

4♣ by South
 Lead: ♣ K

down 1.

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ K, dummy played the ♣ 7 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

As soon as you see the opening lead and dummy you should start figuring out just how you can defeat the contract. Hopefully this plan came to your mind.

From his lead, you know partner also holds the ♣ Q. Overtake the ♣ K. Play your singleton ♥ 5. When South starts on trumps, win the first one with your ♠ A. Put partner back on lead with a small ♣ to his known ♣ Q.

If you have a partner who pays attention he will now play a ♥ for you to ruff. Two ♣s, the Ace of trumps, and a ♥ ruff makes

Deal 5
 South Deals
 None Vul

	♠ Q 7 4		
	♥ A Q J 5		
	♦ 8 6 2		
	♣ K J 4		
♠ J 10 9 8	♠ 6 3 2		
♥ 7 3	♥ K 10 8 6 2		
♦ K Q 10 9 3	♦ J 4		
♣ A 9	♣ 8 7 3		
	♠ A K 5		
13	♥ 9 4		
10 4	♦ A 7 5		
13	♣ Q 10 6 5 2		
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass			Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♦ K			

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♦ K, dummy played low and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Put yourself in partner's shoes. He almost surely has ♦ K Q T x (x). When South holds up on his ♦ A, which he almost surely will, West may think he is holding up with ♦ A J x, and be afraid to continue the suit.

You can help your partner figure out the true situation by merely playing your ♦ J so he can see that South doesn't have it.

With this good play West will be able to continue ♦s and defeat the contract.