

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 7 5 2**♥ K 4****♦ K 9 7****♣ Q 8 5****22
8 3
7****♠ A Q 9****♥ A 7 5 3****♦ A J 6 4****♣ A K**

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 3
♥ J 10 9 8 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 9 7 4

♠ K J 4
♥ Q 6
♦ 8 5 3
♣ J 10 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 5

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 5.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing two winners you will naturally consider your 5-card ♣ suit. After unblocking the ♣ A K you will need two entries to your hand; one to lead the ♣ J and drive out the ♣ Q, then a second to enjoy your good ♣ s.

The ♠ suit will provide one entry easily, but should you depend on the ♥ Q for the second entry?

No, for two reasons. Firstly the ♥ Q only gives you a 50% chance of being an entry. But more importantly, you already have your two sure entries in ♠ s. As long as you take the first trick with dummy's ♠ A both your ♠ K and ♠ J can be entries.

Win the ♠ A. Play off dummy's ♣ A K. Lead the ♠ 9 to your ♠ J. Play your ♣ J (and another one if necessary) to establish the ♣ suit. Win whatever red card they play next with dummy's Ace. Play the ♠ Q to your ♠ K and cash your established ♠ (s). Dummy's other red Ace will be your ninth trick.

You'd have to be very careless to miss this one.

Deal 2

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

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



♠ A 6 4 3
♥ A J 4
♦ A J
♣ A K 8 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♣ 5			

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♣ 5. You play low from dummy and East plays the ♣ 6.

Winners: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 1 ♦ = 4? ♣ = 3
Total = 9

Although you have 4 ♦ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ♦ tricks simply by winning your ♦ A, then overtaking your ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q. But you need that fourth ♦ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣s. It is likely from the opening lead, (and East's play of a small card), that West has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ♦ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which East discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9. You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ♦s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ♦s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

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

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

3 NT by South
Lead: ♠ Q

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ Q. East plays the ♠ K, then the ♠ 2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=0 ♦=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♥ suit because a defender would take the ♥ A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ♦s. Play the ♦ K, then ♦ Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you play the ♦ J to dummy's ♦ A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦ 5 to dummy's ♦ 6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find East with the doubleton ♣ K.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ Q 9 8
♦ Q J 10 2
♣ 10 3

9
6 4
21

♠ A K Q 7 3

♥ 7 6 4

♦ 8 5 3

♣ 9 8



♠ 10 9 5 4

♥ K J 10 3

♦ 9 7 4

♣ 6 2

♠ —

♥ A 5 2

♦ A K 6

♣ A K Q J 7 5 4

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣

Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♣ by South

Lead: ♦ Q

but the chances are very slim.

You can play a low ♣ to dummy's ♣ 8. Assuming a defender takes the ♣ T you can win his return and enter dummy with the ♣ 9. This play is guaranteed to give you the entry and is the one you should choose.

When you are missing 4 cards the probability of a 3-1 split is about 50%.

But the singleton can be any one of four cards - in this case it can be the ♣ T, ♣ 6, ♣ 3 or ♣ 2. So the chance of one of the opponents holding specifically the singleton ♣ T is only one-fourth of 50%, about 12.5%.

South is to play 6 ♣. West leads the ♦ Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 3

Partner's hand didn't turn out to be what you hoped for, you had in mind maybe the ♥ K and ♦ Q.

But this is what you got. First, be thankful West led a ♦ rather than a ♥. Second, see if you can find a way to fight yourself over to dummy and those three beautiful ♣s.

You have two possibilities for a ♣ entry, but you can only try one of them as you will see.

You can play a high ♣ and hope somebody plays the singleton ♣ T. Then your ♣ 9 would be an entry. If this works you would probably make all 13 tricks,

Deal 5	♠ 9		
South Deals	♥ Q 10 4		
None Vul	♦ 6 5		
	♣ K Q J 8 7 5 3		
♠ A K J 7 4	♠ Q 10 6 5 2		
♥ 3	♥ 6 5 2		
♦ J 9 8 2	♦ A Q 7		
♣ 10 6 2	♣ 9 4		
	♠ 8 3		
8	♥ A K J 9 8 7		
9 8	♦ K 10 4 3		
15	♣ A		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♠ A			

South is to play 4 ♥. West leads the ♠ A, then ♠ K.

Losers: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 0 ♦ = 3? ♣ = 0
Total = 4?

This is the kind of hand that can get really messy if you aren't careful. You could ruff the ♠, then try to ruff some ♦s, but the defense can prevent you by leading trumps when you give up the ♦ tricks.

All in all a much better plan is to use dummy's ♣ suit after you unblock the Ace. The only flaw with that idea is that when you ruff the ♠, unblock the ♣ A, then play two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, there will still be a trump left out. And the defender might ruff a ♣ before you can take the discards you need. Do you see a way around this?

Do NOT ruff the second ♠ in dummy, just discard a ♦. If West plays a third ♠ you will ruff in your hand, then unblock the ♣ A, then pull trumps in 3 rounds ending in dummy. And run all those ♣ tricks. If West plays a trump or a ♣ the result will be the same. The defense can get one ♦ trick if they take it right now, but you still make your contract.