

Deal 1

South Deals	♠ K 9 8 6 4
None Vul	♥ A 6
	♦ Q J 3
	♣ A K 9

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

W	N	E	S
17			
o 7			
16			
♠ A Q J 2			
♥ J 10 3			
♦ A K 10			
♣ J 10 3			

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South
Lead: ♠ 5

this case an even number must be 4 which means that South has one more ♥. So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to West's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. The 2 ♥ bid was a transfer. The 5 NT bid meant to choose either 6 ♠ or 6 NT. South liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by South's ♠ Q. South pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and West plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick South drops the ♥ J and West the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe South is now out of ♥s then you shoud not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe South when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In

Deal 2West Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 10
♥ 9 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A K 10 6 3

12
13 2
13

	N		♠ 9 8 7 5 2
W		E	♥ 10 5
	S		♦ 9 7 4 3
			♣ Q 2

♠ K J 3
♥ K Q 7 6 4 3
♦ K 10
♣ J 9

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, East played the ♣ 2 and South the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♪ back to your ♪ A Q.