

**Deal 1**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ J 9 7  
♥ Q 10 9 6  
♦ J 9  
♣ J 10 6 2

14  
5 8  
13

West

Pass  
Pass  
Pass

3 NT by North  
Lead: ♠ 4

♠ A K 5 2  
♥ A K 4 3  
♦ 7 5 3  
♣ 9 5



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

North

1 ♥  
3 NT

East

Pass  
Pass

South

1 ♦  
2 ♣  
Pass

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

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 4.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need two more winners. They cannot possibly come from ♠s, ♥s, or ♣s since one defender must hold at least 4 cards in each of those suits. So your two extra winners must come from the ♦ suit.

There is no reason to hold up on the ♠ since the ♥ and ♣ suits also have just two stoppers. You win the ♠ A.

Your best play next is to finesse the ♦T. This may gain a trick by virtue of the finesse if East happens to hold the ♦J, but primarily you are working to establish the ♦ suit. Assume West wins the ♦J and returns a ♠.

Again don't hold up. Take the ♠K and lead another small ♦, finessing with dummy's ♦Q. Happily this time the finesse works, and even more happily both defenders follow suit. That means the rest of the ♦s are good and you make an overtrick.

If looked different because of the two finesses you took.

**Deal 2**

West Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 7  
♥ 4 3  
♦ 8 6 5 2  
♣ A 8 6 5 3

9  
4 19  
8

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by East			
Lead: ♠ 4			

♠ A 8 5  
♥ Q 10 9 6  
♦ Q J 9  
♣ 10 7 4



♠ K Q 3  
♥ A 7 5 2  
♦ A K 4  
♣ Q J 9

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

East is to play 3 NT. South leads the ♠ 4. North puts on the ♠ A and returns the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

Needing three more winners you are going to have to establish the ♣ suit. You are also going to have to be lucky!

You win the second ♠ and play your ♣ Q. South covers with the ♣ K. What do you do next?

You DUCK. If you take the ♣ A now you will never get back to dummy to enjoy those other ♣s. So let South have the ♣ K. You win his return, (probably a ♠), and play ♣ J, then ♣ 9 to dummy's ♣ A. As long as ♣s split 3-2 you will get the three winners you need.

South's play of the ♣ K may have made you want to jump up with the ♣ A, but you must stick to the original play of ducking one trick.

**Deal 3**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ K 10 8 2  
♥ K 10 4  
♦ 8 7 2  
♣ K J 7

6  
10 5  
19

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 2

♠ 7 5 4  
♥ A Q 8 7 5  
♦ 9 6 3  
♣ 8 4



♠ A Q 3  
♥ 6 3  
♦ A K 5 4  
♣ A Q 6 5

North

Pass

1 ♥

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♦

2 NT

Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 2.  
East puts on the ♠ J.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

You need three more winners. It is possible your fourth ♦ can be established, but that needs a 3-3 split. It's also possible that the ♣ finesse will work, and also the ♥ finesse. Since you need the ♥ finesse anyway you should go ahead and try to establish the ♥s.

Win the first trick with your ♠ Q and play a low ♥, ducking in dummy. East will no doubt win a cheap trick but no matter. When you next gain the lead play your other low ♥ and finesse the ♥ Q. Assume this wins (if it doesn't you will be going down for sure). Play the ♥ A and if both defenders follow your other 2 ♥s are good and your contract is made.

to see the full Deal and whether you made the contract or not.

But, it is your only chance to make the contract.

**Deal 4**

West Deals  
None Vul

♠ 7 4  
♥ A Q 8 6 2  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A 8 4 3

9  
12 9  
10

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by West			
Lead: ♠ K			

♠ K Q J 10

♥ 10 9

♦ 7 4 3

♣ K 10 7 2



♠ A 9 2

♥ J 7 3

♦ A 9 2

♣ J 9 6 5

♠ 8 6 5 3

♥ K 5 4

♦ K J 10 8 5

♣ Q

Some pretty aggressive bidding gets you to a challenging game. West is to play 4 ♥. North leads the ♠ K, overtaken by South's ♠ A. South returns a ♠ to North's ♠T, and he then plays the ♠ Q.

Losers: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

With 2 tricks already gone you still have 4 losers. You could consider ruffing the 3 ♣ losers in dummy but that would just create a trump loser even when trumps are splitting 3-2. So it looks like you will have to establish the ♦ suit for discards. You could pull trumps and then play your ♦ Q, hoping the defenders will grab their ♦ A immediately. But unless they are real novices they will hold it up one round and you'll no longer be able to reach dummy.

The solution is to establish the ♦s before you use up dummy's ♥ K.

Ruff the third ♠, then play ♦ Q, (which they will duck), and another ♦, (which they will probably take). Win whatever they return, pull trumps ending in dummy, and enjoy your 3 ♦ winners.

**Deal 5**

North Deals

None Vul

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

16  
 10 6  
 8

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 6

♠ A 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ A 10 8 6 3

♣ A K 5



♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q 10 5 4

♦ 9 4

♣ 8 6 3

♠ K 10 8 6

♥ 9 6 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ J 9 2

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♦

2 NT

Pass

South's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2 NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 6, you play dummy's ♠ 9 and West contributes the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥ A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠ A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then East will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠ A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to the good ♥s.

**Deal 6**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 4

♥ Q J 10 5 3

♦ 7 5 4

♣ 8 2

8  
7 18  
7

♠ 8 6 3

♥ A 8 2

♦ Q J 9

♣ J 10 7 4



♠ Q 9 7 2

♥ K 6 4

♦ 10 8 2

♣ Q 6 3

♠ A 10 5

♥ 9 7

♦ A K 6 3

♣ A K 9 5

West	North	East	South
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Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
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1 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
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3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
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3 NT by East

Lead: ♠ 2

East is to play 3 NT. South leads the ♠ 2, you play dummy's ♠ 4 and North plays the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠T and play the ♥ 9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠ A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠ K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠ K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠ A. Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠ J by a finesse and the ♠ K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.