

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 6 5

♥ K 9 4 3

♦ 7 4

♣ 8 7 4

♠ 9 2
♥ 8 5
♦ K 6 5 2
♣ A J 10 3 2



♠ K J 7 3
♥ Q 7 6 2
♦ 10 9 3
♣ 9 5

♠ A Q 4
♥ A J 10
♦ A Q J 8
♣ K Q 6

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 2 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♣ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♦ |
| Pass | 5 NT | Pass | 6 ♦ |
| Pass | 6 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| 6 NT by North | | | |
| Lead: ♦ 10 | | | |

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

With 9 points you have enough strength to make a positive response. And with a good 5-card suit you respond 3 ♣.

Partner says 4 NT.

Partner's 4 NT bid is clearly Blackwood. With one Ace you answer 5 ♦.

Partner says 5 NT.

Partner's 5 NT bid guarantees that your side has all the Aces, and asks for your Kings. With one King you answer 6 ♦.

Partner says 6 NT and you pass.

North would play 6 NT.

South plays 6 NT. West leads the ♦ T.

Winner count: ♠ 1 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 4 : ♣ 5 : Total = 11

You need just one more winner. If the ♠ K is with East then a simple finesse will provide it. This would not be a terrible plan - you can expect it to succeed 50% of the time. Of course that means you will go down the other 50% of the time.

The double finesse in ♥ s is better. If East holds EITHER the ♥ K OR the ♥ Q you will succeed. This raises your chances to 75%.

So win the opening lead with dummy's ♦ K. Play the ♥ 5, finessing your ♥ T. West will probably win this with either ♥ K or ♥ Q. No matter. Win West's probable ♦ return and take 5 ♣ tricks, discarding your 2 ♣ losers. Lead dummy's ♥ 7 and finesse the ♥ J. When this wins the rest of the tricks are yours.

The choice between a single finesse and a double finesse is one that you will face many times. So remember that the double finesse works 75% of the time.

Deal 2

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| South Deals | ♠ K 7 6 4 |
| None Vul | ♥ A Q |
| | ♦ K Q 8 |
| | ♣ A J 9 4 |

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



| | |
|-----|------------------|
| 19 | ♠ 8 3 |
| 8 8 | ♥ 6 4 |
| 5 | ♦ 10 6 |
| | ♣ K Q 10 8 7 3 2 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1 ♣ |

Pass 5 ♣ Pass Pass

Pass
5 ♣ by South
Lead: ♦ A

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

This is NOT a simple choice.

Partner may have a hand where 3 NT is a laydown. Or he may have a hand where 3 NT is a godown.

Science isn't going to help you so you guess that 5 ♣ probably has a good chance.

South would play 5 ♣.

North plays 5 ♣. East leads ♦ A, then ♦ 2.

Losers: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = 4

MAYBE West will have the ♠ A and the ♥ K. But maybe not. You do have an extra ♦ trick so you need to determine the best use you can make of that.

First pull trumps. It takes one round. Play your other ♦ winner and discard one of dummy's ♠s.

This protects you from losing more than one ♠. Enter dummy with a trump and lead the last ♠. Assume West has the ♠ A. If he goes up with it you will be able to dump dummy's ♥ loser on your ♠ K. If he plays low you put on your ♠ K and you no longer have a ♠ loser.

If it turns out East has the ♠ A then your ♠ play didn't work. In that case you would enter dummy again and try the ♥ finesse. This plan is a winner if West holds EITHER the ♥ K or the ♠ A.

With correct play you succeed when West holds the ♠ A, but also if he holds the ♥ K.

The key play was dumping the ♠ on your ♦ K rather than a ♥.

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

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You have a straightforward 1 ♥ opening bid.

Partner responds 2 ♥.

With 17 points and two doubletons you are on the borderline between passing and bidding game. If partner has the top of his 6-10 points you want to be in game, if he is at the bottom you don't.

A reasonable bid would be 3 ♥, inviting partner to bid game with a maximum.

A better bid is 3 ♦, a Help Suit Game Try. This says the same thing, bid game with a maximum, but also says "Use your ♦ holding to help you decide."

That was just what South needed. He only had 7 points but decided the ♦ help was worth an extra point or two.

North plays 4 ♥. East leads the ♣ A, ♣ K, ♣ Q.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 2 : Total = 4

You must eliminate one ♦ loser, that means ruffing it in dummy. You would like to pull trumps first but you cannot chance pulling two rounds because if they don't split 2-2 you would have to leave one out until after you had ruffed the ♦. The problem would then be that the defender who took the ♦ A might lead the third trump, preventing your ruff.

So first you must drive out the ♦ A. After you ruff the ♣ you play a ♦ to dummy's ♦ K. West takes the ♦ A and leads a trump. You win in your hand, pull one more trump, then play ♦ Q, ♦ 7, ruffing in dummy. Back to your hand with the ♠ A, pull the last trump and claim.

And you couldn't get the ♦ ruff until after you had forced out the ♦ A.

Deal 4
 West Deals
 None Vul

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

W N E S

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 15 12 2 11 | ♠ K 7 6 2 ♥ A 7 6 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ 9 6 2 |
|---------------------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>West</i> 1 ♥ Pass | <i>North</i> Dbl | <i>East</i> Pass | <i>South</i> 2 ♠ Pass |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|

Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ K

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

When responding to partner's Takeout Double:- with 0-8 points you bid cheaply- with 9-11 points you jump in a suit- with 12 or more points you cue-bid their suit

You have 11 so you jump to **2 ♠**. Partner bids **4 ♠** and you pass.

South plays **4 ♠**. West leads the ♥ K.

Losers: ♠ 1 : ♥ 3? : ♦ 0 : ♣ 1 : Total = 5?

The loser count is somewhat misleading because obviously you can ruff some ♥s in dummy.

Sometimes it is better to count winners, even though it is a suit contract. Winners: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 2 : Total = 7

Thinking like this makes it clear that you must win 3 of your 4 small trumps. The best way to do this is to win the ♥ A and pull 2 rounds of trumps

with ♠ A and ♠ K, spurning the finesse. Trumps split 3-2, so leave the master trump out and cash your other high card winners. Then start cross-ruffing, ♥s in dummy and ♦s in your hand. The defender with the master trump is welcome to ruff with it whenever he wants - it won't stop you from coming to T tricks.

If you tried that East would have won his ♠ Q, then played another ♠. That would leave both you and dummy with only one trump each and you would have come up a trick short. You can afford to pull just two rounds of trumps, then must cross-ruff with your remaining four.