

Deal 1

North Deals	♠ A K 5		
None Vul	♥ A K 6		
	♦ 7 6 3		
	♣ A K 4 2		
♠ J 8 3	♠ Q 10 7 2		
♥ J 10 8 5	♥ Q 9 4		
♦ K J	♦ Q 10 9		
♣ Q 9 8 3	♣ J 10 7		
	♠ 9 6 4		
21 8 7 4	♥ 7 3 2 ♦ A 8 5 4 2 ♣ 6 5		
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

3 NT by North
Lead: ♠ 2

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 2, West plays the ♠ J.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need two more winners and dummy's ♦ suit is your only hope. IF ♦s split 3-2 and IF the defenders don't take too many winners in their suit(s) you can establish ♦s by ducking twice.

Win the first ♠. If you hold up they might pocket the ♠ trick and switch to another suit where you only have two stoppers.

Next play a small ♦ from each hand. Win the return (probably a ♠) and duck a second ♦.

If the defenders can only take 2 ♠ tricks now you are home-free since dummy's 3 ♦s are now established.

But in fact you were pretty sure they were going to do so. Since East's ♠ 2 was probably his fourth-down then he couldn't have a fifth-down.

Deal 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 7 4
 ♥ K 10 9 8 3
 ♦ J 5 3
 ♣ Q 3

10
 10 17
 3

♠ J 9 8
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ Q 10 9 6
 ♣ K 9 5

W N
 S E

♠ K 6 3
 ♥ Q J
 ♦ A K 4 2
 ♣ A 10 6 4

♠ Q 10 5 2
 ♥ 7 4 2
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ J 8 7 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 NT	ALL	Pass	
3 NT by East			
Lead: ♠ 2			

West's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s. East is to play 3 NT. South leads the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 5

Obviously you need to establish 4 ♥ winners and by driving out the ♥ A you can manage that handily. The problem is that dummy has only one sure entry, (the ♠ A), and the defenders may be good enough to hold up their ♥ A twice.

To assure the contract you should win the first trick in your hand with the ♠ K. Then play ♥ Q, ♥ J overtaking with dummy's ♥ K so you can continue establishing the suit while you still have that ♠ entry.

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A J 6 4

♥ 7 5

♦ 6 3

♣ A K 6 4 3

♠ 10 3

♥ K Q J 8 4

♦ 10 8 7 5

♣ J 8

W	N	E	S
♦ 10 9 6 3	♦ K Q J 9 4	♣ Q 10 9 7	♠ —

♠ K Q 9 8 7 5 2

♥ A 2

♦ A 2

♣ 5 2

West

North

East

South

1 ♣

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

6 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ K

South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ♥ K.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

One of the two red losers must be discarded on dummy's ♣ suit. So you pull trumps, taking two rounds, with ♠ K and ♠ Q. Then play two top ♣s and ruff a ♣. When West shows out on the third ♣, enter dummy with a trump and ruff another ♣. Dummy's final ♣ is now established, so enter dummy with another trump and discard one of the red losers on the fifth ♣.

Deal 4

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

6	♠ A 8
17 7	♥ Q 10 8 2
10	♦ Q J 9
	♣ J 10 9 7

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 NT by West			
Lead: ♦ 6			



West is to play 1 NT. North leads the ♦ 6, taken by South with the ♦ J. South next plays the ♦ Q on which North plays the ♦ 2. South plays the ♦ 9 which you finally win.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

You only need one more winner and you have several possibilities. The ♥ finesse might work, or the ♣s might split 3-3. But you need to consider the defenders winners also. They have already scored 2 ♦ tricks and will get 2 more as soon as they gain the lead. (The spot cards told you that North has a 5-card ♦ suit.) Plus they have the 2 top ♠s which they can take whenever they like. So if your play sets up just one more trick for them you

will go down.

No, you must establish ♠s, the suit where they have 2 winners anyway. So you play a ♠ which North wins. He takes his 2 ♦s but you are now home free. When you gain the lead again you will get your ♠ winner established and only lose 2 ♠s and 4 ♦s.

If you had played 3 rounds of ♣s you would have gone down with the defenders winning 4 ♦s, 1 ♣ and 2 ♠s.

Only by establishing ♠s can you make the contract.