

**Deal 1**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ J 9 8</b> <b>♥ A 6 5</b> <b>♦ Q 10 9 6</b> <b>♣ K 9 5</b>	<b>♠ K 6 3</b> <b>♥ Q J</b> <b>♦ A K 4 2</b> <b>♣ A 10 6 4</b>
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<b>♠ A 7 4</b> <b>♥ K 10 9 8 3</b> <b>♦ J 5 3</b> <b>♣ Q 3</b>	<b>♠ Q 10 5 2</b> <b>♥ 7 4 2</b> <b>♦ 8 7</b> <b>♣ J 8 7 2</b>
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<b>10 17</b> <b>10 3</b>	<b>10</b>
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
ALL	Pass	Pass	3 NT
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♠ 2			

South's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s.  
 North is to play 3 NT. East 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 2**

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	

♠ —

♥ 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

12

7 8

13

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	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 3**

North Deals

None Vul

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

**10** **17**  
**6**  
**7**

West

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

W N E  
S

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

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

North  
1 NT

East  
Pass

South  
Pass

North is to play 1 NT. East leads the ♦ 6, taken by West with the ♦ J. West next plays the ♦ Q on which East plays the ♦ 2. West 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 East 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 East 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.

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

Pass

3 NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 9

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 9, taken by East with the ♠ A. East next plays the ♠ 4.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 8

You only need one more winner and if ♦s split 3-3 you can easily establish a trick in that suit. But what if ♦s split 4-2? If the ♣ J falls you can get an extra ♣ trick. In fact, no matter how the ♣s are arranged you can establish your extra trick there.

First make sure that you win the second trick with the ♠ K, keeping dummy's ♠ Q for a later entry. Then play ♣ K, and ♣ Q overtaking with dummy's ♣ A. Then play the ♣ T, losing to the ♣ J but establishing the ♣ 9 while you still have the ♠ Q as an entry.

**Deal 5**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ K J 9</b> <b>♥ J 10 8 4</b> <b>♦ Q J 10 5</b> <b>♣ 9 2</b>  <b>8 8<sup>15</sup></b> <b>9</b>	<b>♠ 7 6 3</b> <b>♥ A K 5 2</b> <b>♦ A 8 6</b> <b>♣ A 7 5</b>  <b>♠ A 8 5 2</b> <b>♥ Q 7</b> <b>♦ K 7 4</b> <b>♣ 8 6 4 3</b>	<b>♠ Q 10 4</b> <b>♥ 9 6 3</b> <b>♦ 9 3 2</b> <b>♣ K Q J 10</b>
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<i>West</i> Pass Pass 2 NT by North Lead: ♣ K	<i>North</i> 1 NT 2 ♥	<i>East</i> Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 2 ♣ 2 NT
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North is to play 2 NT. East leads the ♣ K.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=3 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 7

You need to find another winner and the chances are not good. If either black suit splits 3-3 you can establish dummy's fourth card in that suit. But with East's opening lead of the ♣ K it is unlikely that ♣s will split. So your only slim hope is that the ♠s split 3-3 and dummy's fourth ♠ will be a winner.

Win the first trick and play a ♠ to the ♠ A. Then play another ♠. The defense will win and probably take some ♣ tricks. When they have finished and play a red card, you win it and play a third round of ♠s. If both defenders follow to all three ♠s then dummy's ♠ 8 is now a winner.

Next time they probably won't and you'll go down.