

Deal 1 ♠ J 6 4 2
 South Deals ♥ J 6 3
 None Vul ♦ AJ 6
 ♣ 10 7 3

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



7
 12 3
 18 ♠ 8 5
 ♦ A K Q 8 7 2
 ♦ K 5 4
 ♣ A Q

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♥

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ A

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ A, East plays the ♠ 9, South the ♠ 5. You assume East has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠ Q. On this trick East plays the ♠ 3 and South the ♠ 8. How will you continue?

When you have made your choice

You might just switch suits, but you have a better choice.

If you play your ♠ Q, East won't bother ruffing, South WILL ruff and dummy's ♠ J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. East will ruff and South will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of North's ♠ J. As you can see, South would have been able to discard a loser on that ♠ J if you hadn't played this way.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 6 3**♥ Q J 10 7****♦ 8 5 2****♣ 8 3****6
6 9
19****West****♠ J 8****♥ 9 6 2****♦ K Q 10 9 4****♣ 9 7 5****♠ A 10 5 2****♥ 8 5 3****♦ A 7 3****♣ J 6 2****♠ Q 7 4****♥ A K 4****♦ J 6****♣ A K Q 10 4****North****East****South**
2 NT**Pass****3 NT****Pass****Pass****3 NT by South****Lead: ♥ Q**

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ Q, you played low and South won the ♥ A.

South now plays the ♦ J on which West plays the ♦ 2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

North hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the North hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦ A on the trick that South plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what West plays. On the ♦ J West played the ♦ 2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of ♦s. ODD must be either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you that South started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds South to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

7
 9 5
19

♠ K Q 9 3
 ♥ 8 7 3
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ J 9 5 2
 ♦ A 8 4 3
 ♣ 8 3

N
 W E
 S

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 4			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East plays the ♥ J, won by South with ♥ A.

South plays the ♠ J, you follow with ♠ 5, dummy ♠ 3 and East plays the ♠ 2. South continues with the ♠ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠ 2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠ A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥ K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠ A, down 1

Deal 4
 South Deals
 None Vul

\spadesuit 8 4 \heartsuit A 8 7 5 2 \diamond 7 5 2 \clubsuit 6 4 2 $\begin{matrix} 13 \\ 4 \quad 8 \\ 15 \end{matrix}$	\spadesuit K J 6 \heartsuit J 10 6 3 \diamond A Q 6 \clubsuit Q 10 5 \spadesuit A Q 10 5 \heartsuit K Q 9 4 \diamond K J \clubsuit 8 7 3
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West	North	East	South
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Pass	3 NT	Pass	1 NT
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Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: \heartsuit 5

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the \heartsuit 5, dummy played the \heartsuit T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You really want West to lead a \clubsuit if he gets into the lead. If you discard the \clubsuit 9 West will surely get the message and will lead a \clubsuit . BUT - you will only win 3 \clubsuit tricks. The \clubsuit 9 would have been the fourth winner.

So instead, play a low card in one of the other suits, say the \diamond 3.

South is one trick short and he sees he can easily get that trick in \heartsuit s. So he plays a second \heartsuit from dummy and you now discard the \spadesuit 2. West takes the \heartsuit A and he can see that you don't want him to lead a \spadesuit or a \diamond . He deduces that you might like a \clubsuit so he plays his \clubsuit 2 and you win 4 tricks.

Deal 5East Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J 8 6 4 2
 ♣ J 9 4 3

¹²
² 8
¹⁸

West

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



♠ 8
 ♥ A 10 9 7 6 3
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ A 6 2

♠ A Q 10 9 4 2
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ A K
 ♣ Q 8

North

East

South

2 ♥ 2 ♠

Pass 3 ♠
 Pass Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East takes the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 3. You ruff and then play what???

When you have made your choice

Partner played the ♥ 3, a low card, for you to ruff. That means his re-entry, if he has one, is in the lower-ranking suit.

Partner takes the ♣ A and gives you a second ♥ ruff.