

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

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 10 5 2
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 8 7
♣ J 8 7 2

10
3 10
17

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	ALL	Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 2			



♠ A 7 4
♥ K 10 9 8 3
♦ J 5 3
♣ Q 3

♠ J 9 8
♥ A 6 5
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ K 9 5

♠ K 6 3
♥ Q J
♦ A K 4 2
♣ A 10 6 4

North's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s.
South is to play 3 NT. West 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 3South Deals
None Vul

♠ —

♥ 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


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

♠ AJ 6 4

♥ 7 5

¹³
8 7

♦ 6 3

♣ AK 6 4 3

West

North

East

South

1 ♣

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

6 ♠

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by North
Lead: ♥ K

North is to play 6 ♠. East 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 East 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

South Deals	♠ 10 9 7 2
None Vul	♥ AJ 6
	♦ 7 5
	♣ Q 6 4 3

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



6 7	♠ Q J 5
10	♥ K 5 4 3
17	♦ A 4 3
	♣ A K 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT

1 NT by South
Lead: ♦ 6

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