

**Deal 1**

North Deals

None Vul

**♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2****♥ 8 5****♦ 6****♣ 10 7 5****♠ 8 3****♥ J 10 6 2****♦ K J 9 5 4 2****♣ 3****6  
5 11  
18****♠ 5****♥ 9 7 3****♦ A 8 7****♣ A K 9 8 6 4****♠ A 10 6  
♥ A K Q 4  
♦ Q 10 3  
♣ Q J 2**

West      North      East      South

**3 ♠**

Pass

**4 ♠**

Pass      Pass      Pass

**4 ♠ by North**Lead: **♣ A**

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the **♣ A**. Seeing your **♣ 3** he next played the **♦ A**. What will you play on this trick?

When you have made your choice

Normally with this holding you would play the **♦ 9** to encourage East to play a second **♦** through dummy's **♦ Q T**.

But this time you really want him to take his **♣ K**. So play the discouraging **♦ 2** and hope he gets the message to go back to **♣s**. If he does play the **♣ K** next it will win and he can then give you a **♣ ruff**.

**Deal 2**  
 East Deals  
 None Vul

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

6  
 8 20  
 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT by East			
Lead: ♥ 5			

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

N     
 W      E  
S

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

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

You are North. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 5, you put on the ♥ J, East won with the ♥ A. The second trick was ♦ A, ♦ 2, ♦ 3, ♦ 5. The third trick was ♦ J, ♦ 6, ♦ 8, ♦ 7. East then put the ♣ Q on the table.

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like East is trying to create an entry to dummy so he can cash the 2 ♦ winners? That's what he wants it to look like, hoping someone holds up their ♣ A.

But don't believe Declarer, believe your partner. On the first ♦ South played the ♦ 2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦ 6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And East must also have a third one, so

he is up to some trickery with that ♣ Q.

So grab your ♣ A and return partner's ♥ suit.

**Deal 3**

South Deals	♠ K 9 8 6 4
None Vul	♥ A 6
	♦ Q J 3
	♣ A K 9

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



17	♠ A Q J 2
o 7	♥ J 10 3
16	♦ A K 10
	♣ J 10 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South  
Lead: ♠ 5

this case an even number must be 4 which means that South has one more ♥. So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to West's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. The 2 ♥ bid was a transfer. The 5 NT bid meant to choose either 6 ♠ or 6 NT. South liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by South's ♠ Q. South pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and West plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick South drops the ♥ J and West the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe South is now out of ♥s then you shoud not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe South when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In

**Deal 4**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 10	♦ 8 5 2	♣ A K 10 6 3
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♠ K J 3

♥ K Q 7 6 4 3

♦ K 10

♣ J 9

13	13	12
2		

West

North

East

South

W	N	E	S
♠ 6 4	♦ A J 8	♣ A Q J 6	♣ 8 7 5 4

♠ 9 8 7 5 2

♥ 10 5

♦ 9 7 4 3

♣ Q 2

1 ♥

4 ♥

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♣ A

You are North. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, South played the ♣ 2 and West the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought South's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If South started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If South started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♣ back to your ♣ A Q.