

Deal 1
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ 7 4 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ A 10 8 4 ♣ 10 9 8 2	♠ K J 8 5 3 ♥ A J 4 2 ♦ 5 ♣ A 6 4	♠ 9 6 ♥ Q 10 8 3 ♦ J 9 6 2 ♣ Q J 3
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13
4 6
17

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♣ 10			

certain)

First pull trumps, ending in dummy. It takes two rounds. Next play the ♦ 5 toward your ♦ Q. West wins this and plays another ♣. Win the ♣, come to your hand with the ♥ K, then play your good ♦ Q, discarding dummy's losing ♣.

You will need to ruff two ♥s in your hand, but the rest of the tricks are yours.

If they had been 3-1 you would have had to leave the last trump undrawn until after you had ruffed two ♥s in your hand.

Partner's 2 ♥ bid is a transfer; he expects you to bid 2 ♠. However, with such great ♠ support and an outside doubleton your hand now revalues to 18 points - more than an opening 1 NT. You indicate this with a jump to 3 ♠. This is called a "Super-Accept". Partner now bids 4 NT. What do you answer?

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Blackwood, and with one Ace you answer 5 ♦. Partner bids 6 ♠ and everybody passes.

It won't matter where you take it, but assume you win in your hand.

Since the ♦ loser is a sure thing you will need to find somewhere to discard a ♣. There are three possibilities:
 Finesse West for the ♥ Q. (50% chance)
 Try to drop the ♥ Q by ruffing the third round. (also about 50%)
 Establish a ♦ honor. (To%

Deal 2
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 8 5 3 ♥ 6 ♦ K Q J 9 ♣ A 7 5 3	 ♠ K 4 ♥ K 10 4 3 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ K Q J 2
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16 12 4 8	♠ A J 6 ♥ Q J 9 7 5 2 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ 8
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<i>West</i> Pass Pass Pass 4 ♥ by South Lead: ♦ K	<i>North</i> 2 ♦ 4 ♥	<i>East</i> Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 1 NT 2 ♥ Pass
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lose the lead. So do you pull trumps now?

No, you dare not touch trumps yet - remember those 4 fast losers.

You cannot avoid the ♥ A and ♣ A, so you must get rid of one of the ♦ losers before you play trumps.

Win the ♦ A, play the ♠ K, then finesse the ♠ J. If the finesse works discard a ♦ on the ♠ A, then pull trumps. If the finesse fails you will go down 2 instead of 1.

to see whether you made it or went down 2.

When the cards MUST lie in a particular way for the contract to be makeable, just assume that's the way they lie and go for it.

With 10 points and a 6-card ♥ suit you want to transfer. You say 2 ♦ and partner bids 2 ♥.

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You know you want to play in ♥s since partner will have at least 2 of them. Your problem is whether to merely invite with 3 ♥ or go ahead and bid the game. Since partner has either 15, 16 or 17 points you should probably just bid 4 ♥. The worst thing that could happen is that partner would be playing game with only 25 points.

The contract would be 4 ♥ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 4 ♥. East leads the ♦ K. Do you hold up or not?

There is no reason to hold up. Besides, you have bigger problems to deal with.

After you take the ♦ A at trick one you have four fast losers staring you in the face the instant you

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ K 9 8 2 ♥ J 10 9 8 ♦ J 2 ♣ 9 7 3 9 5 9 17	♠ 7 4 3 ♥ A Q 7 2 ♦ 7 5 3 ♣ K 8 4 ♠ Q J 10 5 ♥ K 5 4 ♦ A K 6 ♣ A 5 2	♠ A 6 ♥ 6 3 ♦ Q 10 9 8 4 ♣ Q J 10 6
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N
W E
S

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South
 Lead: ♥ J

In response to partner's Stayman bid you show your 4-card ♠ suit. Partner now bids 2 NT. What do you say?

In response to partners Stayman bid you show your 4-card ♠ suit. Partner now bids 2 NT. What do you say?

You may disagree with the Stayman bid on 3-4-3-3 distribution. In any case, 2 NT is invitational, so with 17 points you say 3 NT.

West's ♥ J lead probably means ♥s won't be 3-3, so you will need to get 2 ♠ tricks.

Suppose you win the first trick and plunk down the ♠ Q. If East wins with a doubleton ♠ honor you will only be able to win 1 ♠ since West will sit there with ♠ A 9 or ♠ K 9 behind your ♠ J T.

Instead, win the first trick in dummy and play a small ♠ toward the ♠ Q J T. East will play low and West must take his ♠ honor. But you can win his return, enter dummy and play another ♠ toward your hand. If you are lucky, East will be forced to play an honor and you can toss your ♠ 5.

to see if you were lucky.

It only fails if West holds 4 or more ♠s headed by A K.

Deal 4	♠ A 7 4		
South Deals	♥ A 9 4		
None Vul	♦ 8 6 3		
	♣ A K Q 9		
♠ J 9 2	♠ K Q 10 3		
♥ J 8 5	♥ Q 10 6 3		
♦ J 10 4	♦ K 7 5 2		
♣ J 7 5 2	♣ 8		
17	♠ 8 6 5		
4 10	♥ K 7 2		
9	♦ A Q 9		
	♣ 10 6 4 3		
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♣ 2			

A square hand, no 4-card Major, and 9 points. This is the very hand that the book said to bid 2 NT with. And when you do, partner says 3 NT which you pass.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♣ 2. You must be living right, East gives you a trick with the opening lead.

You got a good break on the opening lead, now you need only one more winner. There is NO CHANCE of creating another winner in ♠s, ♥s or ♦s, so your second good break is that you know it will have to be ♦s.

You COULD lead toward dummy's ♦ Q, finessing East for the ♦ K. That would be a perfectly good 50% chance. But there is an even better play if you look carefully.

Play a ♦ from your hand and if East plays low insert the ♦ 9. Much of the time West will win with the ♦ J or ♦ T. If so you are no worse off, you play East for the ♦ K. But if it happens that East was dealt both the ♦ J and ♦ T then West will have to win that trick with the ♦ K, or perhaps not even win it at all!

But what if East has played the ♦ T, splitting his honors?

You would put on dummy's ♦ Q and West would win the ♦ K. But you aren't down yet! Later you lead another ♦ toward dummy's ♦ A 9 and finesse East for the ♦ J.