

**Deal 1**

South Deals	♠ A 10 6
None Vul	♥ A K Q 4
	♦ Q 10 3
	♣ Q J 2

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

<b>18</b>	♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2
11 5	♥ 8 5
6	♦ 6

♣ 10 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♠ A



You are East. 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 West 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**

South Deals

None Vul

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

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



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

**♠ A K Q****♥ A 10****♦ A J 4****♣ Q 10 8 6 2****North****East****South**

2 NT

Pass

3 NT

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: **♥ 5**

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

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like South 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 ♦ West played the ♦ 2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦ 6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And South 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


♠ A Q J 2
♥ J 10 3
♦ A K 10
♣ J 10 3

West	North	East	South
			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**West Deals  
None Vul

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

**12**  
**13 2**  
**13**

	N		♠ 9 8 7 5 2
W		E	♥ 10 5
	S		♦ 9 7 4 3
			♣ Q 2

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

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

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

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

When you have made your choice

On first thought East'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 East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East 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.