Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 6
♥ A
♦ A K J 5 3 2
♣ Q J 2

♠ 8 5 3
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ Q 9 7
♣ A T 5

♠ Q J T 9 7 2
♥ 9 7 4
♦ 8
♣ K 9 3

♠ 4
♥ K Q J T 3
♦ T 6 4
♣ 8 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3 NT by North

Baker Entries 17
North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♠Q.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=0 Total = 5

There they are, four perfectly good ♥ tricks and no straightforward way to reach them. On the other hand, (I should say "In the other hand"), you have the possibility of 6 ♦ tricks, if the ♦Q drops, in which case you won't need the ♥ tricks at all. Can you work those two possibilities into a strategy?

Sure. The ♦ problem is that the outstanding ♦s may split 3-1 with one defender holding ♦ Q x x. So it would appear you could only get 5 ♦ winners. But you can thwart him like this.

Win the ♠. Unblock the ♥A. Now play the ♦J. If Mr. ♦ Q x x takes this trick dummy's ♦T will become an entry to those wonderful ♥s. But if he cleverly refuses to win the ♦Q, then it will fall under your ♦ A K and you will get all 6 ♦ tricks.

Maybe after the hand is over he will appreciate it more and congratulate you.

Board 2
North Deals
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT by South

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♦2.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 8

The reason the Winners list shows 1 ♠ is that the defenders are going to have to let you win dummy's ♠K. If they take that then you'll have 4 ♠ winners in your hand!

So you only need one more winner really, and if you guess the ♣ finesse right you will have it. Which way will you finesse, and why?

You will finesse through East. If he has the ♣Q you will win all 3 ♣ tricks, but if West has the ♣Q you may win even more. Just watch.

Win the opening ♦ lead in dummy. Play the ♠K which the defenders are not about to take while you have a ♣ entry to your hand. Now play the ♣T and pass it to West. If West takes the ♣Q then you will have TWO entries to your hand, one to get there for a ♠ lead, and the other to reach the ♠ winners after you have driven out the ♠A. But if West DOESN'T take the ♣Q, or if East actually has it, then you will have 3 ♣ tricks and your contract.

Board 3
North Deals
E-W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

6 NT by South

North is to play 6NT. East leads the ♠T.

Winners: ♠ = 2 ♥ = 5 ♦ = 2 ♣ = 1 Total = T

You need two more winners and the best bet is to try to pick up three ♣ tricks. You will need the ♣K and ♣Q to lie in different hands, or both of them to be with West. That is about a 75% chance.

But you may need to make 3 finesses, so that means 3 entries to dummy, all of which must be in the ♥ suit. Can it be done?

Of course it can. Win the ♠ lead in your hand and play the ♥K, overtaking with dummy's ♥A. Now play a ♣ to your ♣9, which loses to East's ♣K. East plays another ♠.

Now play the ♥T, and when East follows you are safe to overtake with dummy's ♥J since you can tell that West did not start with 4 ♥s. In fact, West shows out so it is East who started with 4 ♥s but that won't be a problem for you. Play another ♣ from dummy, finessing the ♣T which wins.

Now play your ♥3 toward dummy, finessing the ♥8 when East follows with a low card. Play dummy's two ♥ winners, discarding ♦s, then the low ♣ to your ♣J. Wow.

And as you have figured by now, assessing how many entries you are going to need is big part of that plan. Like here, if you had won a single ♥ trick in your hand then you wouldn't have had the three entries to dummy.

Board 4
South Deals
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

6 ♠ by South

Pretty bold bidding by South, but partner DID make a positive response. South is to play 6♠. West leads the ♦Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 3

OK, the plan is to get over to dummy for those two ♥ winners.

If you just play a small ♣ toward the ♣Q that will work whenever West holds the ♣K.

How about playing ♣A an a small ♣, planning on ruffing your third ♣ to get to dummy? Naaah. They will win the second ♣ and play a trump.

There is actually a play that is T0% certain, no matter who holds the ♣K.

Win the opening lead and lay down your ♣J. The defense is helpless. If they take the ♣J with the ♣K, then you have a dummy entry in the form of the ♣Q. If they refuse to take the trick you will counter by next laying down the ♣A, then ruffing a third ♣ to get to dummy and the two golden eggs.

My dream is that someday I will get a chance to use it at the table. If you ever do be sure and email me.