

Deal 1

South Deals	♠ J 10 9 6 2
None Vul	♥ 8 5 3
	♦ K J 3
	♣ J 6

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

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6 7 12 15	♠ A Q 8 3 ♥ 10 6 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ A K Q 5
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 ♠

3 ♠ by North
Lead: ♥ Q

with your 2 ♥s.

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ Q, dummy played the ♥ 6 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Your side needs to take 5 tricks to defeat this contract. Two of them will be ♥s, but it doesn't look like you can win any ♣s or ♠s.

That means you need to win 3 ♦ tricks and the only way that can happen is if you play ♦s from your side.

So win the first ♥ K (so partner will know you also have the ♥ A), and play the ♦ T. Presumably North will play an honor, but East will take the trick and put you back on lead with your ♥ A. You play the ♦ 9 and your side will collect 3 ♦ tricks to go

Deal 2

West Deals	♠ 10
None Vul	♥ 7 3 2
	♦ 9 8 6 3
	♣ Q 7 5 4 3

♠ J 3	♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ K Q J 6	♥ A 10 9 5 4
♦ A K Q 10 5	♦ J
♣ 6 2	♣ K 10 8
	♠ A K Q 8 6 4
16 2	♥ 8
14	♦ 7 4 2
	♣ A J 9

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♣
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♠ A

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠ A, then the ♠ K. Dummy follows suit and it is your play to the second trick.

When you have made your choice

It is obvious that your side can only get 2 ♠ tricks. And assuming that East has the Ace of trumps you will not make a single trick in the red suits. So you need to make 2 ♣ tricks.

If partner has the ♣ A K then he will take them, but if he has the ♣ A J he cannot win 2 ♣ tricks from his side.

To allow for this situation it will be better to play ♣s from your side of the table, and the way to make that happen is for you to ruff partner's ♠ K with an

otherwise useless trump. You still get your two ♠ winners (sort of) but now you get to play a ♣ through East's ♣ K at trick 3.

Deal 3

North Deals	♠ A 10 4
None Vul	♥ J 6 3
	♦ A K 8 2
	♣ Q 10 5

♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ 8 2
♦ 10 7 6 4 3
♣ K 7

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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 8			

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

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 8, dummy played the ♥ J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

South played dummy's ♥ J to tempt you to cover. Don't fall for it.

Partner's lead of a high spot card shows no honors in the suit. That added to the fact that South bid Notrump after you had mentioned ♥s is pretty good evidence that South holds at least ♥ Q x x.

To maintain communication with partner your best hope is to duck the first ♥, but to signal encouragement with the ♥ 9.

South wins the first trick easily, but must try to establish ♣s. He will enter dummy

with the ♠ A, then try to run the ♣ Q.

Not today. Partner takes the ♣ K and returns his ♥ 2 to your four winners.

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

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

8	♠ 8 4
16 12	♥ 9 7 3
4	♦ 10 8 7 2
	♣ A 6 5 3

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

4 ♠ by West

Lead: ♣ 9

W	N	E	S
♦ Q J 9 3	♦ K Q J 5	♦ 9 3	♣ Q J 10

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ 9, dummy played the ♣ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Partner's ♣ 9 is likely from a short suit. If it is a singleton, you should take the ♣ A immediately and return the suit for a ruff. If it is a doubleton, you should NOT take your ♣ A now, but should hope partner can get the lead and play his second ♣ to your Ace so you can give him the ruff.

You can figure out which it is.

If it is a singleton, then West must hold 5 ♣ s. But you know West has 4 ♠ s, so if he also has 5 ♣ s then he only has 4 red cards, and he would not have opened 1 NT with either 5-4-2-2 or 5-4-3-1 distribution.

So partner's ♣ 9 is not a singleton, and you should wait. Declarer then runs dummy's ♣ Q. Partner wins the ♣ K, returns his OTHER ♣ to your ♣ A, and NOW you give him the ruff. He takes the ♦ A for down 1.

Deal 5West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 9 7
 ♥ K Q 6 5 3
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A 6 4

20
12 3
 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 8 3
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ Q J 8 6 4 2
 ♣ 8 3

♠ 6 5 2
 ♥ J 9 8
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ K J 10 9 7

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

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 10

to enjoy those two ♣ winners.

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥T, dummy played the ♥J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Declarer gets two ♥ winners whether you play one of your honors on this trick or not. So why does it matter what you do?

Suppose you cover with your ♥Q. North will win his ♥A, then play ♣s until your ♣A is forced out on the third round. He can then force an entry to dummy in the ♥ suit to reach the two ♣ winners.

Now suppose you duck the ♥J. Again North will push ♣s, and again you hold up until the third round. Ahh, what a difference. Now declarer cannot use the ♥s to enter dummy and he will never get